

YOUTH



LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 5



Israel Leaves Egypt

ISRAEL LEAVES EGYPT

We learned in the last lesson about God's great power. We learned that He is very great and all powerful—not like the false gods the Egyptians worshipped.

Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt even though God commanded them to leave. Because of Pharaoh's stubbornness, God sent plagues upon the land of Egypt which brought much misery and suffering to the Egyptian people.

Let's now review what those plagues were. Each box in the activity on page 3 shows a picture of one of the nine plagues we have learned about so far. But the pictures are mixed up. Put them in the right order by writing the correct number in the upper right-hand corner of each box. On the line near the top of each box, write one or two words describing the kind of plague that took place.

MOSES' FINAL WARNING

After the plague of darkness,

Moses and Aaron were again brought before Pharaoh. "Get out of Egypt—all of you Israelites!" commanded Pharaoh. "You are free to leave this land, but you must leave your flocks and herds behind."

Moses knew what Pharaoh was thinking. If the Israelites were to travel for three days into the desert without meat and milk from their herds, they would run out of food and face starvation. They would be forced to return to Egypt for food and would become slaves again.

"We must take our flocks with us so that we can offer sacrifices to God," Moses boldly told Pharaoh. "We will not leave even one animal behind."

Pharaoh's face became red with anger. "You have just lost your freedom!" he shouted. After a long silence, Moses said, "You will not see us any more. God will send one more plague upon the Egyptians. All the firstborn in your land will

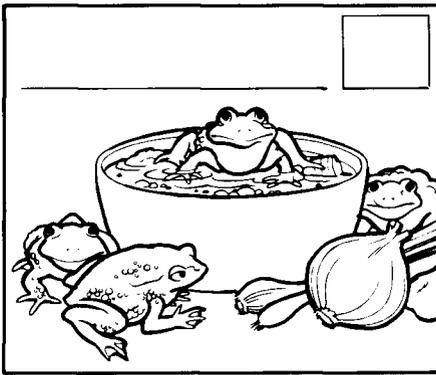
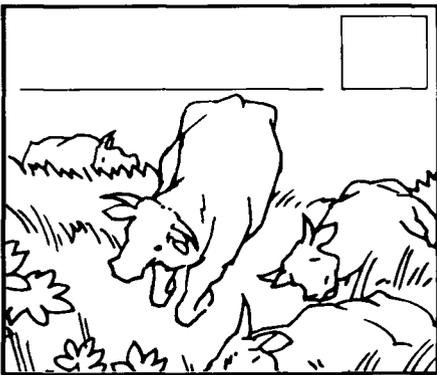
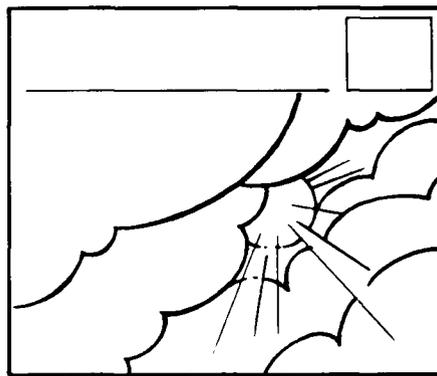
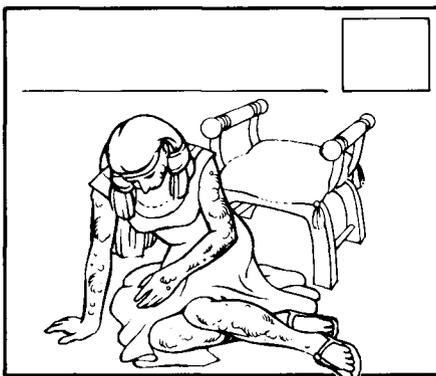
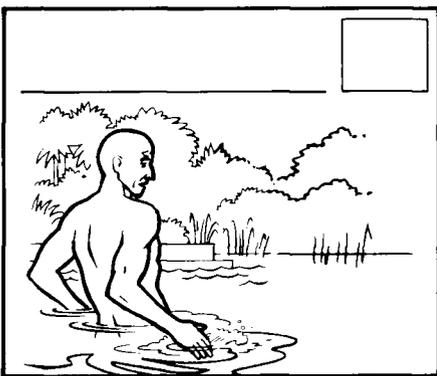
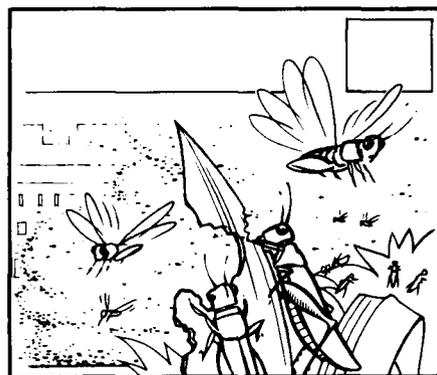
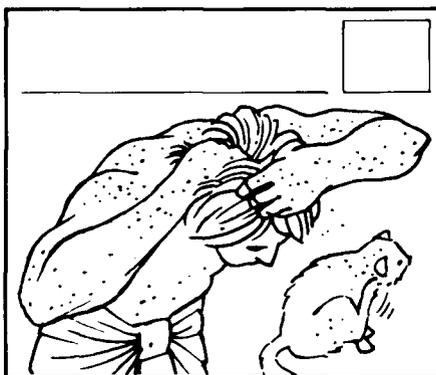
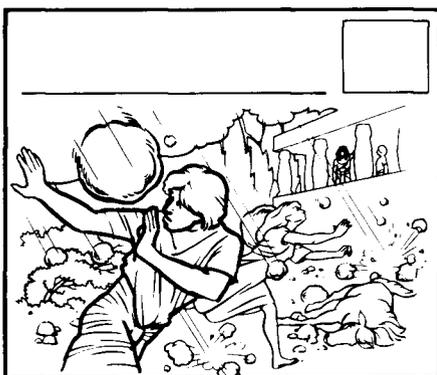
die! This includes your firstborn son, as well as the firstborn of all the animals.”

Pharaoh could only stare with a look of shock and horror. Because of the other plagues the Egyptians experienced, Pharaoh knew that Moses and Aaron spoke the truth. He sat back silently on his throne as Moses and Aaron left the court (Exodus 10:24-29; 11:4-7).

ISRAEL OBSERVES THE PASSOVER

Once again God spoke to Moses. He told him about a very important event that would take place before the Israelites left Egypt.

“This month, which I have named Abib, is the first month of the year,” God told Moses. “Tell the Israelites that on the tenth day



of this month, every family should set aside a perfectly healthy male lamb not more than a year old.

“Then, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, each family must kill its lamb. The lamb should then be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

“Be sure to roast it well. Eat all of it if you can, but if any part is left over, burn it up. When you eat this lamb, be dressed as though you are leaving on a long journey.”

Moses listened very carefully as God continued to give more instructions. “When you kill the lamb, take some of the blood and smear it on the two side posts and on the upper part of the doors of your houses. Then, when I send an angel to slay the firstborn of Egypt, he will pass over the marked homes and your firstborn will not die.

“This day will be called the *Passover*,” God continued. “It shall be a memorial or reminder to you that I spared your firstborn from the death angel. You shall keep the Passover as a feast, and it shall be a memorial to you and all your generations to come *forever*.”

“The next day, the fifteenth day of the first month, you are to gather together to observe a special yearly Sabbath.”

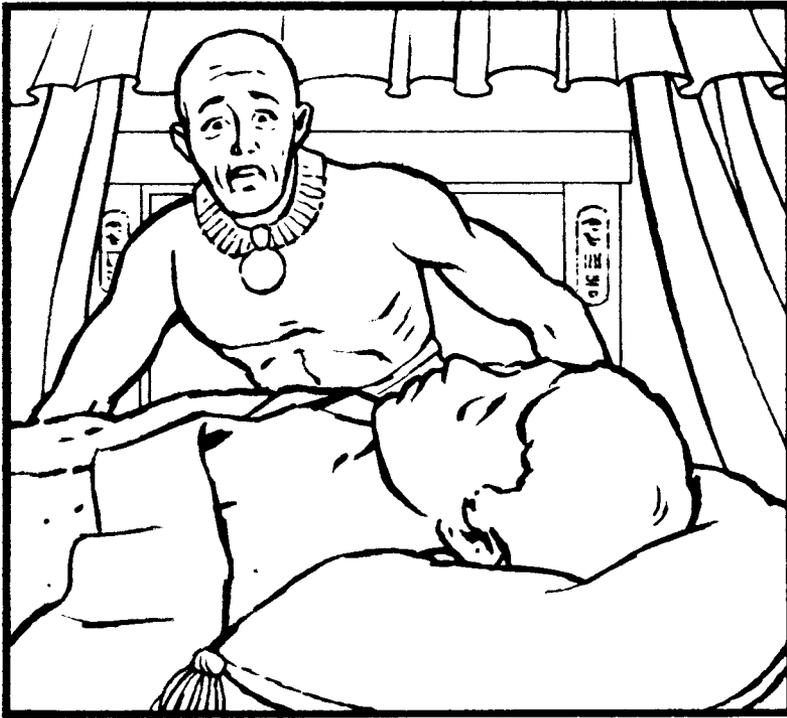
Remember, God’s days begin at sundown and end at sundown 24 hours later. This Sabbath was to begin at sundown at the end of fourteenth day.

“It will be called the first day of the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*,” God told Moses. “You shall put all leavening out of your houses before the holy day starts. For seven days, when you eat bread, it must be unleavened.”

WHAT IS LEAVENING?

Do you know what leavening is? Look up the word “leaven” or “leavening” in your dictionary. Ask your parents to help you name three common types of leavening we find in some of our food and write them down below.

Ask your parents to show you labels on canned or boxed foods. See if you can find some foods that you should *not* keep in your home during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. Make a list of these foods below.



Leavening makes food “puff up.” When your mother makes bread, the dough must “rise” before it can be baked. The leavening in the dough makes it “puff up.” Sins of pride and vanity cause people to feel important or “puffed up” in their minds.

God wanted the Israelites to leave sinful Egypt, and to leave behind the sinful ways that are pictured by leavening. But what is *sin*? Can you find a definition of it in your Bible? Look in I John 3:4.

When Moses told the Israelites God’s instructions, they obediently prepared and carried out all that God commanded. They had no idea that hundreds of years later, on the eve of the Passover, Jesus Christ

would be killed, like the Passover lamb, to pay the penalty of our sins.

The night of the Passover in Egypt came and went quietly for the Israelites who had marked their homes with the blood of a lamb as God commanded. They remained indoors that night as God had instructed Moses.

For the Egyptians, it was a terrifying night! At midnight, all their firstborn people and animals suddenly died. Pharaoh was horrified as he looked upon the lifeless body of his oldest son.

Pharaoh began to realize, now more than ever before, the power of the God of Israel. His message to Moses and the Israelites to leave Egypt came quickly (Exodus

12:31-32). Since God told the Israelites to be dressed as though they were leaving on a journey, they were ready to go. They quickly rounded up their flocks during the daylight part of the fourteenth and began their exodus from Egypt on the night of the fifteenth.

It was a joyous occasion. God wanted them to remember the miracles He performed to free them from slavery. They celebrated what was truly “a night to be much observed on the beginning of that first special Sabbath day.”

A MIRACULOUS GUIDE

As the Israelites traveled, God used a large cloud to guide them during the day. In the evening the cloud would stop. This was a sign for the people to stop and camp for the night.

When darkness came, the cloud changed into a giant pillar of fire! It gave them light and, perhaps, warmth on cold nights. In this miraculous way God showed the Israelites what direction they were to go (Exodus 13:21-22).

Scouts and spies, sent by Pharaoh to watch the movement of the Israelites, discovered that the huge caravan was headed toward the Red Sea. Upon hearing the news,

Pharaoh decided that he wanted all the Israelites and their livestock back in Egypt.

The Egyptians had to move quickly because the Israelites had already journeyed for several days. Pharaoh and his army of horsemen and chariots thundered across the plains to overtake them. By this time, the Israelites reached a point near the Red Sea where they could see huge mountains directly ahead of them. These mountains appeared to be



blocking their way. Yet the cloud guided them onward.

Many of the elders of the Israelites disagreed with the direction God was leading them. Soon hundreds were complaining. The Israelites were horrified when they heard the news that Pharaoh's army was rapidly approaching!

In an effort to calm the people, Moses reminded them, "God is leading us and knows what is best. He will save us from the Egyptians."

Sometimes your parents may also tell you to do something a certain way because they know it is best for you. How often do you complain and argue that your way is best? Because your parents love you, it saddens them to hear you complain when they are trying to help you.

Imagine how sad God must have felt when He heard the children of Israel complain, when He was actually freeing them from slavery.

CROSSING THE RED SEA

That night, the pillar of fire moved between the Israelites and the Egyptians. Usually the Israelites camped for the night, but now God instructed Moses that they were to move on. Even more puzzling to those who questioned

God's instructions was the command to move east.

"But the Red Sea is to the east!" exclaimed several of the elders. "We are going to obey God and move east," Moses answered. As they reached the Red Sea, Moses lifted his shepherd's rod and held it out toward the water as God instructed him to do.

With a loud roar, the waters began to roll back, forming a long narrow valley through the sea! On each side the water became a towering wall. A strong wind began to blow, drying the muddy earth between the parted sea.

Several hours later when the seabed was dry, the Israelites began walking through the sea to the opposite shore. As they neared the other side, Pharaoh's army began to rapidly pursue them through the Red Sea.

When all the people safely reached the other side, at God's command Moses stretched forth his hand toward the sea. The huge walls of water roared and thundered as they crashed downward and came together—drowning Pharaoh's army! God had miraculously saved the Israelites from the Egyptian army!

So far we have seen God work many miracles for the Israelites.

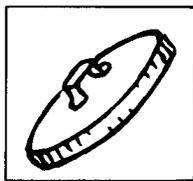
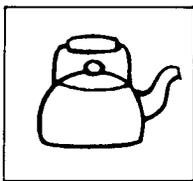
Yet when they came up against a problem, they forgot the miracles and began to complain.

Have you ever noticed that a problem seems so much bigger when you spend most of your time thinking about it? Before long, you start feeling sorry for yourself and

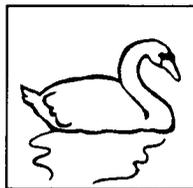
forget to ask God for help. Yet, when you think about all the blessings God has given you and the many times God has solved other problems, suddenly you find that God can solve this one, too. Then you become happy and thankful to God for His help and

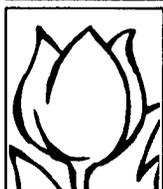
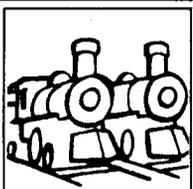
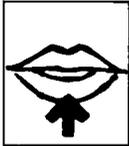
PICTURE PUZZLE

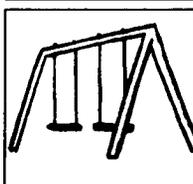
Write out, on the lines at the right, the words that describe the pictures. If a picture or letter is followed by a plus sign, add the letters of the next word to the end of the first word. If a picture is followed by a minus sign and letters, cross out these letters that appear in the previous words. The first one is done for you as an example.

 +
  - dke = l i ~~d~~ ~~k~~ ~~e~~ t t l e
 = l i t t l e

b +  +  - ma = _____
 = _____

 +  - sna = _____
 = _____

 +  -  - tai = _____
 = _____

 +  - ingf = _____
 = _____

His wonderful blessings!

Soon after they crossed the Red Sea, God led the Israelites into the desert. After several days journey, the water they were carrying with them ran out and the people and their animals became very thirsty. God now performed another miracle. Find out what this miracle was by solving the puzzle on page 8. You can read more about this miracle in Exodus 15:23-25.

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Despite many miracles from God, it wasn't long before there were more complaints from many of the Israelites. "We are almost out of food," some told Moses. "Why did you lead us out here into the desert to die?" whined others.

Moses prayed and asked God for help in handling these problems. Though God was not pleased with the complaints, in His great mercy, He decided to give the Israelites the food they wanted. That evening, God sent a huge flock of quail over their camp and caused the birds to fly low so they could easily be caught. It wasn't long before millions of cooked quail satisfied the people's hunger.

However, that wasn't all the food God planned to provide for them. He wanted the Israelites to

learn to be obedient and to look to Him for help. God used his next gift of food to teach the Israelites that lesson.

Each day God miraculously provided a bread-like food. Each morning, the Israelites awoke to find small, round objects on the ground. They had never seen anything like it before! This food they called "manna," which means "What is it?"

Moses repeated God's instructions to the Israelites, "Only gather what you will need to feed your family for the day. Do not gather any extra to keep overnight."

However, some people disobeyed and kept the manna overnight. When they awoke the next morning, they found the manna rotting and filled with worms. This was a lesson for the Israelites to do exactly as God told them.

"On the sixth day of the week," Moses told them, "God has instructed us to gather twice as much, that we may have food to eat on the Sabbath day." As you probably guessed, on the Sabbath morning the leftover manna was as fresh and pure as it was when they had first gathered it on the morning of the sixth day! And since God did not send manna on the Sabbath day, those who failed to

obey God's instructions to gather twice as much on the sixth day found themselves with nothing to eat on the Sabbath.

This was a strong reminder to the Israelites that the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, was holy time and that they should obey God by not working on the Sabbath. God continued to give them manna during the 40 years they were in the wilderness.

ON TO SINAI

Day after day, the Israelites continued to follow the cloud that God used to lead them through the desert wilderness. This time the cloud led them toward Mount Sinai. It then stopped and hovered over the very top of the mountain.

God then spoke to Moses and told him to climb the mountain. When Moses reached the top, he heard a powerful, booming voice say, "Give the Israelites a special message. Remind them that I have freed them from the Egyptians and brought them to this place.

"Tell them that if they will obey all My laws," God continued, "they will be my special people. They shall become a kingdom of priests and will some day rule over the whole world!"

Those in God's Church today

have the same opportunity to be God's special people if they continue to obey His laws. In the very near future, after Jesus Christ returns, God's people will have a special part in helping to rule the whole world as kings and priests!

Moses returned to the camp and gave this important message to the people. They agreed to do all that God had spoken.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Three days later, amidst a spectacular display of power, God thundered out the Ten Commandments to the awe-struck Israelites gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai. Look up Exodus 20:2-17 in your Bible and fill in the blanks to complete the Ten Commandments.

"I am the _____, _____, which have brought thee _____ of the land of _____, out of the _____.

"Thou shalt have _____ before me.

"Thou shalt not _____ unto thee any _____, or any _____ of any thing that is in _____, or that is in the _____, or that is in the _____:

“Thou shalt not _____
_____ thyself to them, nor
_____ them: for I the
_____ am a
_____ God, visiting the
iniquity of the _____ upon
the _____ unto the _____
and _____ generation of them
that _____ me; and shewing
_____ unto _____ of
them that _____ me, and
_____.

“Thou shalt not _____ the
_____ of the Lord thy God _____
_____; for the LORD will not
_____ that
_____ his name _____
_____.

“_____ the _____
day, to _____ it _____. _____
days shalt thou _____, and do
all thy _____: but the
_____ day is the
_____ of the LORD thy
God: _____ thou shalt not do
_____, _____, nor
thy _____, nor thy _____,
thy _____, nor thy
_____, nor thy _____,
nor thy _____ that is
_____ thy _____: for in
_____ days the LORD made
_____ and _____, the
_____, and _____
_____, and _____ the
_____: wherefore the LORD

_____ the _____ day,
and _____ it.

“_____ thy
_____ and thy
_____: that thy _____
may be _____ upon the
_____ which the LORD thy
God _____ thee.

“Thou shalt _____.

“Thou shalt _____
_____.

“Thou shalt _____
_____.

“Thou shalt _____
_____ against thy
_____.

“Thou shalt _____ thy
neighbor’s _____, thou shalt
_____ thy neighbor’s
_____, nor his _____,
nor his _____, nor his _____,
nor his _____, nor _____
that is thy neighbor’s” (King
James Version).

God’s laws were not first given to
the Israelites. They were in force
for all mankind since the creation
of Adam and Eve. If all mankind
had obeyed God from the begin-
ning, our world would be filled with
peace, happiness and prosperity—
just as it soon will be when Jesus
Christ returns to rule the earth. All
the world will then be keeping
God’s Ten Commandments!

