

12.07a Tenth Plague/Passover (Exodus 11:1–12:42; Numbers 33:3, 4; Psalm 78:42, 43, 49–52)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002. Thoughts gained from this book will be noted by (Ganz).
- A calendar

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *plague*: widespread calamity or hardship
- *leaven*: yeast or other product used to make bread rise
- *hyssop*: “a wild shrub . . . [some Bible scholars believe it was marjoram] used for sprinkling in ancient Jewish rites” (https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS785US785&q=Dictionary).
- *firstborn*: the first child born to parents; ✓this plague seems to apply only to the firstborn males* [identify the firstborn of students’ families]
- *unblemished*: not having spots or sores or any handicap
- *twilight*: the time as the sun sets in the evening

Scripture (NASB)

Exodus 11:1 Now the LORD said to Moses, “One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out from here completely. 2 Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold.” 3 The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses *himself* was greatly esteemed in the land of Egypt, *both* in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.

4 Moses said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been *before* and such as shall never be again. 7 But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not *even* bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’ 8 All these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me, saying, ‘Go out, you and all the people who follow you,’ and after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

9 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that My wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” 10 Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh; yet the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

12:1 Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers’ households, a lamb for each household. 4 Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons *in them*; according to what each man

should eat, you are to divide the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. 7 Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails. 10 And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. 11 Now you shall eat it in this manner: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD’s Passover. 12 For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 ‘Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it *as* a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it *as* a permanent ordinance. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and *another* holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you. 17 You shall also observe the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance. 18 In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 19 Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* an alien or a native of the land. 20 You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.’”

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover *lamb*. 22 You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.

23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite *you*. 24 And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. 25 When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. 26 And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ 27 you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’” And the people bowed low and worshiped.

28 Then the sons of Israel went and did *so*; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

29 Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. 30 Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead. 31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said. 32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also.”

33 The Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, “We will all be dead.” 34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, *with* their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders.

35 Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; 36 and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

37 Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. 38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock. 39 They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

40 Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

42 It is a night to be observed for the LORD for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for the LORD, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

Numbers 33:3 They journeyed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover the sons of Israel started out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians, 4 while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn whom the LORD had struck down among them. The LORD had also executed judgments on their gods.

Psalm 78:42 They did not remember His power,
The day when He redeemed them from the adversary,
43 When He performed His signs in Egypt
And His marvels in the field of Zoan . . .
49 He sent upon them His burning anger,
Fury and indignation and trouble,
A band of destroying angels.
50 He leveled a path for His anger;
He did not spare their soul from death,
But gave over their life to the plague,
51 And smote all the firstborn in Egypt,
The first *issue* of their virility in the tents of Ham.
52 But He led forth His own people like sheep
And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;

Introduction/Review:

The children of Israel/Jacob had been in Egypt four hundred thirty years. At first, they had been well treated because of Joseph's prestige in the land. Towards the last of those years, however, the sons of Israel/Jacob had suffered greatly as slaves who were treated harshly.

The time was near at hand when God would deliver His people from their bondage. First, though, the Egyptians needed to see the might of the Lord; so He brought nine plagues upon Egypt over a period of perhaps ✓three to six months.** Each of the plagues had come with a warning from the Lord: "Let My people go that they may serve me, or I will—"; then came the threat of the next plague. What were these first nine plagues? [Water turned to blood; frogs; lice or gnats; flies; murrain; boils; hail; locusts; darkness.]

Pharaoh, king of Egypt, sometimes sounded as if he would let the people leave as the Lord had commanded, but when each plague was removed, he always hardened his heart and refused to let the people go.*

Story:

Plague #10

One more plague was to come, the most devastating of all. God assured Moses that after this plague Pharaoh and his subjects would drive out God's people. It wasn't that Pharaoh had no warning. After all, he had seen

the hand of God working in nine terrible plagues. In addition, Moses directly notified Pharaoh as to what was to come. He said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the firstborn of the cattle as well. A great cry shall rise in all the land of Egypt such as has never been before and shall never be again. But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark so that you may understand how I, the LORD, makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’”

Moses continued to tell exactly what would happen: “Pharaoh, all your servants will come to me and bow before me, urging, ‘Go out, you and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go out.”

When Moses had finished this announcement, he left Pharaoh in hot anger.

That was pretty clear, wasn't it? What exactly did Moses say in his warning? [At midnight all the firstborn of Egypt would die so that the Egyptians would force the children of Israel to get out of the land.] Who would *not* lose their firstborn? [The children of Israel.]

Do you suppose Pharaoh will pay attention this time with a threat so great as losing his firstborn son? [Teacher, take a straw poll if you wish.] The answer is no. God said, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that My wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

Clear instructions

God gave specific instructions regarding this huge event to His own people. First, they were to ask the Egyptians, “May I please have some of your gold articles and some of your silver jewelry and some clothing?” Because Moses was so highly esteemed by the Egyptians and because the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, the Egyptians gladly gave lots of gold, silver, and clothing to the children of Israel.

Next, God established a new calendar for His people. [Show your calendar. Note the first month of January.] He said, “This month [point to April, even though *Abib* in the Jewish calendar sometimes starts in March] shall be the first month of the year for you. Call this month *Abib*. Tell everybody, ‘On the tenth day of this month, select a lamb or a goat for each household. If the household is too small to eat a whole lamb, then your next-door neighbor can share with you.’”

Lambs/ goats

God continued His instructions: “The lambs or goats you choose must be unblemished, male, and a year old. Keep them until the fourteenth day of this first month. On the fourteenth day the whole assembly of Israel is to kill their lambs or year-old goats at twilight. Then take some of the blood of the slaughtered animal and with hyssop put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel (the top of the door frame) of the houses in which they will eat the lamb or goat.”

“Roast, don't boil, your animal, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. If there is too much for you to eat, do not leave any leftovers; burn them up. When you eat this meal, wear your clothes with your belt on; have your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat in a hurry, ready to leave this land.”

Passover

More specific instructions came from the mouth of God. “This feast is called ‘the LORD's Passover,’ and the reason for this name is that on that night I will bring judgments against all the gods of Egypt when I strike down all the firstborn, both man and cattle in the whole land of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood that you put on your doorposts and lintels shall be a sign; when I see the blood I will *pass over* you. *Passover* means I will *pass over* your house; no plague will destroy your firstborn when I strike the land of Egypt.”

You can see that Passover was a huge event! So much so that God said, “This day will be a memorial that you and your descendants shall celebrate forever. When your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of

Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians but spared our homes.’”

When Moses announced all of this to the people, they bowed low and worshiped.

Unleavened bread

One more part of this feast was to eat unleavened bread to remember that Israel had had no time to let their bread rise because they had left the land quickly. So God further instructed, “On the first day of this feast, you shall remove leaven from your houses. When you observe this feast in the future, eat unleavened bread for seven days. No work at all shall be done on the first and seventh day except preparation for eating. You will do this in the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day.”

Obedience

So the people did exactly as God commanded for this first Passover. They chose a perfect lamb or goat on the tenth day of the first month (*Abib*), kept it four days; killed it on the fourteenth day of the first month, applied its blood with hyssop to the doorposts and lintel of their houses; roasted the animal; ate it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, wore their departure clothes, burned the leftovers, and were prepared to leave quickly.

I can’t imagine the tension as the people anticipated this final, terrible death plague.

It came at midnight. The LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh the king to the firstborn of the prisoner in jail, and all the firstborn of cattle. Pharaoh, all his servants, and all the Egyptians rose in the night, crying with immense grief, for in every Egyptian home someone was dead.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in the night and ordered, “Rise up; all of you get out from among my people and go worship the LORD, as you have said. Take your flocks and herds and go. Bless me also.”

The common people among the Egyptians also urged the children of Israel, saying, “Leave our land. Go quickly, or we will all be dead!”

Leaving Egypt

Thus, the morning after the Passover the sons of Israel exited boldly in the sight of the Egyptians while these people of the land were burying all their firstborn whom the LORD had struck down. The LORD had executed His judgments on their false gods and on their wicked deeds.

Psalm 78:49–52 states the case poetically:

[God] sent upon them His burning anger,
Fury and indignation and trouble,
A band of destroying angels.
He leveled a path for His anger;
He did not spare their soul from death,
But gave over their life to the plague,
And smote all the firstborn in Egypt.

The children of Israel left the land of Egypt. Six hundred thousand men, probably as many women, and twice as many children gathered all their possessions and their livestock and departed. About two and one-half million people; their flocks and herds and livestock; their unleavened bread dough; their gifted gold, silver, and clothing; their leader, Moses; and their God, Jehovah, marched out of Egypt. God led forth His own people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

*Were daughters included among the firstborn who were slain? It seems unlikely. Most “big-name” translations (ESV, KJV, NASB, NIV, *etc.*) use merely the word *firstborn*, but a few other translations (NLT, Berean Study Bible, Good News, Holman Christian Standard, God’s Word) include the words *sons* or *males*. Strong’s

Concordance (#1060 in the Hebrew-Chaldee section) gives a definition that includes the word *son*: “firstborn; hence chief:—eldest (son), first-born (-ling).” Exodus 4:23 tells us that, if not in all Egypt, at least Pharaoh’s *son* would die in the plague. The fact that the specified *male* firstborn was to be consecrated/redeemed (Exodus 13:2) also gives credence to the exclusion of firstborn daughters. (See Ellicott’s commentary at <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/exodus/11-5.htm> for more information.)

**“The period of time covered by the plagues is between six and nine months. The first plague took place when the Nile was at its flood stage (maximum in September; receding in October). The seventh plague (Exodus 9:31, 32) occurred when flax was in blossom and barley was ripe (late January or early February). The final plague was accompanied by the institution of the Passover in March or April” (mimeographed notes; unknown source).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus.

Jesus Christ is called the Passover; He was the unblemished Lamb of God, sacrificed to obtain the salvation of His people (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the tenth day of the Jewish first month, the day Passover lambs were chosen. “Jesus’ arrival on this particular day was as if God was saying, ‘Here’s my lamb. Will you choose Him?’” (*Focus on the Family Magazine*, March 1997, p. 19).

- Although the wait may seem long and hard, God fulfills what He has promised.

Activities:

- Play dough: jewelry; lamb or goat (cookie cutter or hand-shaped); staff; sandals; bowls
- Snack: (Eat the snack in a hurry.)

Most students might not try it, but it would be good for them to eat a bit of roasted lamb.

Unleavened bread: A recipe may be found at <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/241680/unleavened-bread-for-communion/>.

On another occasion, if you wish to do a traditional Passover meal (Seder) for Christian families, here is a site with instructions, recipes, and a script: <https://jenniferdukeslee.com/a-messianic-passover-seder-for-families-with-children/>. (All units of the Seder should be included to be authentic, but editing within a unit will shorten the length of the meal, which can be very long.)

- Put newsprint around the door frame of the classroom. Being sure the floor is protected, have students take plants, dip them in red tempera or other water-based kids’ paint, and paint the door posts and lintel. (Teacher should paint the lintel.)
- Sing stanzas 1–4 of “Moses Gets out of Egypt,” found in Lesson 12.01b or on the Songs page at teachingthebibletochildren.org, where an audio and a visual are available.
- Sing and do the finger play for “The Matzah-Making Song” found below.
- Sing stanzas 1 and 2 of “On Passover” found below.
- Perform a skit about Passover. Preparation: Before class, use butcher paper, or tape together sheets of earth-tone construction paper to form three simple-looking door posts. As kids arrive, they may decorate the doorposts to look like wood grain, brick, rock, or whatever. Simulate lamb’s blood on the door posts of Deborah and Nathaniel’s houses. This skit works best by having three groups of kids under these make-believe doorposts. The play goes from one house to another. The skit itself is found at <http://www.kidssundayschool.com/tinymce/filemanager/files/gradeschool/skits/thepassover01.pdf>.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the page containing “Abib” and numbers 1–10 found below. Back the page with paper towel and cut out the word and numbers. Place *Abib* at the top of a flannel board. For

each correct answer, a student may place a consecutive number on the board. Ask what happened on the tenth day of the month Abib. Answer: the Passover lamb or goat was selected. Remind students that Jesus came into Jerusalem on the tenth day of *Abib* the week of His crucifixion.)

1. The children of Israel were to ask for what from the Egyptians? [Gold and silver articles; clothing.]
2. What was about to happen at midnight? [The firstborn of all Egyptians and their cattle would die.]
3. Who would be included among the Egyptians in this plague? [Every household from the king to the prisoner or the maid.]
4. Who would *not* be included in this plague? [Families of Israel who had blood on the doorposts and lintel.]
5. Describe the lamb or goat the children of Israel were to select. [It could have no blemish; had to be a male and one year old.]
6. What was to happen on the fourteenth day of the first month? [The sons of Israel were to slaughter the lamb or goat; take its blood to paint places on the doorposts and lintel; roast and eat the animal.]
7. Why was this meal called *Passover*? [Because God would *pass over* the houses that had blood on the doorposts and lintel and not slay the firstborn.]
8. Why did the people need to have their shoes on and their staffs in their hand? [Because they would leave in a hurry.]
9. What happened at midnight? [The firstborn of every Egyptian household and the firstborn of cattle died.]
10. What did Pharaoh say after this plague? [“Get out of the land. Take everything and everybody.”]

Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

- 1 Corinthians 5:7—For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Handwork:

- Matzo collage: let the children break matzo crackers and then glue their broken pieces to a dark-colored piece of construction paper, creating pictures (copied from the internet).

plague

leaven

hysop

firstborn

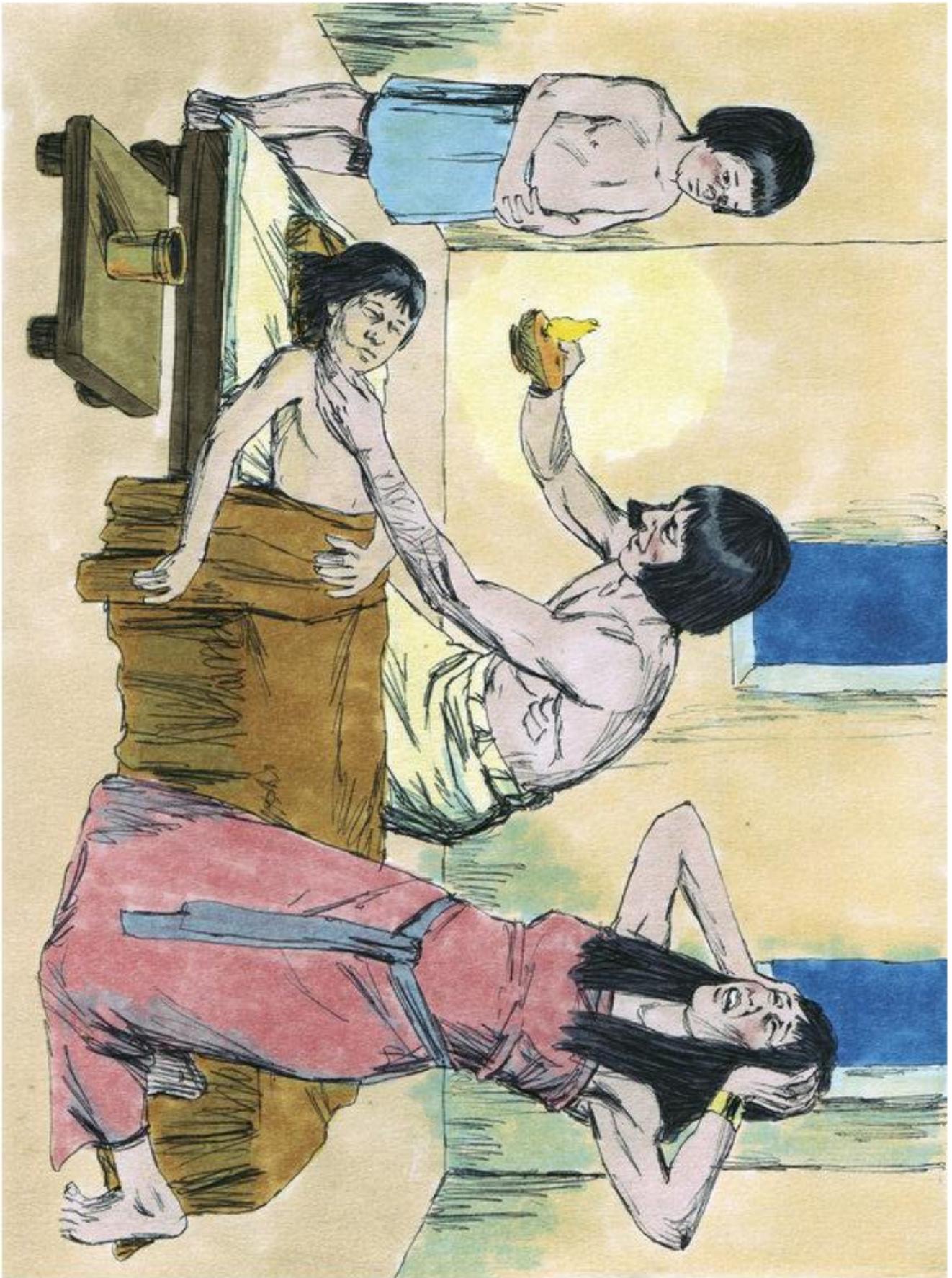
unblemished

twilight



<https://earlychurchhistory.org/communication/the-ipuwer-papyrus-were-the-10-biblical-plagues-real/>







The Matzah-Making Song (and finger play) (tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Roll, roll, roll your dough (one hand palm up, other hand above it, palm down making circular motions).

Make it nice and round (make a circle with fingers).

Make it flat (one hand palm up, slap other hand down on it),

Poke lots of holes (one hand palm up, with fingers on the other hand pretend to poke holes in palm up hand),

And bake it 'til it's brown (both palms up, touching on sides, move forward, as if putting a tray in the oven).

(by Lisa Cornell, found on the internet)

On Passover (tune: "London Bridge")

Moses freed the Jewish slaves, Jewish slaves, Jewish slaves,

Moses freed the Jewish slaves, On Passover.

He told Pharaoh, "Let them go, let them go, let them go,"

He told Pharaoh, "Let them go," On Passover.

Moses parted the Red Sea, the Red Sea, the Red Sea,

Moses parted the Red Sea, So they could be free.

He led them safely to the shore, to the shore, to the shore,

He led them safely to the shore. Slaves they'll be no more!

(unknown source from the internet)

A b i l b

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

1 0