

Lesson 4

Cross

Formed

Kids

Why did Egypt cease to be a blessing to Israel?

Pharaoh believed he led such a great nation that he did not need God.

Read aloud: Exodus 5:1-9

Recommended Illustration

Have you ever tried to win one of those gigantic bears at an amusement park or a county fair? Has there ever been an easier looking game that turned out to be so impossible? To help your kids get their head around what it's like to have this sort of ego, you'll devise a game that looks simple but is actually impossible. Maybe it's a tossing game with a target that's a bit too small. You catch the drift. Make it look simple, but make it actually impossible. Then help them see that being God's equal seemed plausible to Pharaoh, but that he soon learned differently.

Helpful Insights

Egypt had become a great nation in the midst of worldwide famine because of God's grace in sending Joseph there. Nonetheless, when God's people began to multiply in their midst, Pharaoh decided he was just as powerful as the God of Israel, and put God to the test by mistreating God's people. We have to keep in mind here that at the very outset of life after the fall, there is an announcement that God's people (the seed of the woman) will face antagonism from their enemies (the seed of the serpent). Nonetheless, ultimate triumph will always belong to God. Here, Pharaoh sets himself up as an equivalent to Israel's God. But because all humans are created by God, no human can compete with God. Pharaoh believed

he did not need God and made himself God's enemy and suffered the consequences. Nonetheless, as Israel grew more and more numerous, Pharaoh became fearful and began to oppress the people of God.

The Point

Although humans may rise to places of great power and influence, no human rises to a place of independence from his maker. God alone governs the world and the nations in it. All imposters will suffer the consequences.

