

Lesson: Hard Choices / Soft Choices

Exodus 9 – The Plagues of Livestock and Boils

Story Teaching (5 minutes)



The Plague of the Livestock

God once again showed His power by making a difference between the Egyptians and the Israelites. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but all the livestock of the Israelites lived. That was unbelievable to Pharaoh, so he sent people to check for himself. When he found out it was true, he still

chose to keep his heart hard and refused to obey God.

The Plague of the Boils

Next, God told Moses to toss soot into the air. When he did, painful boils broke out on all the Egyptians. Even Pharaoh's magicians, who had been trying to copy God's mighty acts, were so ashamed of their boils they didn't want anyone to see them. Yet Pharaoh was unphased and kept his heart hard. He refused to let God's people go.

Lesson Point:

God's power is real, and no one can stand against Him. Pharaoh knew the truth, but he refused to change. We can learn from his example that when God shows us the truth, the best choice is to listen and obey.

1. Activity: Hard Choices / Soft Choices (10 minutes)

 Materials:

- Two signs: HARD HEART and SOFT HEART (taped to opposite walls or used as baskets)
- Slips of paper with scenarios (or read them aloud)

 Instructions:

Read a scenario.

Kids decide: is this a hard heart choice or a soft heart choice? They can walk to the sign, point, or place the slip in the correct basket.

Scenarios:

1. You get mad and use foul language toward someone.
2. You see a younger kid getting jumped, and instead of joining in, you pull them out.
3. Your grandma asks for help with the groceries, and you roll your eyes and ignore her.
4. A friend asks you to steal something from the corner store.
5. You apologize to a friend after saying something hurtful.
6. Somebody spreads a rumor about you, and instead of fighting, you talk it out.
7. You know God says "don't lie," but you lie anyway to stay out of trouble.
8. You stand up for someone who doesn't have friends.

2. Discussion (5–7 minutes)

Ask:

- "How does having a hard heart hurt us and the people around us?"
- "What happens when you keep making hard-heart choices over and over?"
- "What would it look like in your life if you had a soft heart toward God?"

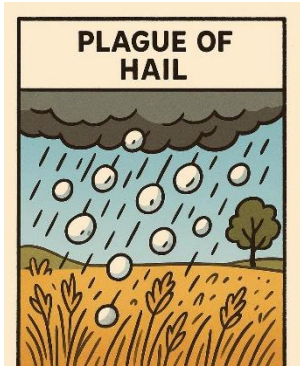
3. Wrap-Up (2 minutes)

Say: "Pharaoh's hard heart brought pain on his whole nation. Our choices matter too—at home, in school, and in the neighborhood. A soft heart toward God doesn't make us weak; it makes us strong enough to do what's right."

Lesson: Pride and Blindness – Plague of Hail

Age Group: 9–12

Scripture: Exodus 9:19-20 (NIV)



"Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. But those who ignored the word of the Lord left their slaves and livestock in the field, and they died."

✨ Lesson Summary

In Exodus 9:19-20, God warned Pharaoh about a coming plague that would strike his livestock and servants. He gave Pharaoh and his officials a chance to save their animals by bringing them inside. Those who trusted God's warning acted quickly and protected their animals, while those who ignored God's word left their livestock in the fields and suffered loss.

God often gives us warnings so we can make the right choices. But pride can blind us—not our eyes, but our hearts—so we fail to see the truth and the consequences of our actions. Pharaoh's pride made him blind to the suffering around him and to God's power.

✨ Lesson Objectives

- Understand how pride can prevent people from seeing the truth.
- Recognize that God gives warnings and choices to protect us.
- Learn that obeying God protects us from harm.

Key Points

1. God Gives Warnings: God warns us to help us make wise choices.
2. Choices Have Consequences: Those who listened to God's warning saved their animals; those who ignored it suffered.
3. Pride Can Blind Us: Pride makes us think we don't need God or anyone else, and it stops us from seeing clearly with our hearts.
4. Obedience Brings Protection: Trusting God helps us avoid unnecessary pain.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think some people ignored God's warning?
- How does pride make people "blind" to what's right or true?
- How can we stay humble so we can see God's warnings and guidance?

Activity: Blindfold Building Challenge

- Purpose: To show how pride can blind us from seeing clearly and how humility helps us follow guidance.

Materials: Building blocks or LEGO sets, blindfolds.

Instructions:

1. Have kids try to build a simple structure (like a tower or small shape) without blindfolds first. Compare results.
2. Next, blindfold the kids and have them try to build the same structure without being able to see. Optionally, allow one peer to guide them verbally.
3. Compare the results with the first attempt.

Reflect:

- Ask: How did it feel to build blindfolded? Was it harder?
- Explain: Pride can make our hearts "blind," just like the blindfold blocks our eyes. We might think we know better, but we miss what's really there.
- Relate to Pharaoh: His pride made him blind to God's warnings and the suffering around him, which caused harm. Listening humbly to God's guidance protects us, just like building with sight or with guidance helped the blocks stay in place.