“The Plagues Begin”

*Exodus 78-832*

Opening Question(s) – choose (a) or (b)

1. What magic trick (illusion) can you do, **OR** which one(s) have you seen that has really impressed you and why?
2. How many of the ten plagues can you name? Which one would you find the most difficult to experience?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Exodus 7:8-22.** Why do you think God initiated the plagues?
2. Does it bother, impress, or confuse you that the Egyptian magicians were able to duplicate the first miracle and first plague? Why?
3. How do you think Moses and Aaron felt when Pharaoh’s magicians duplicated their miracles? (surprised, shocked, defeated, afraid, angry, concerned, other?)
4. Why do you think Pharaoh was so stubborn?
5. How important was the Nile River to Egypt? What do you think God was trying to tell the Egyptians? The Israelites?
6. **Read Exodus 8.** What questions do you have about what you’ve read? What stood out to you in this chapter and why?
7. Why does Pharaoh appeal to Moses and Aaron (v.8) when sorcery “works”? Why do you think the magicians have been able to match the first few plagues?
8. Given the timely answer to his ‘prayer’ (vv.9-15), how does Pharaoh react?
9. Why does God begin doing things the magicians could not? Why to you make of the magicians’ message to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God”?
10. Why do you think God begins to “deal different with the land of Goshen” where his people live (v.22)? Does God make any similar distinctions today between his followers and others? Why or why not?
11. What new “concession” does Pharaoh offer? Why do you think he withdrew it?
12. What attention getters (if any) do you see God using today (cf. the seals in Revelation 6 and the trumpets in Revelation 8-9)? Is anyone listening? Why or why not (cf. Rev. 920-21)?