

WEEK 13 // THE PLAGUES, PART I

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have several group members read Exodus 7:14-9:12 aloud. (For an overview of the plagues, visit www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/thetenplagues.pdf.)

In your opinion, which of the first six plagues would be the hardest to endure? Why?

REFLECT

How would the first six plagues have impacted the Egyptians economically? Practically (in their day-to-day lives)? Psychologically?

By the third plague, Pharaoh's magicians draw a correct conclusion. What is it (see 8:18-19)? Knowing that seven more plagues are coming, what does this tell us about Pharaoh's resolve? His belief in the strength of his own gods?

What do you notice about Pharaoh's responses to each of the plagues as they progress? How do his tactics change? What do they indicate he believes is true of Yahweh? Of himself?

APPLY

Have you ever received a warning from God and continued in sin? What was the outcome? How would the outcome have been different if you had heeded earlier correction? Is there a warning you are currently choosing to ignore?

The first three plagues affect both the Egyptians and the Israelites, but the rest affect only the Egyptians. Why does God sometimes allow the just to suffer for the sins of the unjust? What should be our attitude in those times?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 7:14-9:12. Then go through these questions together:

// Why did God send the plagues?

// The Egyptians worshiped false gods, or idols. They worshiped the created things instead of the Creator. What do you love so much that it is hard for you to love God more than it?

// How did God show His power over the Egyptian gods?

// How can your family love each other and love God better?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week in the course of everyday conversations to teach your family the true meaning of *love*—a caring commitment to God and others over yourself.