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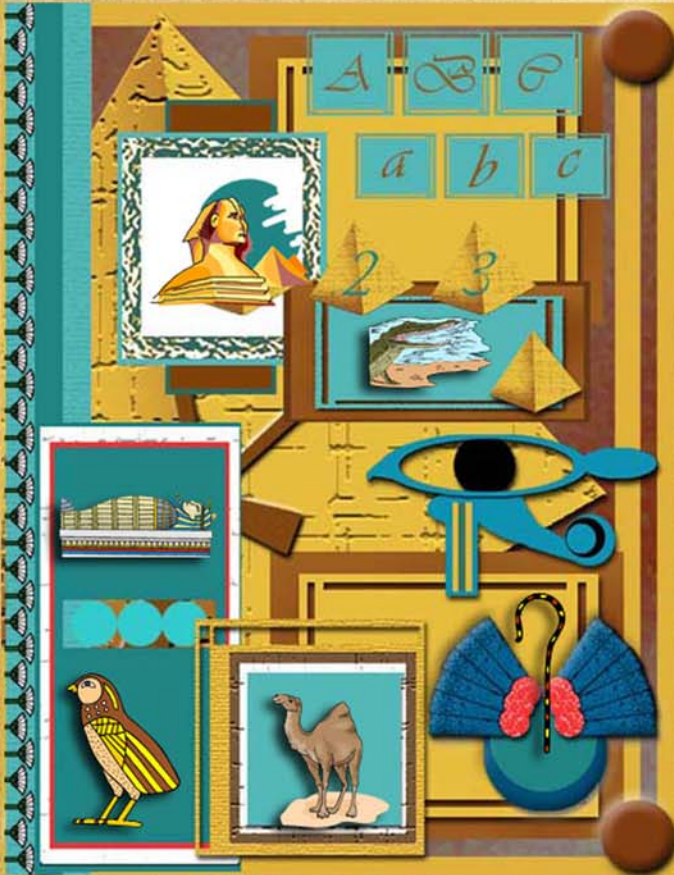
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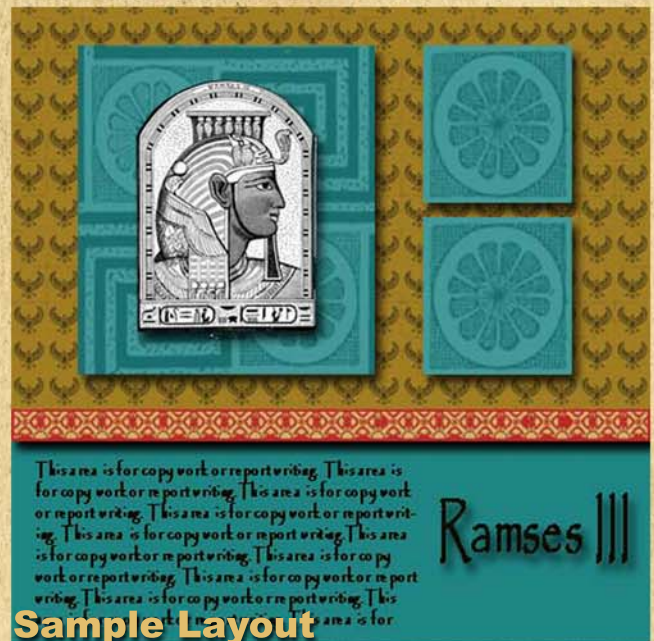
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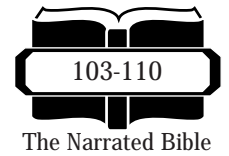
Sample Layout



Sample Layout

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The Plagues



Step 1 Excite

Make a list of the plagues, from memory if possible. Then read Psalm 78. Which plagues are mentioned?

Step 2 Examine

The Lord's purpose in the 10 plagues is to reveal himself. Four players or groups of players have the opportunity to know the Lord in the drama of the plagues: Moses, the Israelites, the Egyptians and Pharaoh. Ultimately, the Lord reveals himself by distinguishing between himself and everyone else. The difference between the Lord and everyone else is enhanced in the following ways, as seen in the plagues, which appear in three series of three, with the 10th and final plague standing alone. ¹

[A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays](#) ² explains that each plague that God put on the Egyptians related to an Egyptian idol as follows:

First Plague: The Nile Waters Turn to Blood—The Nile, the river of Egypt, was the Egyptians' idol. The Nile's waters nourished the land and determined the welfare of all the people. The Egyptians thirsted after blood when they slaughtered the Hebrews' children, and now God gave them blood to drink. Thus, the source that usually brought the Egyptians life brought death instead. (Exodus 7:14-25)

Second Plague: The Frogs—The frogs represented the fertility goddess, Isis, which was supposed to help women in childbirth. Frogs were everywhere: in their houses, in their beds, and at their tables. They could not eat, drink, or sleep without their precious god. The frog that symbolized life had to be raked into heaps of rotting death. (Exodus 8:1-15)

Third Plague: The Lice—The lice, which came up out of the dust of the earth, represented the Egyptians' god of the earth, Seth. Matthew Henry notes that lice were small, despicable, inconsiderable creatures, and yet, by their vast numbers, they rendered a sore plague to the Egyptians. God could have plagued them with lions, bears, wolves, vultures, or other birds of prey, but He chose to do it using these minuscule but contemptible instruments. (Exodus 8:16-19)

Resources recommended in ♦several lessons, ★several units, ♥other HOW Units. ●—Key Resource (see beginning of unit or page 32).

Fourth Plague: The Flies—The stinging, disease-carrying flies ruined the land. Beelzebub, the prince of the power of the air, has been glorified as the god of flies, the god of Ekron. The fly was always present at idolatrous sacrifices. This fourth plague came upon the Egyptians only. It made Israel a separate and Holy People. (Exodus 8:20-32)

Fifth Plague: The Disease of Livestock—A great number of cattle died by a sort of pestilence. The Egyptians made the Hebrews poor, so God caused great loss to the Egyptians. The Egyptians believed that animals were possessed by the spirits of gods. The bull was sacred in Egypt, identified in its markings with their god Apis. As God's Word tells us, this disease afflicted only the Egyptian livestock, not the Hebrew livestock. (Exodus 9:1-7)

Sixth Plague: The Boils—Again God demonstrated His ability to control nature. When the death of their cattle didn't convince the Egyptians, God sent a plague that seized their own bodies. *And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.* (Exodus 9:10) Sores in the body were looked upon as punishment for sin, a means by which to call one to repentance. None of the Hebrews had any boils. This plague was a direct attack on the shamanism of the medico-mystical processes in Egypt. (Exodus 9:8-12)

Seventh Plague: The Hailstorm—Moses gave the people a one-day warning before this plague. The notice was given because the sorcerers of Egypt were also agricultural shamans who supposedly controlled the weather. Those who feared the Lord took shelter (showing us that God had mercy on some of the Egyptians). Those who did not believe in God and took no shelter died in the fields. (Ex. 9:21) *There was ice and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all of the land of Egypt.* The hail killed both men and cattle, and battered down the herbs, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and other plants. God, in His judgment, caused it to rain and hail on the Egyptians and not on the Hebrews. (Exodus 9:13-35)

Eighth Plague: The Locusts—By this time, Pharaoh's people, his magicians, and his advisors began to rebel. Pharaoh stood alone against God. *Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.* This plague devastated the land and hence the power of the gods and shamans of agriculture. Pharaoh sent for Moses and pretended to repent. He asked Moses to pray to God to take the locusts away. *And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red Sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.* (Exodus 10:13-14,19)

Ninth Plague: The Darkness—The Egyptians rebelled against the light of God's Word and they were justly punished with darkness. This thick darkness was over Egypt three days, but the people of Israel had light where they dwelt. What a picture of dark and light, of being lost and saved. The children of God walked in the light while Pharaoh and his people wandered in the darkness. Matthew Henry's Commentary states,

The cloud of locusts, which had darkened the land (v. 15), was nothing to this. It was a total darkness. We have reason to think, not only that the lights of heaven were clouded, but that all their fires and candles were put out by the damp or clammy vapors which were the cause of this darkness; for it is said (v. 23), "They saw not one another." It is threatened to the wicked (Job 18:5-6) that the "spark of his fire shall not shine," even the sparks of his own kindling, as they are called (Isa. 50:11), and that the "light shall be dark in his tabernacle." Hell is utter darkness. The "light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee" (Rev. 18:23).

This plague was an attack on the power of the supreme deity of Egypt, the sun god, Ra or Amun-Ra. The Egyptians could do nothing but stay in their homes and consider what they had experienced to that point regarding the power of the God of the Israelites. Even then, Pharaoh refused to yield. (Exodus 10:21-29)

Tenth Plague: The Death of the Firstborn—God said in Exodus 13:2, *Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.*

Nelson's *Illustrated Bible Dictionary* explains the importance of the firstborn:

God placed a special claim on the firstborn of man and beast (Ex. 13:11-13). This meant that the nation of Israel attached unusual value to the eldest son and assigned special privileges and responsibilities to him. Because of God's claim on the first offspring, the firstborn sons of the Hebrews were presented to the Lord when they were a month old. Since the firstborn was regarded as God's property, it was necessary for the father to redeem, or buy back, the child from the priest. Early Hebrew laws also provided that the firstlings of beasts belonged to the Lord and were turned over to the sanctuary (Ex. 13:2; 34:19; Lev. 27:26). The firstborn's birthright was a double portion of the estate and leadership of the family. As head of the home after his father's death, the eldest son customarily cared for his mother until her death, and provided for his unmarried sisters until their marriages. He was the family's spiritual head and served as its priest. In figurative language, the term firstborn stands for that which is most excellent.



Resources recommended in ♦several lessons, ★several units, ♥other HOW Units. ●—Key Resource (see beginning of unit or page 32).



The significance of the death of every firstborn in Egypt, from the house of Pharaoh to the slaves and the livestock, was great. But Israel would be spared so that there would be an obvious distinction between those who belong to the YAWH and those who do not. (Exodus 11:1-10)

And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:29-36)



Research the Plagues. Use any resource (an encyclopedia, nonfiction book, historical novel, or the Internet). We recommend the following:

Books

  [Encyclopedia of the Bible](#) (Nelson's Illustrated) ♥
Read: "The Exodus from Egypt" (20-21).

  [The Victor Journey through the Bible](#) ♥
Read: "The Plagues" (58-59).

Step 3 Expand

  **Activity 1: Write a Newspaper Story**
Write a newspaper story as if you are a reporter summing up the Ten Plagues of Judgment on the Egyptians. Refer to the book of Exodus: 7:14-25 (plague of blood); 8:1-15 (frogs); 8:16-19 (lice); 8:20 (flies); 9:1-7 (murrain of cattle); 9:8-12 (boils and sores); 9:18-34 (hail); 10:1-20 (locusts); 10:21-23 (darkness); and 11:4-7; 12:17,29 and 30 (death of the firstborn). Read Psalm 105:23-38

Underlined text refers to Internet link at <http://Homeschool-Books.com>

to find out how the Egyptians felt about the Israelites. Include an imaginary interview with an Egyptian, describing how he feels about the events. Refer to “Writing about an Event” in *Writers INC*.



Activity 2: Copy a Passage

Copy a descriptive passage or interesting conversational passage from the Bible that discusses the plagues.

Step 4 Excel

Have your family join you in acting out the ten plagues in a ten-day period.

1. Water into blood: use red food coloring on all the water sources (drinking water, sinks, cat's bowl, etc.).
2. Frogs: put paper ones everywhere around the house, including on your plates of food and in beds.
3. Lice: slap at imaginary ones and scratch “itches.”
4. Flies: go through the house swatting with fly swatters, and tape pepper to windows.
5. Livestock death: put stuffed animals belly-up around the house.
6. Boils: draw red spots all over your body with lipstick or face paint.
7. Hail: go outside and toss ice chips on each other.
8. Locusts: tape paper locusts on walls, clothing, etc.
9. Darkness: tape black paper over the windows.
10. Firstborn are killed: read the biblical account and put red electrical tape or crepe paper on the doors (sides and top) leading into the house.

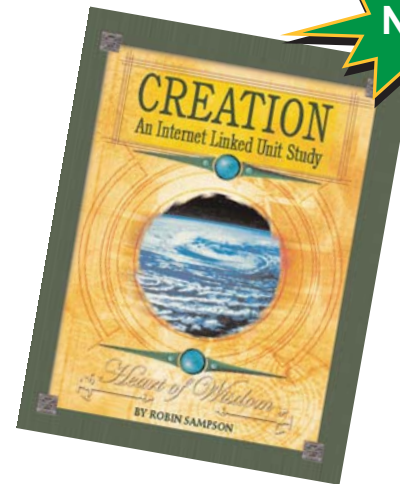
Share what you have learned about the plagues by filling out the following Internet worksheet with a child (elementary level): [The Plagues Upon Egypt](#).

Footnotes

1. Dolphin, Lambert. (1998). <<http://searchpdf.adobe.com/proxies/2/51/50/56.html>> (Accessed 2000)
2. Sampson, Robin Scarlata. (1997). *A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays*. TN: Heart of Wisdom Publishing.

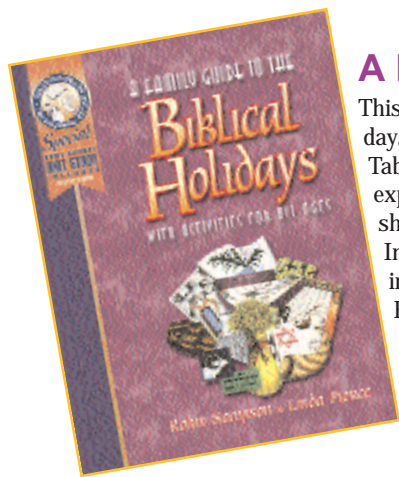
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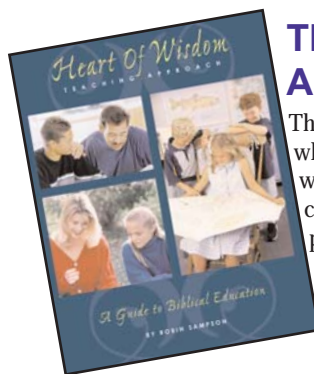
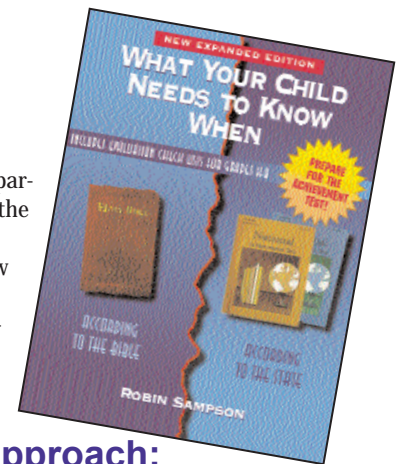


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