

God Rescues the Children of Israel

Storyteller (*spreads out the Desert Bag*): This is the Desert Bag. So many wonderful and important things happen in the desert, we need to know what it is like. We can't get the whole

desert into our church, so here is just a little piece of the desert. *The Storyteller smooths the sand while s/he talks.* The desert is a dangerous place. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night. There is little water, and almost nothing grows there. In Egypt though, the great river Nile runs through the desert, so people can live there.

Place the blue felt strip along the left side of the desert bag. The kings of Egypt, the pharaohs, made their slaves build cities and pyramids in the desert. *As you talk, Set the pyramid close to you*

near the centre of the desert. Put the pharaoh figure near the pyramid. Set out the blocks to represent the city a little way away, on the right-hand side of the desert bag. Put the doorposts and lintel at the front closest to the children. Those slaves included the People of Israel. God sent Moses back to Egypt to save them.

Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him to let God's people go. Pharaoh refused to let God's people go. *Place the Aaron and Moses near Pharaoh.* God told Aaron to hit the river Nile with his stick, and the water turned to blood. *Put the red felt over the blue.* The fish died and the river began to stink. So the Egyptians could not drink water from the river.

Pharaoh still refused to let God's people go. So God made frogs come out of the river and they covered the land of Egypt. *Put the small frog models near Pharaoh* There were even frogs in Pharaoh's bed! Pharaoh told Moses "Ask God to take the frogs away, and I will let God's people go." *Put the frogs back in the story tray.*

Exodus 7.19-8:11

The Lord said to Moses: "Moses, then command Aaron to hold his stick over the water. And when he does, every drop of water in Egypt will turn into blood, including rivers, canals, ponds, and even the water in buckets and jars.

Moses and Aaron obeyed the LORD. Aaron held out his stick, then struck the Nile, as the king and his officials watched. The river turned into blood, the fish died, and the water smelled so bad that none of the Egyptians could drink it. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

But the Egyptian magicians used their secret powers to do the same thing. The king did just as the LORD had said—he stubbornly refused to listen. Then he went back to his palace and never gave it a second thought. The Egyptians had to dig holes along the banks of the Nile for drinking water, because water from the river was unfit to drink.

Seven days after the LORD had struck the Nile, he said to Moses:

Go to the palace and tell the king [a] of Egypt that I order him to let my people go, so they can worship me. If he refuses, I will cover his entire country with frogs. Warn the king that the Nile will be full of frogs, and from there they will spread into the royal palace, including the king's bedroom and even his bed. Frogs will enter the homes of his officials and will find their way into ovens and into the bowls of bread dough. Frogs will be crawling on everyone—the king, his officials, and every citizen of Egypt.

Moses, now command Aaron to hold his stick over the water. Then frogs will come from all rivers, canals, and ponds in Egypt, and they will cover the land.

Aaron obeyed, and suddenly frogs were everywhere in Egypt. But the magicians

Story Materials

- Desert Bag
- Wooden blocks to represent the city
- Pyramid model
- "People of God" figures
- Moses Figure
- Pharaoh figure
- blue felt "water"
- frogs
- Doorposts and lintel

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

used their secret powers to do the same thing.

The king sent for Moses and Aaron and told them, "If you ask the LORD to take these frogs away from me and my people, I will let your people go and offer sacrifices to him."

"All right," Moses answered. "You choose the time when I am to pray for the frogs to stop bothering you, your officials, and your people, and for them to leave your houses and be found only in the river."

"Do it tomorrow!" the king replied.

"As you wish," Moses agreed. "Then everyone will discover that there is no god like the LORD, and frogs will no longer be found anywhere, except in the Nile."

After Moses and Aaron left the palace, Moses begged the LORD to do something about the frogs he had sent as punishment for the king. The LORD listened to Moses, and frogs died everywhere—in houses, yards, and fields. The dead frogs were placed in piles, and the whole country began to stink. But when the king saw that things were now better, he again did just as the LORD had said and stubbornly refused to listen to Moses and Aaron.

Exodus 11:1-12:12

The LORD said to Moses:

I am going to punish the king^[a] of Egypt and his people one more time. Then the king will gladly let you leave his land, so that I will stop punishing the Egyptians. He will even chase you out. Now go and tell my people to ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold and silver jewelry.

So the LORD made the Egyptians greatly respect the Israelites, and everyone, including the king and his officials, considered Moses an important leader.

Moses went to the king and said:

I have come to let you know what the LORD is going to do. About midnight he will go through the land of Egypt, 5 and wherever he goes, the first-born son in every family will die. Your own son will

But when Pharaoh saw that the frogs were gone, he again became stubborn and would not let God's people go. *Turn Pharaoh so that his back is to Moses.* God made many other things happen to the Egyptians to convince Pharaoh to let his people go, but each time Pharaoh changed his mind and would not let God's people go.

Finally, -- *turn Pharaoh back to face Moses* -- Moses warned Pharaoh "The Lord says, 'At midnight tonight, I will go through Egypt, and every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt – *put Pharaoh's sone next to him* -- to the firstborn son of the slave girl grinding grain. Even the firstborn animals will die.'" Then Moses said to the People of Israel, "Go kill a lamb for your families to eat, and catch the blood in a bowl. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood and touch the beam above the door and the two doorposts with the blood in the bowl. *Point to the uprights and the beam of the doorway.* None of you should go out the door of your house until morning. *Move all the People of God over behind the doorway.*

At midnight the Lord struck down all the first offspring in the land of Egypt – "*Fly*" *your hand over the pyramid and the Pharaoh, and lay down Pharaoh's son* -- from the oldest child of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the oldest child of the prisoner in jail, and all the first offspring of the animals. – "*Fly*" *your hand over the slave village and make it soar up as it reaches the lintel* – but when the Lord saw the blood on the beam above the door and on the doorposts, the Lord passed over the homes of the Israelites.

die, and so will the son of the lowest slave woman. Even the first-born males of cattle will die. Everywhere in Egypt there will be loud crying. Nothing like this has ever happened before or will ever happen again.

But there won't be any need for the Israelites to cry. Things will be so quiet that not even a dog will be heard barking. Then you Egyptians will know that the LORD is good to the Israelites,

even while he punishes you. 8 Your leaders will come and bow down, begging me to take my people and leave your country. Then we will leave.

Moses was very angry; he turned and left the king.

What the LORD had earlier said to Moses came true. He had said, "The king of Egypt won't listen. Then I will perform even more miracles." So the king of

Egypt saw Moses and Aaron work miracles, but the LORD made him stubbornly refuse to let the Israelites leave his country.

Some time later the LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

This month is to be the first month of the year for you. Tell the people of Israel that on the tenth day of this month the head of each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for his family to eat. If any family is too small to eat the whole animal, they must share it with their next-door neighbors. Choose either a sheep or a goat, but it must be a one-year-old male that has nothing wrong with it. And it must be large enough for everyone to have some of the meat.

Each family must take care of its animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, when the animals are to be killed. Some of the blood must be put on the two doorposts and above the door of each house where the animals are to be eaten. That night the animals are to be roasted and eaten, together with bitter herbs and thin bread made without yeast. Don't eat the meat raw or boiled. The entire animal, including its head, legs, and insides, must be roasted. Eat what you want that night, and the next morning burn whatever is left. When you eat the meal, be dressed and ready to travel. Have your sandals on, carry your walking stick in your hand, and eat quickly. This is the Passover Festival in honor of me, your LORD.

That same night I will pass through Egypt and kill the first-born son in every

When Pharaoh, all his officials, and all the Egyptians got up that night, a terrible cry of agony rang out across Egypt because every house had someone in it who had died. Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron that night and said, "Get up! Get away from my people, both you and the Israelites! Go!"