

# Moses and Pharaoh

## Bible Story

Exodus 5:1–13:9

## Anchor Point

We remember God's powerful acts.


## Your Lesson

- Assemble the Crew
- Moses and Aaron Talk to Pharaoh
- I Am the Lord
- Decorate Bricks
- Locusts Snacks
- Moses and Pharaoh
- Find the Plagues
- Mission Moment
- Remember and Celebrate
- Pass the Items
- Worship

 Everyone

 Readers

 Nonreaders

 Requires preparation.

## Bible Verse

"I'll set you free with great power." (Exodus 6:6)

## Did You Know?

Last week we heard about God's recruitment of Moses for a special task. When Moses was making excuses to try and avoid God's call, he told God he'd never been any good at speaking. God told Moses to take Aaron with him to do the talking.

The Bible story for today can be divided into three sections. The first section is the initial asking. Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelite people go. Pharaoh was not about to let his work force walk away into the desert. Instead Pharaoh increased the work of the Israelite slaves. The increased workload caused the Israelites to blame Moses and Aaron for coming and making their lives worse. God reassured Moses that God was in control.

The second section is the sending of the plagues. In order to convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery, God performed a series of powerful acts. The plagues were designed not only to change Pharaoh's mind but also to display God's power and demonstrate God's control over all of creation. This section can be briefly summarized as a repetition of the following events: 1. Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let God's people go. 2. Pharaoh said no. 3. God caused something terrible to happen. 4. Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go but then changed his mind when the plague went away. This pattern was repeated until God sent death to the Egyptians, and Pharaoh finally agreed to let them go.

The third section focuses on remembrance. Directions were given for celebrating Passover. During the celebration of Passover, God's mighty acts in setting the Israelites free from slavery were to be remembered. God did a big thing in freeing the Israelites from slavery and wanted to make sure the Israelites remembered. It is always a good thing to remember what God has done for us and to be thankful.

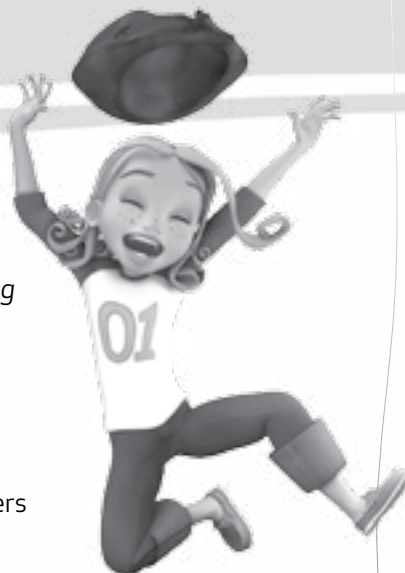
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Kids Adventure DVD series.



## Jump In!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or with the entire group.




### ASSEMBLE THE CREW

**Supplies:** Attendance Chart, offering basket, marker, stickers

- Display the Attendance Chart.
- Greet the children as they arrive.
- Allow each child to add a sticker or mark his or her name on the attendance chart.
- Show the children where to place any offerings.
- Play music as the children arrive.

### MOSES AND AARON TALK TO PHARAOH

**Supplies:** Reproducible A, crayons

 Photocopy "Let the People Go" (Reproducible A) for each younger child.

**ASK:** Who went to Pharaoh and asked him to let God's people go? (Moses and Aaron)


- Give each younger child a copy of "Let the People Go."

**ASK:** What is missing in this picture? (Pharaoh's throne)

- Encourage each child to draw a place for Pharaoh to sit and then color the picture.

### I AM THE LORD


**Supplies:** Bibles, Reproducible B, pencils

 Photocopy "I am the LORD" (Reproducible B) for each older child.

- Give each older child a copy of "I am the LORD" and a pencil.
- Encourage each child to solve the puzzle.

### DECORATE BRICKS

**Supplies:** Reproducible C, bricks, scissors, glue, paint, paintbrushes, containers for paint and water, plastic or paper table coverings

 Photocopy "Brick Sayings" (Reproducible C) for each child.

- Protect the work surface with plastic or paper.
- Fill some containers half full with water for cleaning brushes.
- Put paint in containers.

**SAY:** The Egyptian Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves. One of the things the Israelites had to do was make bricks. Today you'll decorate a brick to remind you of



You will need a brick for each child. If you prefer, you may use foam bricks. Instead of paint, the children may use permanent markers to decorate the bricks.

### the time the Israelites spent as slaves in Egypt.

- Have each child cut out the “Brick Sayings” and glue them onto his or her brick.
- The children may cut out the other art on the reproducible and add to their bricks.
- Let the children paint their bricks, then set them aside to dry.

### LOCUSTS SNACKS

**Supplies:** strawberry shortcake rolls, white frosting, green food coloring, colored jelly beans, pretzel sticks, small plates, bowl and spoon, plastic knives, paper towels

- Have the children wash their hands.
- Give each child a strawberry shortcake roll on a small plate and a plastic knife.
- Ask the children to take the wrapper off, but leave the cake sitting on the cardboard piece it comes on.
- Mix the green food coloring into the white frosting.
- Allow each child to scoop some green icing from the bowl and spread it on the cake, covering all of the area of the cake they can see.
- Hand out pretzel sticks to the children.
- Take two long pretzel sticks and place them in a triangle shape on the side of the cake for the locust’s legs. Do the same thing on the other side of the cake. The pretzels should stick to the icing. Break another stick in half and stick the two pieces in front on top of the cake for the locust’s antennae.
- Add two jelly beans for the locust’s eyes.
- Set the snacks aside till later. The children can eat their locust snacks or take them home with them.



## Dive Deeper

### MOSES AND PHARAOH



**Supplies: Reproducibles D and E**

⊗ Photocopy “Moses and Pharaoh” (Reproducibles D and E) for each child to take home. These pages may be printed back to back to save paper.

**SAY:** Last week we heard about God calling Moses to do a special job.

**ASK:** Do you remember what God asked Moses to do? (Go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery.)

**SAY:** The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for many years. They did a lot of work for the Egyptians.

**SAY:** Today we’ll hear how God convinced Pharaoh to set the Israelites free. God sent a series of plagues to bother the Egyptians. A plague is something bad. I need you to help me tell today’s story. Every time you hear me say, “Moses and Aaron went to

Pharaoh and told him, "God says," I want you to say, "Let my people go!" When I say, "Pharaoh said," you'll say, "No! No! No! I will not let them go!"


- Have the children practice their responses.
- Read the Bible story from "Moses and Pharaoh," encouraging the children to participate as instructed.
- Thank the children for helping you tell the story.

**ASK:** Why did God perform these powerful acts? (To convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.) Why do you think Pharaoh was so stubborn? (He didn't want to lose his slave labor.)

**SAY:** It took many powerful acts of God to change Pharaoh's mind. These powerful acts showed God was in control of the earth, not Pharaoh. Finally Pharaoh agreed to set the Israelites free from slavery.

## FIND THE PLAGUES

**Supplies:** Plague Cards

 Separate the Plague Cards, shuffle them together, and lay them face-down on the table.


**SAY:** It took many of God's powerful acts to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. Some of these cards describe the plagues and other cards show things that are not plagues. Turn over a card. If the card shows a plague, leave the card face-up. The next person will then turn over a card. If the card shows a plague, that card will stay face-up also. But if the card shows something that was not a plague, all of the face-up cards will be turned back over and we'll start over. Let's see if we can find all nine plague cards.

- Encourage the children to play the game and find all of the plague cards.

## Grow Stronger

### MISSION MOMENT

**Supplies:** Reproducible F, basket for collecting offering

 Photocopy "Mission Letter" (Reproducible F) for children who have not yet received it.

**SAY:** This month we are collecting money for our special mission project, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools program. This program has had lasting effects on the children involved and the leaders of the program. "The Road Less Traveled" is the story of one leader and how CDF influenced his life.

#### THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Violence permeated Anthony Williams' childhood. One uncle had been killed, another had been executed, a third was on death row, and his father was serving two life

sentences for murder and armed robbery.

With this background, and the absence of a positive male figure, the odds were great that Anthony would be sucked into the Cradle to Prison Pipeline™. Instead he went on to graduate from college and become a productive, caring adult in his community. He attributes his success in life to his mother and father, a series of teachers, and the Children's Defense Fund.


His father was jailed when he was an infant. He visited his father in prison and regularly received letters from him. "He always said, 'Be a leader, don't follow anybody. Don't be like me.'" Anthony knew early on that he wanted to pursue a different path, though he did not know what that would be.

The Beat the Odds award made college a real possibility for Anthony. "I had the expectations but not the means." Being connected with CDF changed Anthony's life in further ways. The CDF-Minnesota office asked him to get involved with Freedom Schools and "that was a life-changing event." It helped him further understand social issues and their impact on the community. Freedom Schools National Training gave him a lasting lesson in leadership. Anthony was involved with Freedom Schools for thirteen years, beginning as a Servant Leader Intern, and working over the years as Site Coordinator, Project Director, and Executive Director. In 2013 he started his own mentoring program for middle and high school age males, providing cultural understanding, leadership development, and peer mentoring.

Anthony graduated from the University of Minnesota and now coordinates the GED program for the Minneapolis public schools adult education program. He believes that in order to save the child, you must empower the parent. "We who believe in freedom cannot REST, and with what our children face today, can barely afford to blink."

## REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE

**Supplies:** Bibles, Reproducible G, pencils

 Photocopy "Remember and Celebrate" (Reproducible G) for each older child.

**SAY:** God gave Moses special instructions for a Passover celebration each year to remember the children's amazing deliverance from the death angel.

- Ask the older children to find Exodus 12:14 in their Bibles.
- Ask one child to read the verse aloud. "The LORD said to Moses, 'This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time'" (Exodus 12:14).

**SAY:** Immediately after Passover, the children of Israel celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread to remember their amazing deliverance from Egypt.

- Ask the children to find Exodus 13:3 in their Bibles.
- Ask one child to read the verse aloud. "Moses said to the people, 'Remember this day which is the day that you came out of Egypt, out of the place you were slaves, because the LORD acted with power to bring you out of there'" (Exodus 13:3).

- Hand out “Remember and Celebrate” (Reproducible G).

**SAY:** Like the Israelites, we should remember what God has done for us and celebrate God’s goodness. Think about something special God has done for you, your family, or your church. Write it down and think about how you should celebrate God’s goodness to you.

## PASS THE ITEMS

**Supplies:** music; the following items can be pictures or actual items: brick, basket, crown, sandal, sheep, frog

- Ask the younger children to come sit in a circle.

**SAY:** Let’s see how much we know about Moses by playing a game with these items.

- Hand out the items you have collected.


**SAY:** When you hear the music, start passing the items around the circle. When the music stops, hold on to the items you have in your hands. I will call out the name of one of the items. The person who is holding that item will tell us what it has to do with Moses’ life.

- Continue with this process until you have talked about how all of the items apply to Moses’ life.
- Leave the items or pictures on display in your room as a reminder of Moses’ life.

## Worship

### PRAISE AND PRAYER

**Supplies:** Exodus 6:6 Bible Verse Poster, Exodus 6:6 Sign Language Poster, Reproducible H

 Review the signs from the Sign Language Poster so you can teach them to the children.

Display the Bible Verse Poster and Sign Language Poster in your worship area.

- Play familiar worship music and encourage children to sing and move along with the music.
- Show the children the Bible Verse Poster. Encourage readers to read the verse with you.

**ASK:** Who said these words? (God) Who was being set free? (the Israelites) How did God display great power in today’s story? (through the powerful acts that convinced Pharaoh to let the people go)

- Teach children the Sign Language for the Bible verse. Encourage all children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

**SAY:** After God set the Israelites free from slavery, God wanted them to remember

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and be thankful for God's powerful acts. It is good to give thanks to God.

**ASK:** What are you thankful for today?

- Allow children an opportunity to share their thanks.

**PRAY:** God, we give thanks for the many ways you are at work in our lives and for our many blessings. Help us remember to live our lives for you. Amen.



Give each child a copy of the "Talk About" page (Reproducible H) to take home.

Ask them to share the "Talk About" page with their parents.

## Answers

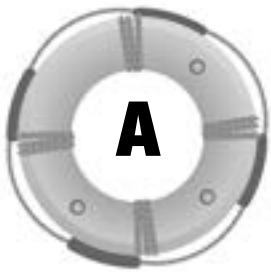
### REPRODUCIBLE B I AM THE LORD

- 1 I AM THE LORD**  
Begin with the words "I am the Lord!"
- 2 IAMLORD**  
Remove the three letter word and write the remaining letters without any spaces between them.
- 3 IAMLOR**  
Drop the letter D.
- 4 IAHLOH**  
Replace the letter M and the letter R with the 8th letter of the alphabet.
- 5 YAHLOH**  
Replace the first letter with the letter that appears in the word definitely but not the word flinted.
- 6 YAHWOH**  
Replace the fourth letter with the letter that resembles an upside down M.
- 7 YAHWEH**  
Change the second vowel in the word to the second vowel in the alphabet.

**\*\*Extra Credit:** The Israelites believed this name for God was so holy it should not be said aloud or written completely. When they wrote it they left out the vowels. Write the word without any vowels.

**YHWH**

**DEED**



# Let the People Go!

Draw what is missing from the picture.



For Nonreaders

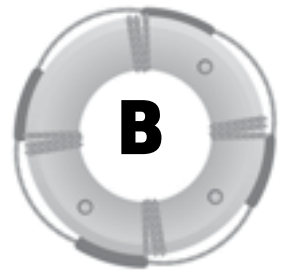
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# I Am the Lord.



God told Moses, "I am the Lord," and went on to explain that a covenant had been made between God and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This covenant or promise to be their God extended to the Israelites who were descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Follow the directions below to discover the Hebrew word that translates to "I am the Lord."

**1** Begin with the words "I am the Lord."

**2** Remove the three letter word and write the remaining letters without any spaces between them.

**3** Drop the letter D.

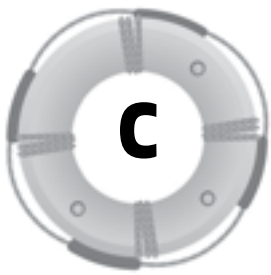
**4** Replace the letter M and the letter R with the 8th letter of the alphabet.

**5** Replace the first letter with the letter that appears in the word definitely but not the word flinted.

**6** Replace the fourth letter with the letter that resembles an upside down M.

**7** Change the second vowel in the word to the second vowel in the alphabet.

**\*\*Extra Credit:** The Israelites believed this name for God was so holy it should not be said aloud or written completely. When they wrote it they left out the vowels. Write the word without any vowels.



# Brick Sayings

**“I’ll set you free with great power.”**

Exodus 6:6

**We remember God’s powerful acts.**



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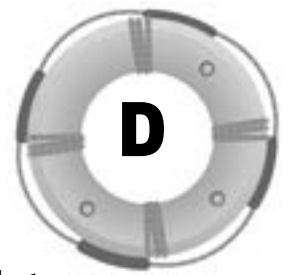
For Everyone

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# Moses and Pharaoh



The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for many years. The Egyptians had the Israelites make bricks, work in the fields, and do other hard labor. The Israelite people called out to God to save them. God heard the cries of the Israelite people and called Moses to go tell Pharaoh to let the people go. Moses' brother, Aaron, went with him.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites go so they could hold a festival for God in the desert. Pharaoh's response was to make the Israelites work even harder and make more bricks. "If the Israelites work harder they will not have time to think about leaving," Pharaoh thought.

The Israelite people asked Moses and Aaron why they came to make their lives more of a struggle. Moses told God the complaints of the people. God said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have heard the cries of the people and remembered the covenant I made with them to be their God. I will perform powerful acts that will make Pharaoh want to let the Israelites leave Egypt. Tell the people I will set them free with great power." Moses told the people what God said, but the people were too tired to listen because they had been working so hard.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. The first plague was turning the water in the Nile River into blood. This lasted for seven days.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. The second plague was frogs. The frogs came up out of the Nile River. There were frogs everywhere, even in the palace and in Pharaoh's bed. Pharaoh agreed to let the Egyptians go if Moses would pray to God to make the frogs go away. But when the frogs went away Pharaoh changed his mind.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. The next plague was swarms of lice and insects. There were bugs all over Egypt—lots of bugs. Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go if Moses would pray for the bugs to go away. But once the bugs were gone, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. God made all of the Egyptians' animals sick. However, none of the animals belonging to the Israelites got sick.



# Moses and Pharaoh

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. Now all of the Egyptians developed sores and blisters on their bodies. The Israelite people were not affected.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. God sent hail and thunder throughout Egypt. Animals and people were hurt and crops were ruined. No hail fell where the Israelite people were. Pharaoh told Moses he would let the Israelites go if Moses would pray for God to stop the hail. But when the hail stopped, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. The next plague was locusts. God caused the wind to blow locusts into the land. The locusts swarmed and covered everything. They ate all the grain and fruit that hadn't been destroyed by the hail. Pharaoh told Moses if he prayed to God for the locusts to go away then the Israelites would be set free. But when the locusts left Pharaoh changed his mind.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed a powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. God caused darkness to cover Egypt. All of Egypt was dark and the Egyptians couldn't see anything even during the day. The Israelites all had light where they lived. The darkness lasted for three days. Pharaoh again agreed to let the Israelites go, but when the darkness lifted, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, **'Let my people go!'**"

Pharaoh said, **"No! No! No! I will not let them go!"**

So God performed one final powerful act to change Pharaoh's mind. The final plague was death. Death visited the Egyptian families but passed over the Israelites. Many Egyptians died.

After this the Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave. The Israelites quickly packed up their things and left Egypt, along with their livestock.

God wanted the Israelites to remember the powerful acts God performed in order to set them free from slavery. So God gave the Israelites instructions for celebrating a festival called Passover. Each time Passover is celebrated the powerful acts of God are remembered and people give thanks.

(Based on Exodus 5:1-13:9)



# Mission Letter

Dear Guardians,

This quarter we will be financially supporting The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and their program *Freedom Schools*.

The CDF Freedom Schools® program seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation, and world today. By providing summer and afterschool reading enrichment for children who might otherwise not have access to books, the CDF Freedom Schools program plays a much needed role in helping to curb summer learning loss and close achievement gaps—and is a key part of CDF's work to ensure a level playing field for all children. In partnership with local congregations, schools, colleges and universities, community organizations, and secure juvenile justice facilities, the CDF Freedom Schools program boosts student motivation to read, generates more positive attitudes toward learning, increases self-esteem, and connects the needs of children and families to the resources of their communities. Since 1995, more than 135,000 preK–12 children have had a CDF Freedom Schools experience and more than 18,000 college students and recent graduates have been trained by CDF to deliver this empowering model.

The CDF Freedom Schools model incorporates the totality of the Children's Defense Fund's mission by fostering environments that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference. Site coordinators and project directors are also trained by CDF to provide supervision and administrative oversight.

The program provides an exciting Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) including carefully chosen developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant books. The model curriculum supports children and families around five essential components—high-quality academic enrichment; parent and family involvement; social action and civic engagement; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition, health, and mental health. Learn more at [www.childrensdefense.org/programs/freedomschools/](http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/freedomschools/)

Your child's class will collect an offering for this service organization. You may send the offering with your child to class, or donate online at [childrensdefense.org](http://childrensdefense.org) by clicking the "Donate" link on the left-hand side of the webpage.



# Remember and Celebrate

Write about what you remember and how you want to celebrate this memory.



Special celebrations help people remember God's deliverance and encourage them to focus on God's continuing faithfulness

Celebrate all the good things the LORD your God has done for you and your family. (Deuteronomy 26:11)

Can you remember a time when God helped your family, your church, your Sunday school group, or you as an individual? Write about that time, then share your memories with the group.

How can you celebrate these special events as a family, a church, or a Sunday school group?

**For Readers**

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# Talk About Moses and Pharaoh

## Say the Bible verse together:

"I'll set you free with great power." (Exodus 6:6)

## Talk about today's Bible story:

It took a long time, but God's powerful acts finally convinced Pharaoh to set the Israelites free from slavery. What do you think would have changed if Pharaoh had agreed right away to let the Israelite people go? Do you think it was necessary for Pharaoh and the Israelites to see repeated demonstrations of God's power?

After the Israelites were freed from slavery, God gave instructions for a special celebration to remember God's powerful acts. This celebration was to be held every year. Why do you think God did this? What purpose do you think this celebration served?

How have you seen God at work in your life?

What helps you remember to be thankful for God at work in your life?

## Pray:

Thank you, God, for showing your great power to the Israelites and to us. Show us how to celebrate these special events. Amen.

## Bible Story

Exodus 5:1-13:9

## Anchor Point

We remember God's powerful acts.



## Continue today's lesson with your family!

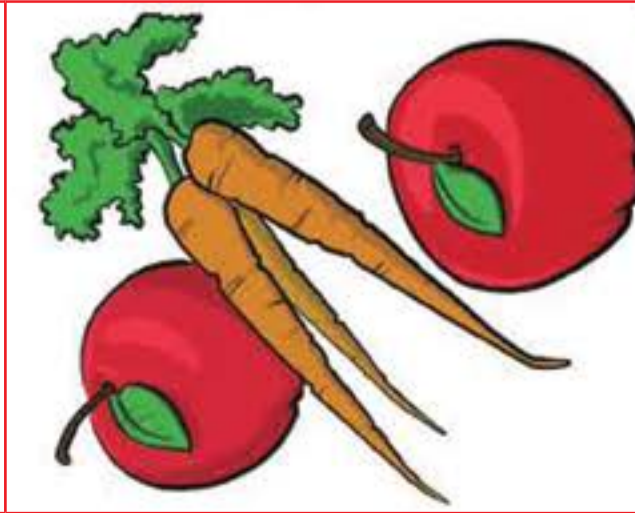
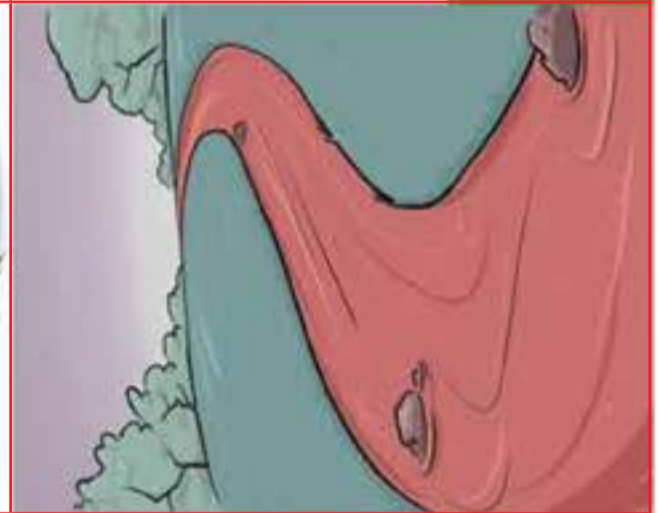
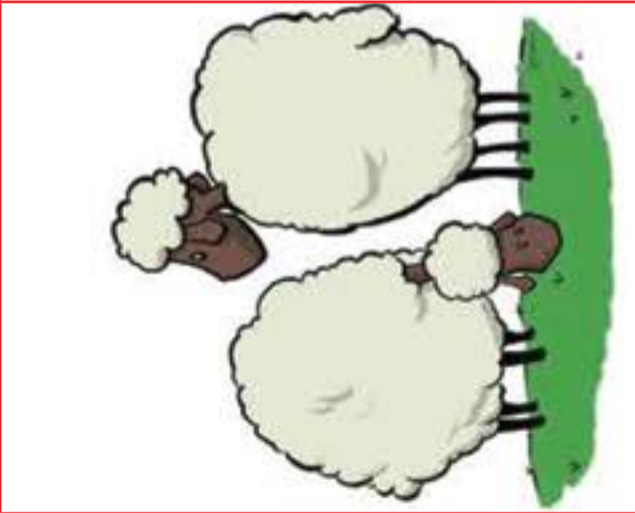
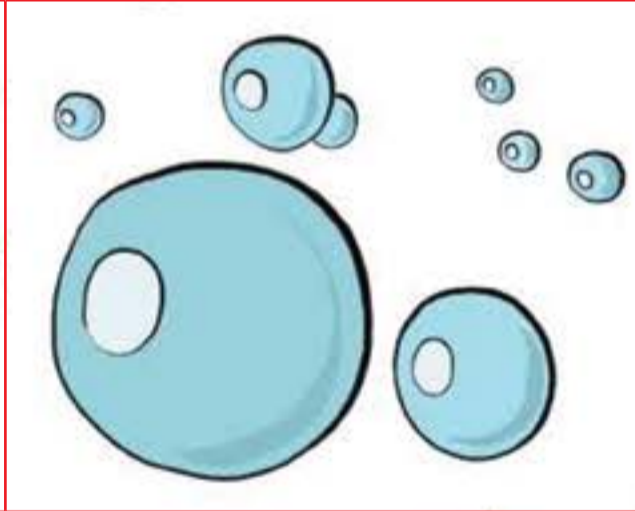
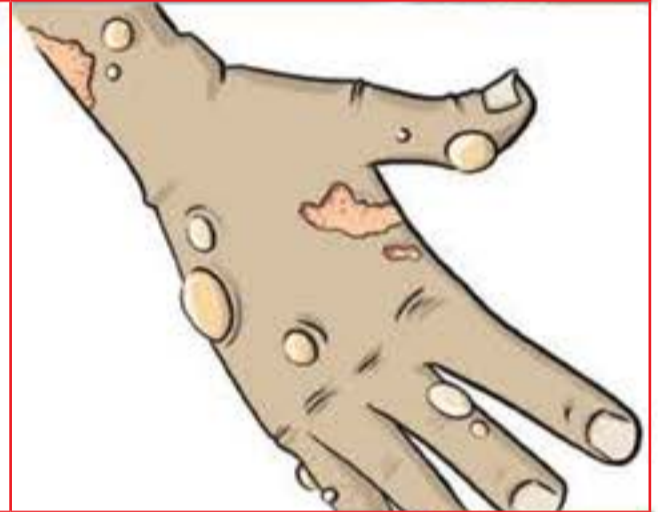
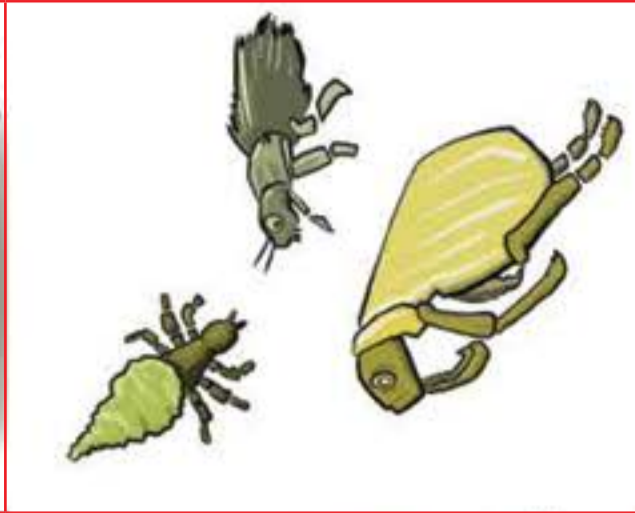


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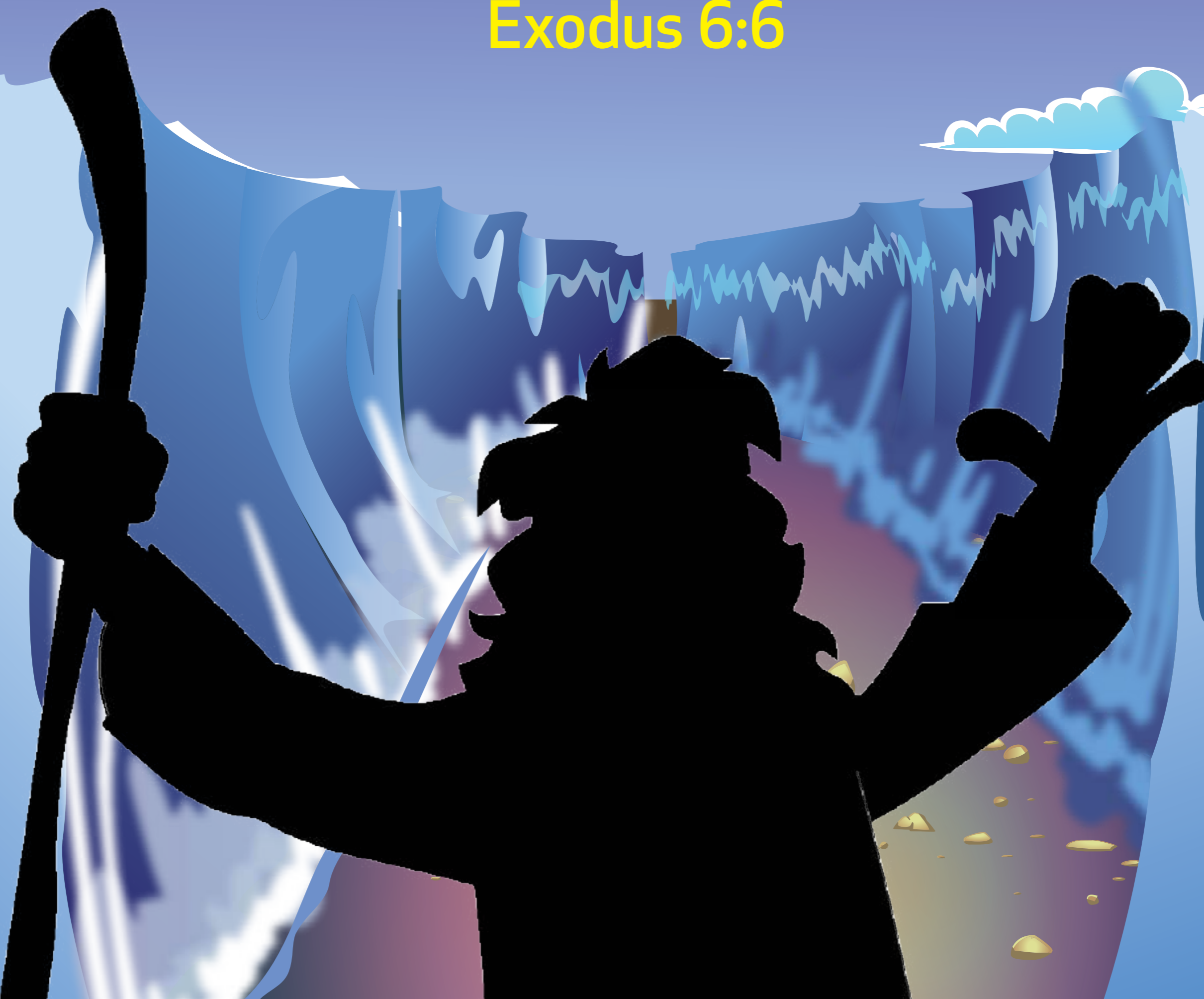






**"I'll set you free with great power."**

**Exodus 6:6**



# "I'll set you free with great power."

Exodus 6:6



God



free



you



with



great



power