



date

1.4



HE CHOSE TO DRAW CLOSER AND DECLARE TO ALL THAT EVEN THROUGH TRAGEDY, HE WOULD STILL CLAIM GOD AS HIS LORD.



Inspire (for parents)

Baptisms are always an amazing time of celebration, not only for the people who are declaring Jesus is Lord of their lives, but also for those of us who get the privilege of watching this life-changing act.

I have witnessed many of these special services, but there is one that truly stands out as the most memorable. The baptism service was on Father's Day, and a young man being baptized that day had recently experienced the death of his dad. When his father passed away, the church stepped in and surrounded this family with love and care.

Our church allows parents to participate in the baptism of their children. So when this young boy decided to be baptized, two of the elders of our church, who were friends of his father, stepped up to fill in the role that his father would have played.

There was not a dry eye in the house when the congregation realized what was happening. As this young boy was claiming God is Lord and that he wanted to follow Him all the days of his life, the faith community was stepping in and caring for him. The entire

congregation worshipped together that day, giving praise to God for such an awe-inspiring victory.

This young man could have decided to be mad at God for the death of his beloved father. Instead he chose to draw closer and declare to all that even through tragedy, he would still claim God as his Lord. The elders who stepped into the role of this boy's father could have been "too busy," but instead became a father to the fatherless and in so doing blessed everyone who witnessed this incredible act of obedience!

by Debbie Guinn

Getting Started

Scripture: Exodus 5—11 (Moses and Pharaoh)
Main Point: God Is the Lord, Part II

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

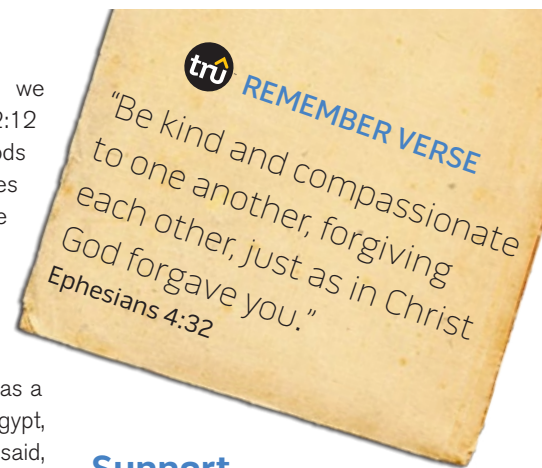
Equip (for parents)

Oftentimes it is through tragedy that we recognize God as the Lord. Exodus 12:12 says, "I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD." Scripture makes it clear that one reason God sent the plagues was to prove that the gods of Egypt were false.

When God changed the water to blood, God judged the Nile itself, also treated like a god. The plague of frogs was a judgment on ancient forms of idolatry in Egypt, which included frogs. And when "the LORD said, ... 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground ... [because] the dust will become gnats'" (Exodus 8:16), God made the very soil they worshipped a plague to them. Some of the gods of Egypt were identified with bulls, cows, rams, and other livestock, hence the plague on the livestock. Through the plague of hail, God proved there "is no one like me in all the earth" (Exodus 9:14), because He had power over the weather.

When God brought locusts that "covered all the ground until it was black ..." (10:15), God triumphed over the Egyptian god Osiris—the god of fertility and crops. The "darkness that [could] be felt" showed that God was greater than Ra and Horus, Egyptian sun gods.

Through all of the plagues, God undermined the relationship between Pharaoh and the Egyptians by proving Pharaoh was not a god. By defeating Pharaoh, God proved He alone had the right to His people; He, and He alone, had the right to receive their worship.



Support

(for parents & kids)

Sometime this week, read through the biblical account of the first plague on Egypt in **Exodus 7:1-24**. After you have read it, ask your kids to tell you their favorite part and share with them your favorite part. (Consider reading **Exodus 5-11**, one chapter per night!)

> JUST FOR FUN, try reading this passage with your kids outdoors. After you have read, ask your kids how they might have reacted to God's power to control nature. Point out that God was proving He alone is God!

When you are finished, share with your children that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear more in church this week. Close your time by praying and thanking God for being the Lord.

"I AM THE LORD."

