

8-5-09 Sock Puppet Skit for Jr. Youth Camp's Campfire ... voices #1-9 and Narrator

1 This week we have studied one of the most important stories of the Bible.

2 It is found in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament.

3 It is the story of how God's people were set free from slavery in Egypt.

4 And how God used BUGS to convince Pharaoh to let the people go.

5 You probably know the story very well.

6 The part we studied is found in Exodus chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

7 Here's the background:

3 The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were called the Hebrews.

8 They had become slaves in Egypt.

9 Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt. [*Pharaoh puppet appears*] And Pharaoh was very cruel to the Hebrews. [*Pharaoh whacks here & there.*]

1 So God sent Moses [*puppet appears*] to tell Pharaoh: "Let my people go!"

2 God wanted to take the Hebrews back to the Promised Land. But first they had to get out of Egypt.

3 So Moses said, "We want to go out into the Wilderness to worship our God."

4 But Pharaoh said, "You people are just lazy. Keep on making bricks!" And Pharaoh made the work extra hard for the Hebrew people.

5 Moses prayed to God, asking: "Why did you have me tell Pharaoh to let us go? It only made things worse for your people."

6 Then God said, "You will see what I will do to Pharaoh: *because of my mighty hand* Pharaoh will let the Hebrews go; *because of my mighty hand* he will drive them out of Egypt."

7 And Moses said to Pharaoh, "If you do not let us go and worship the Lord, terrible plagues will come!"

2 But Pharaoh just said, "Get back to work!"

8 Over and over again, Pharaoh's heart hardened. Clearly, it was *not* Pharaoh who saved the people. And it was not Moses. No, God saved the Hebrews.

9 And God used BUGS to do it! [*everyone hold up bug sock puppets*] ...

All **God used Plagues of Bugs to conquer Pharaoh!**

- 1 Because Pharaoh's heart was hard, the plagues began.
- 2 The first two plagues were things that Pharaoh's magicians could also make happen – they could make the Nile River water undrinkable, and they could call lots and lots of frogs out of the waters.
- 3 So Pharaoh didn't think much of those first two plagues. But the third plague was BUGS!
- 4 It was a plague of Gnats! The Hebrew word can mean Lice or Ticks.
- 5 They made life really miserable for Pharaoh and his people. *[a few bugs zoom around Pharaoh and Pharaoh runs from them]*
- 6 Pharaoh's magicians were *not* able to produce gnats by their secret arts, so they said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God!"
- 7 But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not listen.
- 4 Then came the fourth plague – BUGS again!
- 8 This fourth plague was a plague of Flies! *[a few bugs zoom around again]*
- 9 Not just any old flies – some say they were like flying cockroaches and could make painful bites, destroy clothes and furniture, and make food uneatable!
- All **Swarms of flies filled the houses of the Egyptians.** *[3 swarm Pharaoh]*
- 8 And Pharaoh said to Moses, "Go! You may go and sacrifice to your God, but you have to do it here in this land – you cannot go out in the Wilderness."
- 2 Moses said, "No. The people of Egypt will not like our kind of sacrifices. We have to take a 3-day journey out into the desert to offer sacrifices to our God."
- 3 Pharaoh was miserable with all the flies, so he said, "I will let you go – but you must not go very far. Now please pray for me!"
- 9 So Moses prayed. And the next day the flies left Pharaoh. *[Flies leave Pharaoh]* But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.
- 5 Then there was a plague that killed the livestock.
- 6 And a plague of boils so painful that Pharaoh's magicians could not get up.
- 7 But Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
- 6 Then hail destroyed the crops and the cattle out in the fields.
- 1 Pharaoh said he would let the people go, but after the hail stopped, he and his officials hardened their hearts again.

4 So God sent another plague of BUGS! *[all bug puppets buzz a bit – out in the open – not yet behind the stage]*

All **It was a plague of Locusts!**

N Locusts are like grasshoppers, but larger and more destructive. They fly close together in huge swarms, blown by the east wind. The Hebrews called them “the countless” because there are so many of them they cannot be counted. Their swarms are so huge that they obscure the sun and cast a thick shadow on the earth when the wind blows them across the land.

And they eat absolutely everything in sight that is green. *[locusts: “chomp, chomp, chomp!”]* The fields may be like the Garden of Eden; but when the plague of locusts come, nothing green remains ... only a desolated wilderness!

2 The prophet Joel says: “At the sight of them, nations are in anguish; every face turns pale.” They cannot be stopped by walls or ditches or fires. The wind simply blows them into the fire and many locusts die, but there are so many of them, that the thousands of dead bodies put the fire out and the huge swarms behind them keep on surging onward, destroying everything in their path.

1 Now when Moses told Pharaoh that God would send a plague of locusts, Pharaoh’s officials knew that Egypt would be ruined!

2 So Pharaoh said to Moses, “You may go and worship your God, but only the men. The women and children must stay here in Egypt.”

3 And that, of course, was not acceptable to God!

N So the locusts invaded Egypt *[bugs swarm onto the stage, swirl near Pharaoh]*

Never before had there been such a plague of locusts! They covered all the ground until it was black! They devoured everything! Nothing green remained on any tree or plant in all the land of Egypt!

All **The locusts attacked!** *[locusts jump on Pharaoh and tear off his clothes]*

N And Pharaoh cried out to Moses: “Forgive my sin and pray to the Lord your God to take this deadly plague away from me!” So Moses prayed, and the Lord changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts *[locusts get blown away from Pharaoh]* and carried them into the Red Sea. *[locusts off stage]*

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let God’s People go.

1 After that, only two plagues remained.

2 The plague of darkness – when no one in Egypt could see anyone for 3 days.
 3 And the plague on the firstborn – when the firstborn son in each Egyptian home died. The angel of death passed over the Hebrews' homes, because they put the blood of a lamb on their homes' doorposts. It was the very first Passover.

1 But Pharaoh's son died.

2 And Pharaoh finally told God's people to go.

3 And that's how the Exodus began. God's People left Egypt to wander through the Wilderness, heading for the Promised Land.

4 So you see – BUGS were used by God!

All **Swarms of BUGS!**

5 To try to convince Pharaoh to do things God's way.

6 And we must do things God's way ... or there will be consequences for us, too.

7 Mother nature reacts when we don't do things God's way.

4 When people clear away bushes and trees to build their houses on mountainsides, sometimes heavy rains can cause terrible mudslides.

8 When people put smoke into their lungs, sometimes there are cancers.

9 When people tie up their stomachs in knots by worrying about everything, sometimes there are ulcers.

All **And when campers and counselors raid someone else's cabin, sometimes their cabin gets raided, too!**

1 But God will always take care of God's faithful people.

2 Even if lots of plagues are needed to stop evil-doing.

3 God can and does use BUGS to help stop evil!

N And someday, the book of Revelation says, all evil will come to an end – with another swarm of locusts to confront evil-doers, according to Revelation 9 –

[all bugs swarm back behind the stage for "curtain call" bow, saying together:]

All **and God's people will be set free ... to worship the Lord forever! Amen!**