

date: \_\_11/12/17

**Bible Passage: Exodus 5—12**  
(The Exodus, Part 1)

## God Is Warrior

**REMEMBER VERSE**

The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.  
Exodus 14:14

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

There are certain memories little girls cherish about their dads—memories that help form a sense of who we are. Dancing with my dad at a friend’s wedding made me feel like a lady. Going fishing and learning how to bait my own hook made me feel capable. In the midst of a difficult time, coming home to a message on my answering machine with my dad singing “I Just Called to Say I Love You” made me feel loved! And I still smile at the memory years later.

But there is another feeling I cherish—the feeling of walking through an uncomfortable, even scary, situation with my little hand safely in his much bigger, much stronger, rough, and callused hand, feeling protected and safe. Once, when I was 10, I was chased down the street by an angry, snarling dog. Screaming, I rounded the corner of our house just as my dad stepped out from our garage where he had been working. Immediately, he sized up the situation and stepped between me and the dog, brandishing a hammer and shouting. Then I knew I was safe.

Our divine Father is strong and capable and willing to stand with His children in the difficult and scary places. He will step between us and danger, and He will fight for us as our Warrior when injustice comes along. Nothing can get to us without first going through our Father. *El Shaddai*, God Almighty, will fight for us.

*Janet Lee*  
TruStory Team

## Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

We often think of the 10 plagues as God trying to convince Pharaoh to let the people go, but that was not the case. Each time Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites leave Egypt, God allowed Pharaoh's hardened heart to change his mind and not let the people go. By allowing this to happen over and over, God showed incredible signs to His special people to let them know He was the one true God (Exodus 10:1–2).

After they left Egypt, the Israelites would have to endure terrible struggles and trials. There was great temptation for them to go back to what they were familiar with, namely, the animistic worship that the Egyptians would have once again forced upon them. While in Egypt, they were not allowed to openly sacrifice and worship the one true God. God needed to show them who He was and how He wanted to be worshipped. The purpose of the plagues was to display that He was the *only* one with power, and that the false gods of the Egyptians possessed none.

God chose specific plagues that corresponded to the primary deities of the Egyptians. The Egyptians worshipped Hapi, the spirit of the Nile, and Khnum, the guardian of the river's source. This is why God turned all the water in Egypt to blood. The Egyptians worshipped Heqt, a frog goddess of birth, so God sent so many frogs they were practically drowning in them. The third plague of lice showed God's power over Geb, the god of the earth. The fourth plague of flies showed God's power over Uatchit, the god of the flies. God sent each plague to show the foolishness of worshipping the false gods of Egypt. The ninth plague destroyed confidence in Amon-Ra, the sun god. The tenth, and final, plague overthrew Osiris, the Egyptian giver of life. This demonstrated that only God can be the one true God over the firstborn of every creature (Exodus 13:1–2).

The plagues demonstrated to the Israelites, the Egyptians, and to the entire world that God is the one true God (Exodus 7:5). God was also demonstrating to His people that He is God and that He is Warrior.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Everything in our world today, from advertising to technology, can contribute to making us think we are capable, independent people. We're fed the message that we can, with enough money or the right products, do more in our own strength.

But God wants to transform us into *His* image. *He* can make us into capable, strong individuals, but we can only achieve that with God alone. Even though we *know* this in our minds, it's difficult to live out on a daily basis. We need to be reminded daily of the truth that God is the only solution to our conflicts and insecurities. In light of this, ask yourself today: Where do you need to invite God to fight for you? How have you exhausted yourself trying to fight on your own?

Close your eyes and clench your fists as you think of these things. Pray and ask God to intervene—to step in and take control. As you feel yourself releasing issues to Him, begin to open your hands. Sit in silence and take in God's peace. Listen for any words of love or encouragement that God might want to offer you. Then, let the assurance that God fights for you—*you!*—overflow into the lives of your children this week.

**SMALL GROUP**

SECTION

**EXPLORE//** 10 min.


Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

**Faster! Faster!**

As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites were forced to make bricks. They worked outside in the hot, dry desert with masters pushing them to work hard and fast. This game will help your children see what it's like to work under pressure.

**SUPPLIES**

- Sugar cubes (at least 5 per child) 
- Bowls (2)
- Stopwatch or timer

**SET UP**

Divide the sugar cubes into two even piles several feet apart on a table.

**RELATE**

**In today's portion of The Big God Story, we'll hear how God fought for His people, who were being treated unfairly by Pharaoh.**

Divide your group into two teams. Designate one or two children on each team to be team leaders. On your signal, both teams must use their sugar cubes as "bricks" to build the highest building possible within one minute. While children build, the team leaders should pressure the builders by shouting out commands such as "Hurry up!" and "Build faster!" At exactly one minute, stop the game and count how many layers of cubes each team built.

Now have the teams place all their sugar cubes into their bowls. Hand the bowls to team leaders and have them stand several feet away from the building site. On your signal, one child at a time from each team must run to his team leader to request one sugar cube and start to build a pyramid with the same number of layers as before. The team leaders should again shout commands. Stop the game after one minute. Discuss together:

- **Did the team leaders shouting commands make this game harder? Why?**
- **Do you think it was fair to have to build a tower as tall as the first one when you had to gather the cubes one at a time?**
- **How does it feel when we aren't being treated fairly?**

**LARGE GROUP**  
SECTION**DISCOVER//** 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible Verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

**Traditions and Remember Verse****SUPPLIES**

- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)
- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)

**RELATE**

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

**The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still. Exodus 14:14**

**Connect**

Encourage the members of your community to get to know one another through engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities.

**Question**

**Would you rather eat a bug or a frog?**

**The Big God Story**

**Bible Passage: Exodus 5—12**

**Storytelling Technique: Images and Props**  
**God Is Warrior**

**SUPPLIES**

- [Timeline image](#) (see Resources)
- [Images: Snake, Frogs, Storm](#) (see Resources)
- [Sound effect: Storm](#) (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Clear vase

- Red scarf
- Optional props: large toy snake, small toy frogs

### SET UP

Put the red scarf inside the vase. Choose two volunteers to carefully fling toy frogs out over the audience on your cue during the narrative.

### RELATE

**Earlier you talked about whether you'd rather eat a frog or a bug. What did you guys choose? Allow a few kids to share their responses. Today we're going to talk about a time God showed His people that He is Warrior. As the ruler of all creation, God sent swarms of frogs and bugs and even had the sun at His command as He fought for His people! Before we start let's pray and ask God to teach us.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

**At the end of last week's lesson, Moses, with the help of his brother, Aaron, was about to speak with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. God planned to free His people from slavery and take them to the Promised Land, where they could worship Him. Can you imagine how scared Moses and Aaron must have been? Pharaoh was the most powerful man in the world, and they weren't asking for a small favor. They were asking Pharaoh to set all of his slaves free!**

**To see what happened, let's open our Bibles to Exodus 5:1: "Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"" How do you think Pharaoh responded? Do you think he said, "Okay, sure! Go ahead!" Allow responses. Of course not! Pharaoh was furious, and he gave the Israelites more work to do! But Moses trusted God and delivered His messages, and God would fight for His people. God is Warrior.**

**Moses was discouraged, but God reminded Moses that He is the Lord and that He always keeps His promises. In Exodus 6:6–7 (encourage kids to turn to this passage and follow along) God told Moses to "say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out [of slavery] ... I will free you ... and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts ... I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" (vv. 6–7). God was showing the Israelites that He is Warrior. Nothing can defeat Him. We can trust in His might and His power.**

**God told Moses and Aaron to go back to Pharaoh and perform a miracle. When Aaron threw his staff to the ground, it turned into a snake! Tech: Cue Snake image and/or bring out large toy snake. Pharaoh wasn't impressed. He brought out his magicians to do the same thing. But then Aaron's snake ate the other snakes! Even so, Pharaoh still refused to let the people go.**

**God wasn't done yet. God is Warrior, and He continued to fight for His people. Again, Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, "The LORD ... has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me" (Exodus 7:16). Pharaoh again refused, so God turned all the water in the Nile River into blood. Hold up vase with red scarf inside. All of the water in the city turned into blood too.**

**Yet Pharaoh still wouldn't let the people go. So then God told Aaron to stretch his hand over the streams and rivers, and out of the water came thousands of frogs! Tech: Cue Frogs image. Have volunteers carefully toss frogs out over the audience. They were in people's ovens, on their beds, in their clothes ... even on top of their heads! It sounds funny, but the Egyptians weren't laughing. Pharaoh said he would let the Israelites go if God took away the frogs, so Moses prayed and the frogs died. But**

again Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let the people go.

Pharaoh did this nine times! God sent gnats and flies. He sent a plague that made the Egyptians' livestock, all their horses, camels, sheep, goats, and pigs, sick. He gave the Egyptian people big, nasty sores all over their bodies. He sent a powerful hailstorm. *Tech: Cue Storm image and Storm sound effect.* God brought big plant-eating bugs called locusts to eat all the crops. He sent darkness so thick that the people could feel it. But God always protected the Israelites. He saved His children from suffering. The flies didn't bother them, their animals didn't get sick like the Egyptians' animals, and the people didn't get sores or experience thick darkness.

By sending plagues, God showed His power. The Egyptians thought their make-believe gods were as powerful as the one true God. Each plague proved that He alone is God. But even after all those plagues, Pharaoh still wouldn't free the Israelites. So God sent one last, very sad, plague. God said, "Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh ... to the firstborn son of the female slave" (Exodus 11:5).

But God still protected the Israelites. God told Moses to warn the Israelites that they must kill their best lamb and paint its blood around their doors. In Exodus 12:13 (invite kids to follow along) God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you" (Exodus 12:13). At midnight, all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died, and the Egyptians cried loudly. Finally, Pharaoh said to Moses, "Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested" (v. 31). The Israelites quickly gathered their things and fled. God is Warrior, and He rescued His people. We'll hear more about this next week.

God still fights for us today. He is our Warrior. Share a story about a time God fought for you. Through Jesus, God has saved us forever. We have been adopted as God's children. How does it feel to know that your heavenly Father is a Warrior? Allow responses. As His children, we don't have to worry because God promised to never leave us. We can trust that God hears us because we know that God fights for His children.

## SMALL GROUP SECTION

# RESPOND// 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children respond to what the Holy Spirit is teaching them as they reflect on the day's portion of The Big God Story, engage in relationship, and create meaningful pieces of art individually or together.*

## Reflect: God Is Warrior

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

### Questions for Younger Kids

- How did Pharaoh react the first time Moses and Aaron asked him to let the Israelites go? Exodus 5:4
- How did God save the Israelites? Exodus 11:1–8

- How do you think the Israelites felt as they saw the plagues happen to the Egyptians?
- How does it make you feel to know God cares for you enough to fight for you as your Warrior?

### Questions for Older Kids

- What did Pharaoh say the first time Moses and Aaron asked him to let the Israelites go? Exodus 5:4  
Skim through the plagues in Exodus 7—10 with your kids.
- Which of these plagues do you think would be the worst? How would you react to these things happening?
- How have you seen God fight for you or fight for someone you know?
- Have you ever had to wait to see God fight for you? What was it like?
- How does it make you feel to know God cares for you enough to fight for you as your Warrior?

## BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bible

### RELATE

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and receive what God has for them. Invite them to remain in this posture as you bless them. Encourage parents to come early in order to read the blessing over their child.

Open a Bible and read Psalm 144:1–2:

**Praise be to the LORD my Rock ... He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge.**

After the blessing verse, invite the children to bless one another. Have them turn one by one to the person on their left and pray a blessing by saying, "May you see the ways God fights for you this week." Then end with these words of blessing for the group:

**May you go out this week with peace. May you know that God is your Warrior.**