

PRAY

WELCOME

Welcome kids into the class. Ask them about their day, week, family, etc. Try to connect with each kid in some way.

- A. Pray that the Lord would help your kids to have faith and understand what He wants to teach from the lesson.
- B. Ask the kids if they have anything that they want to thank God for or pray for.

REVIEW

- A. Who remembers what we talked about last week?
 - 1. We learned about when God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. God told Moses that he was going to lead God's people (Do you remember what they are called? Israelites) out of slavery in Egypt and into the promised land, Canaan.
 - 2. Moses kept making excuses why he couldn't do it, but God said he would be with him and tell him what to say. Moses still argued and finally God agreed to send his brother Aaron with Moses.

INTRODUCTION

How many of you have ever been disappointed or let down? Someone promised to do something for you and then they didn't. That can be really hard, can't it? You get so excited only to be disappointed and bummed. That's what happened to the Israelites in this week's lesson. God told them something and it didn't happen how or when they thought.

Grab your Bibles and turn with me to Exodus 5:1-9.

READ

- A. Have the kids grab their Bibles if they are old enough to read
- B. Read Exodus 5:1-9

1 After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness."² "Is that so?" retorted Pharaoh. "And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go?"³ But Aaron and Moses persisted. "The God of the Hebrews has met with us," they declared. "So let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness so we can offer sacrifices to the Lord our God. If we don't, he will kill us with a plague or with the sword."⁴ Pharaoh replied, "Moses and Aaron, why are you distracting the people from their tasks? Get back to work!"⁵ Look, there are many of your people in the land, and you are stopping them from their work."⁶ That same day Pharaoh sent this order to the Egyptian slave drivers and the Israelite foremen: ⁷"Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Make the people get it themselves!"⁸ But still require them to make the same number of bricks as before. Don't reduce the quota. They are lazy. That's why they are crying out, 'Let us go and offer sacrifices to our God.'⁹ Load them down with more work. Make them sweat! That will teach them to listen to lies!"

MAIN IDEA

Sometimes God does things different than we would so we can see His power!

EXPLAIN

- A. Last week we left off with the Israelites bowing down and worshipping God after Moses and Aaron told them that God was going to save them. They were probably so excited; they finally wouldn't be slaves anymore!
- B. Moses and Aaron then went to talk to Pharaoh, the king, and tell him with the LORD had said.
- C. They told him "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they can worship me in the wilderness." Pharaoh laughed and said "Oh really? Why should I listen and let Israel go? I don't know Yahweh - this God you say sent you. I will not let the people go!"
- D. Moses and Aaron said again, "God has met with us and you need to let us go!" But Pharaoh's mind was mad up, he wasn't going to let them go! "Why are you distracting them? Get back to work!"
- E. After that, Pharaoh told all the Egyptians in charge of the slaves to stop giving them the supplies they needed to make bricks, but to keep forcing them to make the same amount of bricks they were before. He said they were lazy and told the Egyptians to make them work even harder and to make them suffer!
- F. The Israelites begged Pharaoh to stop treating them so bad, but Pharaoh didn't care. He just said they were lazy and didn't make the work any less or any easier for them.
- G. The Israelites were angry and went to Moses and Aaron. "YOU made things worse for us!"
- H. Moses was probably very confused and maybe even disappointed in God. God said he was going to save the, what was he doing?? Moses went to God, "why are you doing this? Why did you send me? You are doing nothing!"
- I. God responded to Moses by reminding him of what God has said before. He said that Pharaoh would eventually let the people go. He also reminded Moses who He is "I am Yahweh." God reminded Moses that he made a covenant (a contract/promise) with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give them the land Canaan and that he hasn't forgotten. God told Moses to tell the people that God is the LORD and he will free them and make them His own people and he will be their God.
- J. God then told Moses and Aaron to go back and tell Pharaoh to let the people go. Moses was worried he wouldn't listen again, but God told him to go. God told Moses what to say, but Moses said he couldn't speak well so God said he would speak to Moses and Moses could speak to Aaron who would talk to Pharaoh and tell him to let the people go.
- K. God warned Moses that Pharaoh would say no again, but God had a plan. He would do miracles that would show Pharaoh and the Egyptians God's power.
- L. So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told Him what God said and Pharaoh said "Show me a miracle if you want me to believe you!"
- M. So Aaron did the miracle God had shown him; he threw his staff (his stick) on the ground and it turned into a snake in front of Pharaoh and the official workers.
- N. Pharaoh called his magic people and they did the same thing with their magic. But then, Aaron's snake ate up all the other snakes! Surely this would show Pharaoh that God was not messing around, but still, Pharaoh didn't change his mind.
- O. God knew Pharaoh had a hard heart, but that wasn't going to stop Him from saving His people.
- P. Next week we are going to see more miracles that God did to show His power.

APPLICATION

- A. After reading and learning all that, what should we remember?
 - 1. Sometimes it doesn't feel like God sees what we are going through, but He always knows what we are going through and has a plan to save us.
 - 2. God made a covenant (A contract/promise) and he was going to keep it! God keeps his promises!

