

# God Is Warrior

**Bible Passage: Exodus 5—12**

(The Exodus, Part 1)

## REMEMBER VERSE

**“The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”**

**Exodus 14:14**

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## Inspire

Have you ever had the feeling of walking through an uncomfortable, even scary, situation but you were all by yourself? Have you ever been in that kind of situation but you knew your father was nearby to help you? Once, when I was 10, I was chased down the street by an angry, snarling dog. Screaming, I rounded the corner of our house just as my dad stepped out from our garage where he had been working. Immediately, he sized up the situation and stepped between me and the dog, brandishing a hammer and shouting. Then I knew I was safe.

Our divine Father is strong and capable and willing to stand with His children in the difficult and scary places. He will step between us and danger, and He will fight for us as our Warrior when injustice comes along. Nothing can get to us without first going through our Father. *Ei Shaddai*, God Almighty, will fight for us.

## The Ten Plagues

We often think of the 10 plagues as God trying to convince Pharaoh to let the people go, but that was not the only reason God displayed His power. God was also showing incredible signs to His special people to let them know He is the one true God (Exodus 10:1–2).

After they left Egypt, the Israelites would have to endure terrible struggles and trials. There would be great temptation for them to go back to what they were familiar with, namely, the worship of Egypt's gods. God needed to show them who He was and how He wanted to be worshipped. The purpose of the plagues was to display that I AM is the *only* One with power, and that the false gods of the Egyptians had to submit to the power of I AM.

The plagues demonstrated to the Israelites, the Egyptians, and to the entire world that the great I AM, Yahweh, is the one true God (Exodus 7:5). God was also demonstrating to His people that He is God and that He is Warrior who fights for His people.

## God Speaks

The story of the plagues often says, “the Lord said to Moses.” Since Pharaoh thought of himself a god, hearing from the one true God was important if Moses was to have the confidence and courage he needed to confront Pharaoh. While we may never confront the ruler of a country with a message from God, we still need the confidence and courage that comes from hearing from God. The great thing is, God wants to speak to us, if we will just listen. His Word and His Holy Spirit may bring to mind Bible verses that provide us with guidance or courage. The Holy Spirit may also speak through a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8), enabling us to know more than we can on our own. The Holy Spirit may send a message of hope and encouragement from another believer. God speaks to us no less than He spoke to Moses.



# EXPLORE// 10 min.

## Activity: Faster! Faster! (for younger and older kids)

As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites were forced to make bricks. They worked outside in the hot, dry desert with masters pushing them to work hard and fast. This game will help your children see what it's like to work under pressure.

### SUPPLIES

- Find something your child can stack (i.e. toy blocks, small boxes, sugar cubes, whatever you have at home (at least 10 per child))
- Stopwatch or timer

### SET UP

Place the stackable items in front of your child on a table.

### RELATE

**In today's portion of The Big God Story, we'll hear how God fought for His people, who were being treated unfairly by Pharaoh.**

If you have more than one child, have them race against each other or you can divide your kids into two teams and add some adults to make the teams even. Designate one or two children or an adult on each team to be team leaders. On your signal, both teams must use their stackable items as "bricks" to build the highest building possible within one minute. While children build, the team leaders should pressure the builders by shouting out commands such as "Hurry up!" and "Build faster!" At exactly one minute, stop the game and count how many layers of cubes, or blocks (or whatever you stacked) that each team built.

Next, place all the stackable items in the center of the table. Then, have your child or (have the two teams) stand several feet away from the building site. On your signal, one child at a time from each team must run to his team leader to request one stackable item and start to build a pyramid with the same number of layers as before. The team leaders should again shout commands. Stop the game after one minute. Count up how many items were stacked!

After the activity, discuss together the following questions:

**Did the team leaders shouting commands make this game harder? Why? Do you think it was fair to have to build a tower as tall as the first one when you had to gather the cubes one at a time? How does it feel when we aren't being treated fairly?**

## Remember Verse

**"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14**

## The Big God Story

**Bible Passage: Exodus 5—12**

## Ponder Point: God Is Warrior

### SUPPLIES

- Bibles



## RELATE

Ask your child: **Would you rather eat a bug or a frog?** Allow responses and ask your child to explain why they chose what they did. Share what your response would be too.

Today we're going to talk about a time God showed His people that He is Warrior. As the ruler of all creation, God sent swarms of frogs and bugs and even had the weather at His command as He fought for His people!

In today's Big God Story, Moses, with the help of his brother, Aaron, went to Egypt so they could speak with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. God planned to free His people from slavery and take them to the Promised Land, where they could worship Him. Can you imagine how scared Moses and Aaron must have been? Pharaoh was the most powerful man in the world, and they weren't asking for a small favor. They were asking Pharaoh to set all of his slaves free!

To see what happened, let's open our Bibles to Exodus 5:1: "Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"" How do you think Pharaoh responded? Do you think he said, "Okay, sure! Go ahead!" Allow responses.

Of course not! Pharaoh was furious, and he gave the Israelites more work to do! But Moses trusted God and delivered His messages, and knew that God would fight for His people. God is Warrior.

The Israelites were tired and discouraged after Pharaoh made them work harder. And of course, Moses was discouraged too. But God reminded Moses that He is the Lord and that He always keeps His promises. In Exodus 6:6–7 (encourage kids to turn to this passage and follow along) God told Moses to "say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out [of slavery] ... I will free you ... and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts ... I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" God was telling the Israelites that He is Warrior. Nothing can defeat Him. His people can trust in His might and His power.

God told Moses and Aaron to go back to Pharaoh and perform a miracle. When Aaron threw his staff to the ground, it turned into a snake! Pharaoh wasn't impressed. He had his magicians do the same thing. But then Aaron's snake ate the other snakes! Even so, Pharaoh still refused to let the people go.

God wasn't done yet. God is Warrior, and He continued to fight for His people. Again, Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, "The LORD ... has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me" (Exodus 7:16). Pharaoh again refused, so God turned all the water in the Nile River into blood.

Yet Pharaoh still wouldn't let the people go. So then God told Aaron to stretch his hand over the streams and rivers, and out of the water came thousands of frogs! They were in people's ovens, on their beds, everywhere ... even in their bread dough! It sounds funny, but the Egyptians weren't laughing. Pharaoh said he would let the Israelites go if God took away the frogs, so Moses prayed and the frogs died. But again Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let the people go.

God sent eight more things to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go. God sent gnats and flies. He sent a plague that made the Egyptians' livestock sick. They lost many of their horses, camels, sheep, goats, and pigs. The Egyptian people got big, nasty sores all over their bodies. God sent a powerful hailstorm. God sent locusts, big grasshopper-like bugs that eat every plant they can find. God sent darkness so thick the people could feel it. But God protected the Israelites. He saved His children from suffering. The flies didn't bother them, their animals didn't get sick like the Egyptians' animals, and they didn't get sores or experience thick darkness.

By sending plagues, God showed His power. The Egyptians thought their make-believe gods were as powerful as the one true God. Each plague proved that there is only one God, I AM. But even after all those plagues, Pharaoh still wouldn't free the Israelites. So God sent one last, very sad, plague. God said, "Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh ... to the firstborn son of the female slave" (Exodus 11:5).

But God still protected the Israelites. God told the Israelites to kill a perfect lamb and paint its blood beside and above their doors. In Exodus 12:13 (invite kids to follow along) God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you" (Exodus 12:13). At midnight, all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died, and the Egyptians cried loudly. But none of the Israelites' first born sons were harmed! Finally, Pharaoh said to Moses, "Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested" (v. 31). The Israelites quickly gathered their things and left Egypt. God is Warrior, and He rescued His people.



God still fights for us today. He is our Warrior. Through Jesus, God has saved us forever. We have been adopted as God's children. How does it feel to know that your heavenly Father is a Warrior? Allow responses. As His children, we don't have to worry because God promised to never leave us. We can trust that God hears us because we know that God fights for His children.

## Worship as Response

### SUPPLIES

- Cinder blocks or other heavy objects on which kids can write (suggestion: wrap a pile of books with plain paper)
- Permanent markers, piece of paper to write on.

### SET UP

Place the cinder blocks or other heavy objects at the front of the room along with the markers.

### RELATE

**Do you have trouble sleeping because you feel afraid or lonely? Do you feel bad about something you've done wrong? Do you cry at night because your parents fight or because kids at school are mean to you? These things might feel like battles you can't win on your own. But God is bigger than all of those things. The Bible says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).**

Pick up the cinder block or heavy object. **This is really heavy. The bricks the Israelites made while they were slaves in Egypt were also probably heavy. Sometimes our pain, loneliness, guilt, or fear feels like a heavy weight. God wants to be with you in that and carry the weight for you because He loves you.**

**I want you to sit and think for a minute: What are you carrying inside that feels heavy? Is there anything you want to give to God and have Him fight for you? The Bible says, "The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still" (Exodus 14:14). You can rest knowing God will fight for you as your Warrior. You are His beloved child!**

**After a minute or two, come and write on this cinder block a word that expresses something you're carrying that you want God to free you from, such as fear or sadness. God cares for you and thinks you're worth fighting for.**

## Reflect: God Is Warrior

Encourage kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

### Questions for Younger Kids

- **How did Pharaoh react the first time Moses and Aaron asked him to let the Israelites go?** Exodus 5:4 (*Pharaoh accused them of distracting the Israelites from doing their work and he told them to get back to work.*)
- Skim through the plagues in Exodus 7—10 with your kids. **Which of these plagues do you think would be the worst? How would you react to these things happening?**
- **How do you think the Israelites felt as they saw the plagues happen to the Egyptians?** (*that God was protecting them, that God was ALL Powerful!, that He was serious about delivering His people from Pharaoh*)
- **How does it make you feel to know God cares for you enough to fight for you as your Warrior?** (*safe, secure, dearly loved by God.*)

### Questions for Older Kids

- **What did Pharaoh say the first time Moses and Aaron asked him to let the Israelites go?** Exodus 5:4 (*Pharaoh accused them of distracting the Israelites from doing their work and he told them to get back to work.*)



- Skim through the plagues in Exodus 7—10 with your kids. **Which of these plagues do you think would be the worst? How would you react to these things happening?**
- **How have you seen God fight for you or fight for someone you know?**
- **Have you ever had to wait to see God fight for you? What was it like?**
- **How does it make you feel to know God cares for you enough to fight for you as your Warrior?** (*safe, secure, dearly loved by God.*)

## BLESS// 5 min.

### RELATE

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and receive what God has for them. Invite them to remain in this posture as you bless them.

Open a Bible and read Psalm 144:1–2:

**Praise be to the LORD my Rock ... He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge.**

**May you go out this week with peace. May you know that God is Warrior and He fights for you.**