

The Plagues

Welcome to the story of The Plagues. As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Slave Work**

Pharaoh made God's people work as slaves. Talk about daily chores! What would it be like to have to do chores all day long, every day? Would you want God to set you free? Why? Give everyone a chance to share.

- **Staff Rhythm**

Moses carried a big staff. Sit on the floor in a circle. Pretend you're holding a staff in each hand. Hit your fisted hands on the floor four times. Hit them together two times. Then hold them out in front for two beats. Repeat until everyone is in unison. Then add this chant: Pharaoh, Pharaoh, Pharaoh, Pharaoh, Let my people go!

- **Plague Parts**

Play a Plague Parts guessing game. Think of one plague and give a clue about it. (I'm thinking of something green.) Everyone else shouts which plague they think it is. (Frogs!) The first person to guess the right answer gives the next clue.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during the time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Name as many plagues as you can.
- Which plague would have been the worst? Why?
- What are you stubborn about?
- I wonder how God protected the Israelites when the plagues came.
- Name 10 plague opposites—good things that God sends us.
- Pharaoh wanted to keep God's people forever. What do you want to keep forever?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Frog Hop**

The second plague was frogs. Hop like a frog all the way to your next destination. While you are hopping, try some “ribbit, ribbit, ribbit” noises.

- **Bug Squish**

Look out! The gnats and flies are coming after you. Squish those bugs as you move to your next location.

- **River Dance**

The Nile River went through Egypt. Use your body to flow like a river. There could be fast-moving rapids or slow-moving places. There could be deep places or shallow places. Use your entire body to dance like a river.

- **Herd Words**

The Egyptians had herds of horses, donkeys, and camels. They also had flocks of chickens, sheep, and goats. Choose your favorite animal sounds to make as your herd heads toward the next place.

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- **Technological Trouble**

Technology is really important today! Talk about what kinds of plagues would cause serious problems today. Electricity going out? No Internet? No showers or indoor plumbing? How far would God have to go to get us to change our minds about something?

- **Everything is Connected**

Play a connection game. One person names a general subject word, like water. The next person names something connected to the first word like rivers, rain, lakes, or dew. Continue around the circle, connecting all words to the first word, until you run out. What other connections can you make?

- **Family Matters**

Family is important in this story. Aaron and Moses are brothers who work together with God, to free the Hebrew people. What does your family do together? How does your family involve God in the things you do?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What causes you to change your mind?
- When is it hard to have patience?
- Which plague would be the worst one for you?
- When is it hard to let go of something, even though you really want to keep it?
- Talk about how the Hebrew families felt during the plagues.
- If you were Pharaoh, when would you have let God's people go?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **What's the Buzz?**

Gnats and flies were plagues three and four. Gnats and flies make a buzzing noise. Buzz your way to your next activity.

- **Dodge the Hail**

Plague number four was large hail. Try to dodge the hail as you walk. Look out! Here comes a big piece!

- **Stubborn King**

Pharaoh was VERY stubborn and wouldn't let God's people go. Take a few steps and then stop. You are stubborn! Don't move! The next activity is coming. It's going to be fun. How long can you last before you move on?

- **Group Chant**

Each time God brought a new plague, Aaron and Moses passed a message to the Pharaoh. The message was, "Let my people go." As you move towards a new activity together, chant as a group, "Let my people go!"

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- **Darkness Came**

The ninth plague was darkness. Sit in a circle. Have everyone close their eyes. Tell the kids they can open their eyes for a moment to see if anyone else has their eyes open. If you spot someone, they have to turn around and face out from the circle.

- **What's Next?**

Start with the first plague. Say, "The water is bloody, what's next?" The next person says the second plague and asks, "What's next?" Keep going until you make a mistake in the order. If someone makes a mistake, start over. Can you do all ten?

- **Promise Keeper**

God kept his promise to help the Hebrews leave Egypt. Talk about promises in your life. Is it hard to keep promises? What happens if you are not able to keep a promise? How do you feel? Give everyone a chance to share.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What would it be like to only eat unleavened (flat) bread?
- What would it be like if the sun never rose?
- How many flies, gnats, locusts, and frogs could you count?
- How do you protect your family?
- How does God look out for you?
- If you had to hide from the plagues, where would you go?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Phew! That smells**

Dead frogs, bloody water, and sick animals all smell. Phew, plug your nose. Pretend the smell is really bad as you move forward.

- **Prayer Posture**

There are many times in this story that Moses prays. Put your body into a posture of prayer. You may bow your heads, fold hands, or show in some other way you are praying. Keep your body in a posture of prayer as you journey to your next activity.

- **Hail and Thunder**

God sent hail and thunder. Thunder your way to your next activity. Use your feet, arms, and voices to make lots of booming noise.

- **Locust Leap**

Locusts are like grasshoppers. They were all over the homes, fields and the palace in Egypt. Pretend you are a locust and leap your way to the next place.