

Day Two: An Impossible Escape

Let's start with a few questions



Q: Yesterday we learned about the first people in the world. Who were they?

Q: Did they follow their own way or God's way?

Q: What happened to them after that?

Q: Later, when there were a lot more people on earth, were they obeying God or obeying themselves?

Q: Was there anyone on earth God was pleased with?

Q: What kind of adventure did Noah have?

The Big Problem Continues



Sin is the world's biggest problem. The Bible teaches us that everyone struggles with sin.

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Romans 3:23 ESV*

Sin is not a problem that we can solve on our own. We needed God to come up with a plan to get rid of sin. The Bible is the story of God's plan.

All through history, God chose heroes to do amazing things with God's help—all of them doing their part to make God's big plan work.

We read about those heroes in the Bible. But they didn't always look or feel like heroes when God called them to do great things.

Q: Why do you think God chooses ordinary people to do important things for Him?

When Bible heroes listened to God, trusted God, and obeyed God, *God was the real hero* who did amazing things through them, and everyone could see that.

An Unlikely Hero



God's people (the Hebrews) had been trapped in Egypt for 400 years. The Pharaoh (king) of Egypt feared the Hebrews, so he told his people to make them slaves. They had to do the worst and most dangerous jobs, every day.

When a Hebrew baby named Moses was born, his parents knew that Pharaoh had a rule: all male Hebrew babies must be thrown into the Nile river! They had to protect him! They kept him hidden for months, and when he could not be kept secret any longer, his mother put him in a basket and sent him floating down the river. She trusted God to take care of baby Moses.

God did take care of Moses! He made the daughter of Pharaoh find the basket! She loved the little baby and decided to raise him as her own. Moses went from living in secret to being a prince of Egypt!

An Impossible Bush



When Moses was older, God called on him to help the Hebrew people out of slavery and bring them out of Egypt. God spoke to Moses from a bush that looked like it was on fire but didn't burn up! That got Moses' attention! God spoke to Moses out of the strange bush and said:

"...And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:9-10 ESV

Since Moses is the hero we're learning about today, you might think that he got really excited about this job and said something like, "Yes, Lord! I'm ready! Let's do this!"

That's not what Moses said. He said the opposite:

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Exodus 3:11 ESV

Moses basically said, "Hey, God, I don't think you've picked the right guy for this. I'm nobody special." God answered Moses:

He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Exodus 3:12 ESV

That should have convinced Moses. When God says, "I will be with you," you have nothing to worry about, right? But this conversation went on for a while. Here's a simplified version of how it went:

Moses: But if I ask the people of Israel to follow me out of Egypt, they might ask me your name. What should I say?

God: I AM WHO I AM. Tell them I AM sent you. You can also tell them that 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob' sent you.

Moses: But they still might not believe me. They'll probably say that you didn't really appear to me.

God: Throw your shepherd's staff on the ground. (The staff turned into a snake.) Grab the snake by the tail. (The snake turned back into a staff.) Now put your hand into your cloak and pull it back out. (It became crusty with sores from a terrible skin disease.) Now put it back in and back out again. (It was back to normal, as healthy as can be.) Show them these signs whenever someone refuses to believe you.

Moses: But I'm not good at speaking to people.

God: Who made man's mouth? Wasn't it me? I can easily take care of any speech problems you have. I will be with you and teach you what to say.

Moses: Please, Lord, send someone else.

Moses didn't seem like a hero in this conversation! He tried to get out of the job five times! God was angry about that, but God agreed to send Moses' brother Aaron with him so he would have some extra confidence.

Moses finally agreed to take the job. He went to Pharaoh and delivered God's message: Let my people go.

An Impossible Escape



Pharaoh didn't want to do that. He said no. He made the Hebrews work harder than ever, to teach them that he was in charge of their lives and they should not to get any more ideas about leaving Egypt.

God sent plagues to convince Pharaoh to let his people go. *Every time* God sent a plague, Pharaoh *still* didn't agree to let them go.

The Ten Plagues

1. All the water in Egypt was turned to blood. While this plague was going on, there was no safe water to use for crops, for drinking, for bathing, or anything.
2. Frogs came hopping into Egypt by the millions. They were everywhere. In every house. Even in people's beds!
3. Tiny, annoying gnats covered everything and everybody in Egypt.
4. Swarms of flies appeared in Egypt. They covered everything. To prove that God was helping the Hebrews and this was no ordinary swarm of flies, Pharaoh noticed that there were *no flies at all* in the part of Egypt where the Hebrew people lived.
5. All the animals in the fields of Egypt died. Horses, cows, sheep, goats, and others all died. In the land where the Hebrews lived, though, none of their animals died.
6. Boils (huge, painful sores) appeared on all of the Egyptian people.
7. Hail destroyed most of the crops in Egypt (but not in the land of Goshen where the Hebrews lived).
8. Swarms of locusts ate whatever plants and crops were left after the hail.
9. Darkness covered the land of Egypt. It lasted for three days! For all that time, no one in Egypt could get up or move around. All of God's people had light where they lived.
10. The final plague was death. God sent an angel of death to take the firstborn from every family in Egypt.

The first few plagues were very annoying, but did you notice that the the longer Pharaoh disobeyed God, the worse they got? Finally, the worst plague of all, death, came to every household in Egypt—including the Pharaoh's own household.

Even the Hebrew families were in danger from this plague. The only way to be sure that the angel of death would pass over their house and not take their firstborn was to mark the doorposts of the house with the blood of a lamb that had been sacrificed and eaten in a special meal. That meal was called the Passover Meal.

After the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally gave in. He told God's people to go. They left quickly. Moses led God's people out of Egypt—out of slavery—into a new life of freedom.

God promised to bring the Hebrews to a new land where they could worship God and not have to worry about being slaves ever again. Sin was still a problem for them, though, and again and again they decided to follow their own way instead of God's way. That's hard to imagine after they saw God do so many amazing things to free them from Egypt, but they turned away from God so many times that God told them they'd have to wander in the desert for 40 years until their children grew up and entered the promised land. Almost all of the grown-ups who had been rescued from Egypt did not get to enter the new land God had chosen for them.

Pray, Listen, Say, Memorize



Prayer

God, please help us to follow Your way instead of our own way. Your way is always better than anything we can imagine. Please forgive us when we make mistakes and help us to follow You more faithfully every day.



Today's Truth

All people sin, but God sent a hero to free us from sin.



Memory Verse

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Romans 3:23 ESV