

# YOUTH



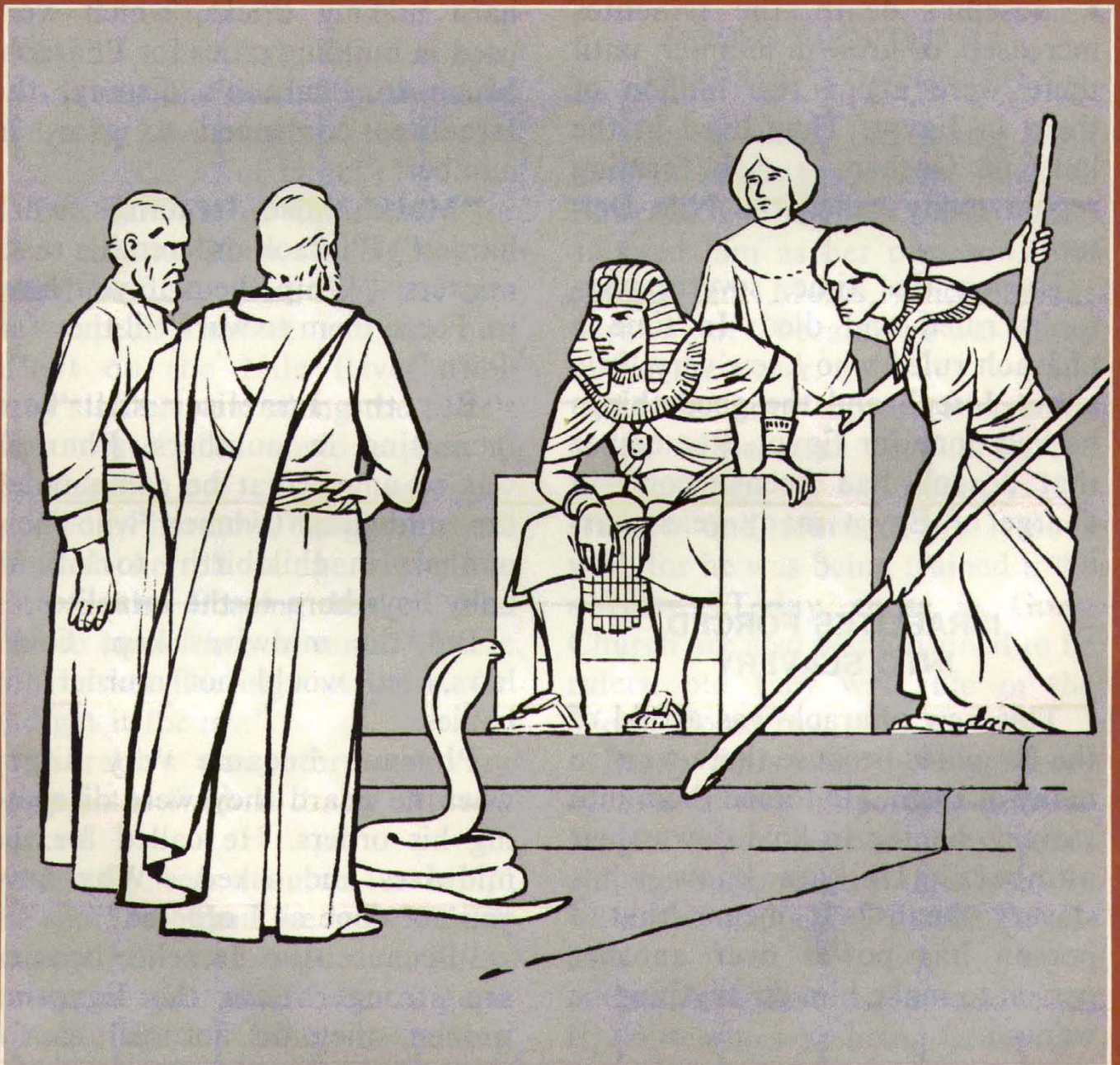
LEVEL 3

# BIBLE

# LESSONS



LESSON 7



Moses and the Plagues on Egypt

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# MOSES AND THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT

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For two hundred years after Joseph's death, the Israelites increased, or grew in number, until there were about two million of them in Egypt. They lived in the land of Goshen, a rich farming region today called the Nile Delta.

During this time, several pharaohs ruled and died. In time a pharaoh ruled who knew very little about Joseph and the good things he had done for Egypt. Remember that Joseph had been second in charge of Egypt many years earlier.

## **ISRAELITES FORCED INTO SLAVERY**

This new pharaoh was afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. He forced them into *slavery*, hoping to hold down their numbers. (Do you know what slavery means? It means that a person has power over another person to make him do anything he wants.)

The Israelites had to work very hard making bricks, which were used in building cities for Pharaoh. Much to Pharaoh's dismay, the Israelites continued to grow in number!

"Make those Israelites work harder!" Pharaoh ordered his taskmasters. "Whip them if you have to. Force them to work till they fall down."

But the Israelites still kept increasing in numbers. Pharaoh was so angry that he commanded the midwives (women who help mothers in childbirth) to kill all baby boys born to the Israelites.

But the midwives kept God's laws, and would not murder the babies.

Pharaoh became very angry when he heard they were disobeying his orders. He called for the midwives and asked, "Why have you not done as I ordered?"

"Because the Israelite women are stronger than the Egyptian women, they do not call us for

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help,” replied the midwives.

Pharaoh was going to punish the midwives, but changed his mind.

Pharaoh then commanded all the people to watch for newly born Israelite boy babies. They were to take the babies and throw them into the Nile River.

### **THE BIRTH OF MOSES**

At this time a baby boy was born to a father and mother of the tribe of Levi. (Levi is one of the twelve t \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.)

The parents hid their baby for three months. Then, fearing that he might be discovered, they put him in a special basket and set him afloat on the Nile River. The baby’s sister went along the river’s edge to see what would happen to the baby.

When Pharaoh’s daughter came to wash herself at the river, she noticed the floating basket. She said to one of her servants, “There is a basket floating out there. Go and get it for me.”

Pharaoh’s daughter was very happy to find a baby in the basket!

“I will need a nurse for him,” she said. Just then the baby’s sister stepped up and said, “I know someone who would be a good Israelite nurse.” (She was talking

about the baby’s mother!)

“Good,” said Pharaoh’s daughter, “bring her to me.” When the woman arrived, Pharaoh’s daughter said, “Please take this child away for a while and nurse him for me.”

Soon the baby was back in his home with his family.

### **MOSES ADOPTED BY PHARAOH’S DAUGHTER**

After a while, the young boy’s parents finally gave him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who then adopted him as her own son. She named him Moses which means “drawn out”, because he was taken out of the water.

As he grew up in Pharaoh’s court, Moses was taught by the best teachers in the country. He studied and learned his lessons well, for he was being trained to be a ruler. (Today, those in God’s Church are also being trained to be rulers, but they will rule in the World Tomorrow.)

Many years went by, and Moses became a very important man in Egypt. When he was forty years old, he became very interested in what was happening to the Israelites.

One day Moses tried to save an Israelite who was being beaten by

an Egyptian guard. Moses killed the guard. When he learned that others knew about what he had done, Moses fled to the mountains in the land of Midian. He was afraid of being arrested for murder.

When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down by a well. Soon some women who were tending sheep came up to the well to water their flocks. The women were daughters of a man named Reuel. Moses helped them water the sheep.

Later, when the daughters returned home, they told their father about Moses. "Go find the man and bring him home," Reuel told his daughters. "I would like to meet him."

When Reuel saw Moses, he offered him a shepherd's job. Moses accepted.

There Moses married Zipporah, one of Reuel's daughters, and later they had two sons.

## **GOD CALLS MOSES**

It was now forty years since Moses fled Egypt. Life had become more and more difficult for the Israelite slaves in Egypt. They cried out to God for help.

One day while Moses was on a mountain he saw a very strange sight. A bush was on fire, but it



was not burning up! As he came closer to get a better look, he had another surprise!

A voice coming from the bush said, "Moses, Moses!"

"Here I am," Moses replied.

"Do not come any closer Moses," said the voice. "You are standing on holy ground. Take off your shoes and listen to what I have to say." *God* was speaking to Moses!

"Go to Egypt," God said, "and tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go."

"You want *me* to do that?" Moses stammered. "Why me?"

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Pharaoh will not listen to me. I am only a shepherd.”

God then showed Moses some of His power. “Throw your shepherd’s rod on the ground,” God said.

To Moses’ surprise, it became a snake. “Now pick it up by its tail.” Moses reached down and grabbed the snake’s tail. The snake turned back into a r — —.

Next, God told Moses to put his hand inside his jacket. “Now take your hand out of your jacket,” God said. Moses was horrified! His hand had become leprous—a white and decayed stub!

“Now put your hand back into your jacket,” said God. Moses obeyed and his hand became normal again.

“If some people still do not believe you, take some water from the Nile River and pour it on the ground. It will turn into blood,” said God.

But Moses still did not want to go. “I’m not a good speaker,” he told God. “Please send someone else.”

God became angry with Moses. “I will send your brother Aaron to go along with you,” He said. “Aaron shall speak for you. I will help both of you. Aaron is now on his way to meet you. Take your rod with you so that you can perform

miracles with it later.”

So Moses did as God commanded. He said good-bye to his father-in-law and set out toward Egypt.

On the way, Moses met his brother Aaron. They were very happy to see each other. When they reached Egypt, they told the Israelite leaders what God had said, and showed them God’s miracles. The Israelite leaders believed what they heard and saw. They were very thankful God was going to answer their prayers.

### **MOSES APPEARS BEFORE PHARAOH**

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh with God’s message. “The God of Israel says to let His people go,” they told Pharaoh. “We must keep a feast in the desert to honor our God.”

“Who is this God that I should listen to Him?” Pharaoh demanded. “I do not know Him, nor will I let the Israelites go!”

Pharaoh was very angry! He told his guards to send Moses and Aaron from the court. He then commanded the taskmasters, “Make the Israelites work harder! They must now gather the straw to make the bricks. We will not give it to them anymore. But they must

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still make as many bricks as before!”

When the Israelites heard Pharaoh’s order, they became very discouraged. Now they seemed to be worse off than before! Since they had the extra work of gathering the straw, they began to fall behind in their brick-making. The taskmasters beat them with whips. The Israelites complained and blamed Moses for what had happened. Moses was disappointed and unhappy. He prayed to God for help.

“Why did you send me to Pharaoh?” he asked. “Look what has happened.”

“You shall see what I will do to Pharaoh,” replied God. “After the many plagues I will send, he will be anxious to send the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Moses felt better. A short while later, God told him to go before Pharaoh again.

When Pharaoh saw Moses and Aaron coming, he was amused. “How do I know you are messengers from God? Show me some proof.”

“Throw your rod on the floor,” Moses told Aaron.

Aaron did as he was told and the rod suddenly turned into a s \_ \_ \_ \_ !

Pharaoh called in his magicians. They threw their rods down and they became snakes, too.

“I don’t think your God can do any more than our gods,” said Pharaoh boastfully.

Then something unexpected occurred. The snake that came from Aaron’s rod darted around and gulped up the magicians’ snakes!

“We have shown you a sign,” Aaron said. “Now will you let our people go?”

“I will not!” Pharaoh retorted, as he left the court.

Moses and Aaron were again very disappointed.

## FIRST PLAGUE **BLOOD**

God then said to Moses, “Tomorrow morning Pharaoh will go to his bathing pool. Meet him there and tell him that because he has refused to let the Israelites go, I will turn the Nile River into blood. Tell him the fish will die and the people will not be able to drink the water.”

The next morning as Pharaoh stepped into his pool, he was startled to hear a voice that was now becoming familiar to him.

Aaron repeated to Pharaoh what God had spoken to Moses. Then

Aaron stepped forward with his rod and struck the surface of the water. It became blood!

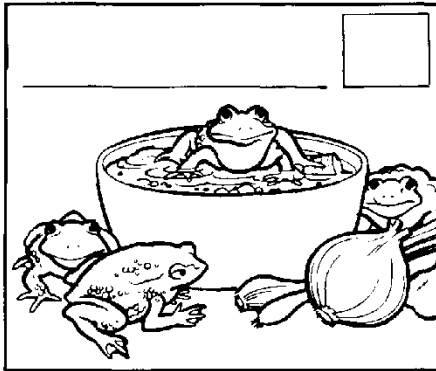
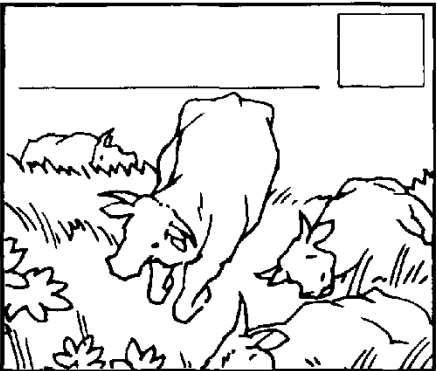
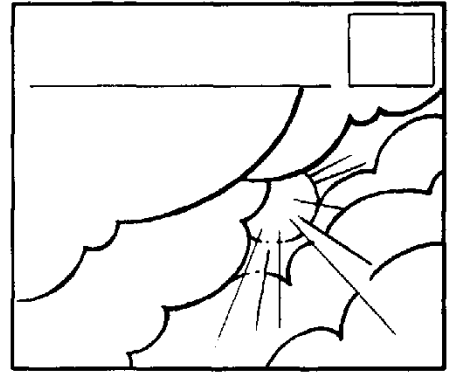
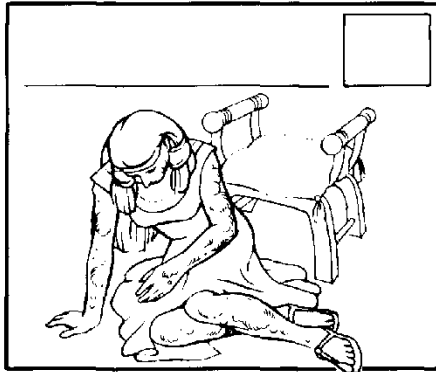
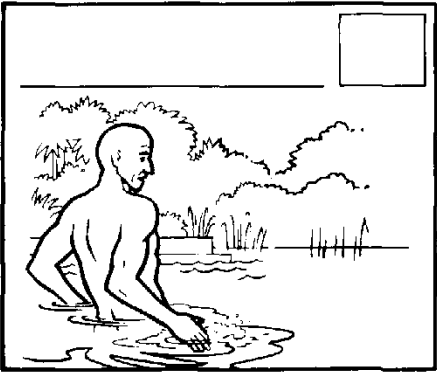
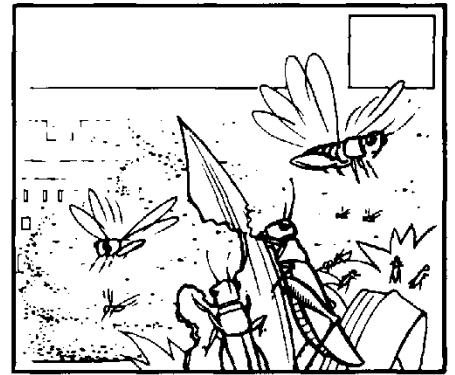
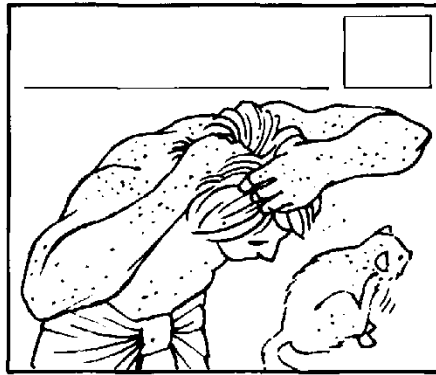
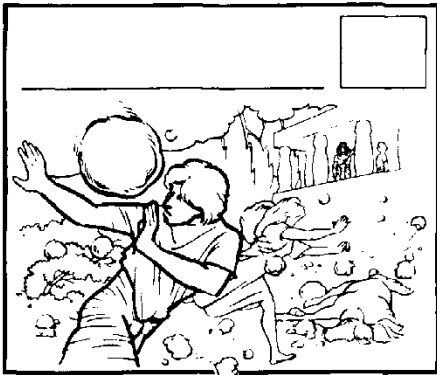
When Pharaoh and his servants saw the water turn to blood, Pharaoh shouted, "Call my magi-

cians!" When he saw that his magicians appeared to do the same, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.

For seven days, the whole country was in misery because the water

### THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT

Each box shows a picture of one of the nine plagues we will learn about in this lesson. But the pictures are mixed up. Put them in the right order by writing the correct number in the upper right-hand corner of each box. On the line inside each box, write the name of the plague.



was now blood! The fish that were in the river died, the river stank and the Egyptians could not drink the water. They had to dig all around the river to find fresh water for themselves and their animals.

On the eighth day, however, the waters of Egypt became clear again. There was great rejoicing.

Water is very important to us. Without it, we would not live. On the lines below, write down some of the many ways you and your family use water.

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

To learn more about water and how necessary it is, find a book on the subject at your local library.

## SECOND PLAGUE **FROGS**

God then told Moses, "Go to Pharaoh again and tell him to let my people go so they can worship me. If he refuses, tell him I will cover the country with frogs."

Pharaoh again refused to let the Israelites go. Early the next morning frogs were seen everywhere!

All of Egypt suffered a great deal during this plague of frogs. Great numbers of frogs hopped

everywhere. Soon there were many piles of dead frogs, which smelled terrible!

Convinced that he must do something about the frogs, Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron.

When they arrived, Pharaoh said, "Ask your God to take away these horrible frogs, and I will let the Israelites go."

This is what Moses wanted to hear! He asked God to stop the plague of frogs. On the following day God stopped the plague. This made Pharaoh and the people of Egypt very happy.

But now that the plague of frogs was over, Pharaoh again changed his mind and decided not to let the Israelites go.

## THIRD PLAGUE **LICE**

God now told Moses to tell Aaron to strike the ground with his rod. Aaron did this, and the bits of dust and dirt changed into tiny lice.

The Egyptians were still burying dead frogs when this plague of billions of biting, blood-sucking insects came upon them. Within a short time, people and animals were crying in pain.

Even the magicians now said to Pharaoh, "God has done this." But



Pharaoh was very stubborn and would not free the Israelites.

## FOURTH PLAGUE **FLIES**

God again told Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him that if he refuses to let my people go, his country will be overrun by swarms of flies tomorrow."

Moses and Aaron once again appeared before Pharaoh.

"Your houses will be full of flies and the ground will be covered with them," Aaron said. "God will do this because you refuse to let the Israelites go."

God now did something very special. He separated, or set apart, the Israelites so they would not suffer from this plague and the ones that were to come.

The biting flies caused the Egyptians so much pain that Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. "Sacrifice to your God here in Egypt," he said.

"No," said Moses. "Your people would be so offended by our ways of worship that they would probably stone us. We must go three days' journey into the wilderness to sacrifice unto God."

"I will let your people go," said Pharaoh.

The next day God removed the

flies from Egypt. Then Pharaoh, seeing they were gone, again changed his mind. He would not let the Israelites go!

## FIFTH PLAGUE **DEATH OF ANIMALS**

Moses and Aaron warned Pharaoh of an even worse plague that would come the following day.

The fifth plague struck suddenly! Soon the land was strewn with farm animals which died from a deadly sickness.

During this plague, God did not allow any of the animals belonging to the Israelites to die.

Exodus 9:3 lists the animals that died during the plague. Fill in the missing letters of the following words to find out what they were.

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| h _ _ s _ _ | c _ t _ _ _ |
| c _ m _ _ _ | a _ _ e _   |
| sh _ _ _    | o _ e _     |

## SIXTH PLAGUE **BOILS**

Pharaoh still would not let Israel go. So God told Moses and Aaron to go before Pharaoh again. God told Moses to take ashes and sprinkle them toward the sky in Pharaoh's sight.

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A little while later, Pharaoh saw two familiar figures carrying a bag filled with ashes from one of the brickdrying furnaces.

Moses did as God said and sprinkled the ashes into the air. The wind then carried the ashes all over Egypt.

Wherever the ashes touched the skin of the Egyptians and their animals, large and very painful boils broke out. Even Pharaoh's magicians were covered with boils. The Egyptians were in great pain—they found it hard to sit, stand, or lie down. Still Pharaoh would not listen to Moses and Aaron.

## SEVENTH PLAGUE **HAIL**

Again God told Moses to warn Pharaoh. "Tell him that I will send a terrible hailstorm upon Egypt tomorrow."

Moses warned Pharaoh of what would happen. Some of Pharaoh's servants believed this warning. They had their servants and animals come in from the fields to protect them from what would otherwise be certain death.

The next day, lightning streaked through the sky. Thunder rumbled and roared and the Egyptians ran for shelter.

Huge hailstones fell from the

sky, smashing the gardens and buildings. The Egyptians who were outside in the fields had no protection.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. He said, "I have sinned. My people and I have been wrong in refusing to let the Israelites go. Please ask your God to stop this horrible storm. Your people may leave Egypt."

But after the storm stopped, Pharaoh again changed his mind!

## EIGHTH PLAGUE **LOCUSTS**

After warning Pharaoh of the next plague, Moses held his shepherd's rod up to the sky. A strong wind started blowing from the east.

The following morning locusts were everywhere! They gnawed plants and devoured every green leaf. There were so many of them that they spread over the ground like a blanket!

"Send for those two Israelites!" shouted Pharaoh. When Moses and Aaron arrived, Pharaoh said, "I have sinned against God. Ask God to forgive me and to take away this terrible plague!"

God soon sent a strong west wind which blew the locusts into the Red Sea where they drowned. But again, Pharaoh would not let the

Israelites go. Egypt now looked terrible! Not a single green leaf was left.

## NINTH PLAGUE DARKNESS

After the plague of locusts ended, God again told Moses to hold his rod toward the sky. The Egyptians soon noticed a strange gloom in the sky. The sun slowly disappeared and left Egypt in total darkness.

It was so dark, people could not see each other and it was too dangerous to even go outside. The people stayed in their homes because they felt safest there.

They hoped the sky would lighten at sunrise, but it did not. The darkness continued for three days. But in the land of G \_\_\_\_\_, where the Israelites lived, there was light.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. When they arrived, he said, "The Israelites may leave. But I will not let you take your animals."

"But we must take our animals with us for sacrifices," said Moses.

"You can't go unless you leave them behind," said Pharaoh, once again refusing to let the Israelites go.

"Get out of here!" Pharaoh ordered. "If I see you two here again, I'll have you killed!"

"You will not see us again," said Moses.

When daylight returned, Pharaoh was very relieved. But he would have been very troubled had he known what was soon to come.

God was to send one final plague upon the Egyptians. After this plague, Pharaoh would let the Israelites go.

In our next lesson we will learn about the tenth plague—the death of all Egyptian firstborn—and how the Israelites were finally able to leave Egypt.

### MATCHING

Match the following words with their meanings.

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. gulped      | sad               |
| 2. retorted    | swallowed quickly |
| 3. discouraged | answered back     |
| 4. devoured    | very surprised    |
| 5. gnawed      | ate up            |
| 6. startled    | chewed            |

Now find each of the numbered words in the lesson. Write the sentences in which they are found on a separate piece of paper. Also, write down any other words which may be new to you. With help from your parents, look them up in a dictionary and write down what they mean.

## PLAGUES ON EGYPT WORD SEARCH

Each of the following plagues were discussed in this lesson. Find them in the word search below. Words may be found horizontally (across), vertically (up and down), or diagonally (at an angle). One is done for you as an example.

- BOILS** ✓
- DARKNESS**
- DEATH OF ANIMALS**
- FLIES**
- FROGS**
- HAIL**
- LICE**
- LOCUSTS**
- WATERS BECOME BLOOD**

