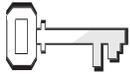


Nine Times No



References

Exodus 4–10;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 257–272



Memory Verse

“Praise the LORD, my
soul, and forget not
all his benefits”
(Psalm 103:2, NIV).

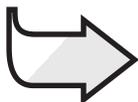


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God is
with us in
every situation.

Feel happy for
God’s protection.

Respond by thanking God
for being with them all the time.



The Message

We worship God
when we trust Him
in every situation.

Monthly Theme

We tell God we love Him when we worship Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Nine times Pharaoh refuses. Each refusal results in a plague. Each plague attacks some part of the Egyptian religion. God undermines the Egyptians’ confidence in their own gods, and forces them to recognize Him as the true God. The Egyptians choose to ignore God and make life more difficult for the Israelites. God is with His people and protects them from the plagues.

This is a lesson about worship.

God gave the Egyptians the opportunity to learn about Him and to worship the true God. Although He showed them how useless their gods were, they chose not to listen. We, too, have a choice. When we choose to follow God, we may experience difficulties, but God will be with us. He will help us, just as He did the Israelites. We worship God when we trust Him.

Teacher Enrichment

“Before the infliction of each plague, Moses was to describe its nature and effects, that the king might save himself from it if he chose. Every punishment rejected would be followed by one more severe, until his proud heart would be humbled, and he would acknowledge the Maker of heaven and earth as the true and living God. . . .

“The king . . . denounced the servants of the Lord as impostors. . . . Yet while he despised their message, he was restrained by divine power from doing them harm” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 263).

“The people of Egypt were ready to despair. The scourges that had already fallen upon them seemed almost beyond endurance, and they were filled with fear for the future. The nation had worshiped Pharaoh as a representative of their god, but many were now convinced that he was opposing himself to One who made all the powers of nature the ministers of His will. The Hebrew slaves, so miraculously favored, were becoming confident of deliverance. Their taskmasters dared not oppress them as heretofore.

“Moses was regarded with awe by the Egyptians. The king dared not harm him, for the people looked upon him as alone possessing power to remove the plagues” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 271, 272).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Buzzing Flies</i> B. <i>Total Darkness</i> C. <i>Lightning Moves</i>	none blindfold for each child newspaper
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container chalk/whiteboard, chalk/marker
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, staff, opaque plastic cup with red powdered drink in the bottom, jug, water, toy frogs, fly swatters, soft toy animals, sticky paper labels, paper balls (See Readiness C.) black paper, silver/light colored pen Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Unchanging God</i>	umbrellas, two or three spray bottles of water, plastic sheet
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Trust God Anytime</i>	paper plates, brass fasteners, card stock, markers/crayons

***Prayer and Praise me be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Buzzing Flies

Form two groups. Say to one group: **You are a swarm of flies. You can wiggle your fingers in front of and around the other group. You can make buzzing sounds, but you may not touch them.** Say to the other group: **You may try to get away from the flies.** After a minute or so, change groups.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was it like when you had flies buzzing around you?** (Irritating; wanted to get away) **How would you feel if it had been a real swarm of flies that could land and crawl all over you?** (Not good; would be annoyed) **In our story today we will learn that God sent a swarm of flies to some people, and how He protected others. It taught some people to trust God. And that’s what our message is about:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- blindfold for each child

B. Total Darkness

Form pairs and blindfold one child in each pair. Say: **Can you help your partner find their way to the door?** Give a few simple tasks as appropriate to your situation. Then blindfold the other child in each pair. Again give a few simple tasks. Then blindfold all the children. **Can you all find your way back to your seat? When you sit down, you may take off your blindfold.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was it like when one of you could see? How easy was it to do things?** (Your partner could help, but you had to trust your partner.) **How did you feel when neither could see?** (Lost, needed help, wanted to give up) **In today’s story we will hear about a time of great darkness that God sent to some people. But He protected some others, and they learned to trust Him. And that’s what our message for today is about:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

Say that with me.

C. Lightning Moves

In advance, tear and crumple sheets of newspaper into balls, roughly the size of Ping-Pong balls.

Darken the room. Ask all the children to stand at the back of the room. Say:

Imagine that you are in a thunderstorm. You are running to find shelter. When you get back to your seat, you are home and dry. As long as it is dark you can move. When the lightning (turn lights on and off) **flashes, you must stand still.**

Have a helper throw the paper balls at them as you turn the lights off and on.

You Need:

- newspaper

Debriefing

Ask: **How many were hit by the paper balls? What did you think when you got hit or heard others calling out?** (Wondered what was happening, confused) **How do you feel about thunderstorms?** (Afraid, like them) **In our story today we learn about a thunderstorm during which hailstones were so big that they killed people. However, God protected His people from the storm and it helped them learn to trust in His protection. We can also trust God in every situation. And that's what our message is about:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

Say that with me.

NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 76.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- staff for Moses
- opaque plastic cup, with red powdered drink
- clear jug or large bottle
- water
- toy frogs
- fly swatters
- soft toy animals
- sticky paper labels
- paper balls (See Readiness C.)

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh, Egyptians

Select children to play the parts of Moses, Aaron, and Pharaoh. (Or use adults if you prefer.) All other children may be Egyptians.

Read or tell the story.

Moses made the long journey back across the desert from Midian to Egypt. (*Moses walks slowly.*) Somewhere while in the desert, he saw his brother Aaron coming toward him. (*The brothers hug each other.*) "God has sent me to help you," said Aaron. Together, they would face Pharaoh.

(*Pharaoh is sitting on the throne. Moses and Aaron walk up to him.*) Moses walked into Pharaoh's throne room and said, "I have a message from God. 'Let My people go to hold a festival for Me in the desert.' "

Pharaoh answered, "Who is this God? I do not know Him, and I will not let them go." (*Pharaoh looks angry and shakes his head.*)

Pharaoh dismissed Moses and Aaron. Then he told the men watching over the workers to make the Israelites work harder.

Each day Pharaoh went to worship at the river Nile. God told Moses to meet Pharaoh there. Moses said to Pharaoh, "God says, 'Because you will not let the Israelites go, I will strike the Nile and the water will be changed into blood. All the fish will die.' "

Moses stretched out his staff, and the water turned to blood. (*Moses stretches out his staff, takes an opaque plastic cup with some red food coloring or red powdered*

drink in the bottom, and scoops water out of a jug, letting the red drink mix or food coloring run into the jug. Hold up the jug for all to see.) Pharaoh still refused to change his mind. (*Pharaoh shakes his head.*)

Seven days later Moses again asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Again Pharaoh said no. (*Pharaoh shakes his head.*)

Then Moses said, "The Lord says, 'I will send a plague of frogs. They will be everywhere, in your bed, in your food, in your ovens.' " (*Throw toy frogs among the children.*) Soon frogs were everywhere. Pharaoh sent for Moses and promised to let the Israelites go. But as soon as the frogs died, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Again God told Moses to go to Pharaoh. Again Pharaoh said no. (*Pharaoh shakes his head.*)

Moses said, "God will send a plague of gnats." And He did. The gnats swarmed everywhere. Pharaoh's advisors said, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh would not listen.

Again God sent Moses to Pharaoh. Pharaoh still refused. So Moses said, "The Lord will send swarms of flies. Your houses will be full of flies, the air will be black with them. You will find no relief." (*Distribute the flyswatters.*) And it happened just as Moses said. But there were no flies where the Israelites lived.

Then Pharaoh said, "I will let your people go, just do not go far." But as soon as the flies disappeared, Pharaoh changed his mind. (*Pharaoh shakes his head.*)

Then Moses delivered God's message to Pharaoh. He said, "If you continue to refuse to let my people go to worship God, all your animals will get sick and die." The next day the Egyptian livestock died, but Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go. (*Hand out soft toy animals and have the children lay them before Pharaoh.*)

Next God told Moses to take a handful of ashes and throw it in the air before Pharaoh. (*Pretend to throw something in the air.*) Soon the Egyptians broke out in big boils and sores. (*Stick paper labels on the children.*) But Pharaoh still would not listen. (*Pharaoh shakes his head.*)

Next God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that if he did not let the Israelites go, God would send a hailstorm. (*Throw paper balls (see Readiness C).*) The hail came all over Egypt except where the Israelites lived. When the storm came, Pharaoh admitted he had sinned and that God was righteous and he promised to let the people go. But when the storm was over, he changed his mind again. (*Pharaoh shakes his head.*)

God sent two more plagues. Locusts came and ate up all the green plants. Next God sent darkness over the land of the Egyptians. It was so dark they could not even see each other, but the Israelites had light. Still Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.

Each plague attacked a god of the Egyptians. They worshiped the river Nile, the frogs, and other creatures. God was showing them that their gods could not help them.

God tried to get Pharaoh to listen, but nine times Pharaoh said no. All through the plagues, God protected the Israelites.

God can protect us, too, no matter where we are or what is happening around us.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you have thought if you had been an Egyptian who lived through all the plagues?** (Afraid, wished Pharaoh would let the Israelites go) **What would you have felt like when you saw that the plagues were not affecting the Israelites?** (Wondered about God; understood that

their God was stronger than gods of wood and stone)

How do you think the Israelites felt? (Sorry for the Egyptians, believed they could trust God) **We can trust God in every situation. That's what our message says. Let's say it together:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

Memory Verse

Cut out 13 black cloud shapes and write one word of the memory verse on each, large enough for all to see. (Don't forget the reference.) Mix up the clouds and distribute them. (Large classes: Use more than one set. Small classes: Give each child more than one word.)

Ask the children to hold their word in front of them and stand in the order they think the words should appear. If the children are not in the right order, read the text and have them regroup. Once they know the right order, mix up the words again and repeat the activity until the children know the verse.

You Need:

- black paper
- silver/light-colored pen

Bible Study

Form five groups. Give a text to each. Have an adult help as needed. Have the first text read. Ask: **Why did the Israelites have a hard time trusting God?** (They had been slaves so long that they had forgotten God. They had allowed themselves to be influenced by the Egyptians and their gods.)

Use the rest of the texts, but ask: **How did God protect the Israelites?** (The plagues did not affect them.)

- Exodus 6:6–9
- Exodus 8:22, 23
- Exodus 9:4–7
- Exodus 9:25, 26
- Exodus 10:22, 23

You Need:

- Bibles

Debriefing

Ask: **How did God treat the Israelites differently from the Egyptians?** (God protected the Israelites.) **Why did God do this?** (To show that they were His special people. To help the Israelites understand that they could trust Him and His promises.)

Can we trust God? Why? Look up

Hebrews 13:8 and Malachi 3:6. What does this tell us about God? (He never changes. So we can trust Him today.)

Let's say our message together:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

Prayer and Praise

Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"Come and Praise the Lord Our King" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 5)

"Psalm 66" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 11)

"God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13)

"Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 16)

"Philippians 4:4" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 23)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize worship in the story.



Offering

Say: **No matter what happens to us we are never alone. We always have at least one friend we can depend on and trust. Who is it?** (Jesus) **Some people do not know about Him and have no one they can trust. When we give our offerings, we help others learn about Jesus and how they can trust Him too.**

You Need:
• container



Prayer

Say: **When we pray to God, we worship Him. He always answers but not always at once. Sometimes the answer is yes, and sometimes, no.** Write the two words on the board. **We can always trust God to answer our prayers according to what He knows is best for us. Let's make a list of our prayer requests and see how God will answer them.** Form small groups to pray. Save the lists and refer to them in the weeks to come.

You Need:
• chalkboard/
whiteboard
• chalk/marker

3

Applying the Lesson

Unchanging God

In advance, fill two or three spray bottles with water and adjust them so they give a very fine spray.

Talk with the children about difficult situations they face. Form two groups. Give one group the umbrellas and the other group the spray bottles. All the children with the spray bottles mention a difficulty before they spray. The children with the umbrellas hold them protectively and say, "God never changes. I trust in God to help me." Then reverse roles.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was it like when you were "under attack"?** (Not nice, strange, funny) **What did you think about being protected by the umbrella?**

How is this like God's care for us? How do we know that we can trust God to help us when we face difficult situations? (He has promised to help us, and He keeps His promises.)

If God has helped us in the past and helped our friends, can we trust Him to help us now? How do you know? (God never changes. He keeps His promises.) **Let's say our message.**

You Need:

- umbrellas for half the children
- two or three spray bottles with water
- plastic to cover the floor



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Trust God Anytime

Help the children make a paper clock.

Ask: **What is your favorite time of day? What do clocks measure?** (Time in hours, minutes, and seconds) **How many hours make a day? How many days make a year? Sometimes difficulties happen that make time seem to go slowly. Can you think of difficulties we might face throughout each day?** Encourage discussion.

Debriefing

Allow discussion time as you ask: **When we have problems or difficult times, to whom can we turn?** (God, Jesus)

How can we be sure that He will help? (Bible stories tell how He has helped others in the past.)

What does the Bible tell us about God? (He never changes.) **Let's write on our clock "I can trust God all the time."**

Ask: **With whom are you going to share your clock? How will you explain to that person that they can trust God too?** (God does not change. By studying the Bible, we learn that God has helped many people in the past.)

Yes, we can trust Him just as the Israelites learned to trust Him. Let's say our message together:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM IN EVERY SITUATION.

You Need:

- paper plates
- brass fasteners
- card stock
- markers/crayons

Closing

Gather the children in a circle and sing "Trust and Obey" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 113) as a prayer. Ask God to help the children to trust Him in the week ahead.

Nine Times No

References

Exodus 4–10;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 257–272

Memory Verse

“Praise the LORD,
my soul, and forget
not all his benefits”
(Psalm 103:2, NIV).

The Message

We worship God
when we trust Him
in every situation.

Charlotte and her older sisters were playing outside. She stood between her sisters and fell back to one sister and then fell forward to the other. She trusted her sisters to catch her and they did! A long time ago the Israelites learned that they could trust God.

Moses made the long journey back across the desert from Midian to Egypt. Somewhere in the desert his brother, Aaron, came toward him. “God has sent me to help you,” said Aaron. Together they would face Pharaoh.

After meeting with the Israelite leaders, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh’s palace. Moses spoke bravely. “I have a message from God for you. God says, ‘Let My people go to hold a festival for Me in the desert.’ ”

Pharaoh answered, “Who is this God? I do not know Him. And I will not let the Israelites go.”

Moses replied, “Let the people go. Otherwise God may respond with plagues or the sword.”

But Pharaoh refused, and dismissed Moses and Aaron. Then he told the overseers to make the Israelites work harder.

Each day Pharaoh went to worship at the river Nile. God sent Moses to the river. There, Moses said to Pharaoh, “If you will

not listen to God and let the Israelites go, something terrible will happen. Water will turn into blood. All the fish will die.” Pharaoh refused. Then Moses stretched out his staff, and the river water turned to blood. But Pharaoh still refused to change his mind.

Seven days later Moses again asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go and wor-

ship in the desert. Again Pharaoh said, “No.”

Moses responded, “This is what the Lord says: ‘I will send a plague of frogs. They will be everywhere, in your bed, in your food, in your ovens.’ ” And it happened! Frogs appeared everywhere!

Pharaoh sent for Moses. “Take away these frogs, and I will let the Israelites go,” he promised. Soon great mounds of dead frogs littered the country. But as soon as the frogs died, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Again God sent Moses to Pharaoh. Again Pharaoh said no. And Moses promised: “God will send a plague of gnats.”

Soon gnats were everywhere, plaguing people and animals. Pharaoh’s advisors said, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh would not listen to them either.

Then God told Moses to go to Pharaoh when he worshiped his gods at the river. Moses asked again. But Pharaoh still refused. So Moses delivered another message. “The Lord will send swarms of flies. The air will be black with them.”

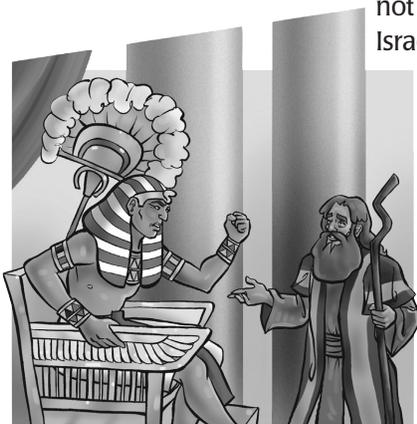
And it happened just as Moses had said. But there were no flies where the Israelites lived. So Pharaoh sent for Moses and said, “I will let your people go, just do not go far.” But as soon as the flies disappeared, Pharaoh changed his mind again.

Moses went to Pharaoh again. “God says, If you continue to refuse to let My people go,” he said, “all your animals will get sick and die.” The next day the Egyptian livestock died, but Pharaoh still refused.

Next, God told Moses to throw ashes into the air before Pharaoh. He did, and the Egyptians broke out in big boils and sores. But Pharaoh still would not listen.

Then God told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go or God would send a terrible hailstorm. The hail came all over Egypt except where the Israelites lived.

When the storm came, Pharaoh admitted that he had sinned and that God was righteous. He sent for Moses and said, “I will let the people go. Just ask God



to stop this storm.” But when the storm was over, Pharaoh changed his mind again.

God sent two more plagues. Locusts came and ate up all the green plants. Then three days of darkness. It was so dark that the Egyptians could not see each other, but the Israelites had light. Still Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.

Nine times God sent plagues on Egypt. The Egyptians worshiped the river Nile and the creatures involved in the plagues. God proved to them that their gods could not help them.

Nine times God gave Pharaoh an opportunity to recognize that the God of the Israelites is the true God. And nine times Pharaoh refused.

Nine times God showed the Israelites that He was their God, that they could trust Him completely. How did they know? All through the plagues, God kept them safe.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Moses made the long journey back across the desert to Egypt. Ask your family: What would you need for a journey across a desert? What and where is the world’s largest desert?
- Draw a happy face and write your memory verse on it. Put it where you will see it every day. Use it to teach the verse to your family during worship today.
- Thank God for the sunshine and the rain.

Sunday

- During worship, read and discuss Exodus 7:8–24. What happened when Moses and Aaron went to see Pharaoh? If possible, share some red juice. What would happen if you spilled some on something white? Would you like to wash in red water?
- Find a long stick you think looks like a snake. Take it to worship and explain what happened to Moses’ staff.
- Thank God for good drinking water.

Monday

- Read and discuss Exodus 8:1–19 during family worship. What kind of frogs live near you? Make a noise like a frog. Teach your family to croak like frogs too. Do it together. What was it like in Egypt with thousands of frogs croaking at the same time?
- Play leapfrog with a friend or brother or sister.
- Thank God for the fish in the sea and the animals He made.

Tuesday

- During worship today, read and discuss Exodus 8:20–30 and 9:1–7. What is so special about flies’ eyes? Can you draw your eye and a fly’s eye?

- Stand back to back with someone who is about the same height and weight. Lean against each other and sit down back-to-back on the floor. Can you trust each other?
- Ask your parents to tell you of a time when they trusted God.
- Pray that you will learn to trust God more.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Exodus 9:8–35 with your family. Go outside together and throw a handful of dust in the air. (Make sure no one is standing close.)
- Find a flashlight and flash it on and off in a dark room. Find out what causes real lightning.
- Make a list of things that you are afraid of. Pray that God will help you to trust Him in these situations.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Exodus 10 during family worship. Place some sand in a shallow container. Collect some twigs and stones. Then create a scene that looks like locusts had eaten every green thing.
- Wear a blindfold for three minutes and try to walk around the house. Do you need help?
- Count the number of lights in your house. Thank God for light.

Friday

- Review all the plagues with your family by miming them. See who can first tell which plague it is. Ask each person to tell what it means to trust God.
- Say your memory verse together. Do you really mean it?
- Sing praise songs and thank God for protecting your family.