

Year 4

God is Pure and Holy 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God used, and is still using, the nation of Israel, to carry out His great plan for the earth.
- Because the Israelites were chosen to be the nation into which Jesus would be born, they had to remain pure and holy
- God required Israel to worship Him alone and no other gods
- God continually challenged the Israelites about holiness
- God chose Moses to lead a holy nation
- God judged those nations who worked against Him and worshipped other gods

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Cleaning up

Link between “God is Pure and Holy” and classroom topics:

Cleanliness is a symbol of holiness. God wants us to lead pure lives, pleasing to Him.

Values:

Integrity, honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice, goodness, holiness

Biography:

Daniel Bula

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1

God wants His people to be holy

Bible references

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart O Lord.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Exodus 1-3 God calls Moses

Introduction

Ask the students if they know the meaning of 'holiness'.

Definition of holiness: purity in thought, word and actions.

Ask them to think about pure water. How can pure water become impure?

What does the Bible mean when it says, 'Create in me a clean heart O Lord'? We all know that a heart is the organ inside us that pumps our blood to keep us alive. But we can also use the word 'heart' to mean our thoughts, our words and our actions. We can keep our heart pure by listening to what God says and doing what He says to do. Our hearts become impure when we do not listen to God and we go against Him. This is called 'sin'.

Holiness in Old Testament times

Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed, and it was God's plan right from back then that Jesus would come into the world to give people a chance to come back to Him. God chose one nation of people, the people of Israel, to be the nation into which Jesus would be born. The Old Testament tells us about this group of people and how God taught them to love and obey Him. God said that this nation must be holy. They were not to worship other gods like the people in the neighbouring countries. But they often disobeyed God and they often did worship other gods. Then God would bring them back to Himself again. God told them to offer sacrifices to say 'sorry' for their sins.

When Jesus died He became the sacrifice. Now we can be holy by the following steps.

Steps to holiness

Draw four steps and write inside the steps: 1. God is perfect 2. All have sinned. 3. Jesus died for our sin 4. Follow Jesus

Use the following to explain each step:

Step 1

The God of the Bible is the only God who is perfect. He has never done anything wrong, and will never do anything wrong.

Step 2

People on the other hand are not perfect or holy, and everyone has done something wrong in their lives. Because of this they cannot be a friend of God. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". (Rom 3:23)

Step 3

But wait! There is an answer! Jesus, who is God, came into the world and died on the cross, in order to take the punishment for our sin. Those who ask Jesus to forgive them and decide to follow Him, can now be friends with God. God no longer looks at our sin but sees us as holy, because Jesus is in our life.

Step 4

When we are a follower of Jesus, He expects us to live as Christians, pure in thought, word and actions.

Moses, chosen by God

God chose great leaders who spoke God's word to the people, to remind them about being holy. One of these great leaders was Moses.

You will remember that Moses was saved from death as a baby boy. The Israelites, (also called the Hebrews), were under the rule of the Egyptians at the time. Because they were rapidly growing in numbers, the Egyptian Pharaoh wanted the baby boys to be killed. But the baby Moses was placed by his mother in a basket boat to float on the river, hidden amongst the reeds. The Pharaoh's daughter discovered the baby and wanted to adopt him as her son. So Moses grew up in the palace.

When Moses grew up he learned that he had been adopted as a baby and he was actually a Hebrew, not an Egyptian. Moses was greatly troubled the way Pharaoh treated the Hebrew people; they were forced to work very hard as slaves, carrying huge blocks of stone for the Pharaoh's building projects.

One day Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, and he became so upset that he killed the Egyptian. After that Moses had to run away from Egypt because the Pharaoh found out what he'd done and was very angry with Moses.

Moses came to a place called Midian. There he stayed with some shepherds for several years. He married one of the daughters whose name was Zipporah. Moses became a shepherd, and took care of many animals.

As the years went by, the Pharaoh in Egypt died, but the Hebrews were still slaves and they prayed to God for help. God heard their prayer. He had a rescue plan that was now going to take place.

Moses was out looking after some sheep when he noticed a bush on fire. The bush was completely on fire, but the fire wasn't burning up the bush. There was no smoke, just fire.

Then a voice came from the bush: "Moses! Moses!" Moses knew that this was God.

Moses replied, "I am here." He continued to walk closer to the bush but as he got closer God said to him, "Don't come any closer; take off your sandals because you are in the presence of God. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

These were men that Moses had heard about. He knew that God had done great things for these men, and He believed in their God. So when Moses heard God say these words he was afraid and covered his face with his cloak. He thought that if he saw God's face he would die because God is so bright and powerful.

Then God said to Moses, "I have seen all the pain my people have had to go through in Egypt. I have heard their prayers and want to save them from their slavery. I want to take them to another place where there is good land and plenty of milk and honey. So Moses, I am sending you to free the Israelites from Pharaoh."

"But God," said Moses, "I am just an ordinary person. Pharaoh won't listen to me," Moses said in disbelief.

And God said, "I will be with you and will help you. So go to the Israelites and tell them I have sent you and I have heard their prayers, and will send them to a better place. Don't worry! They will listen to you. But be patient because Pharaoh won't listen until he sees many signs and is punished, but after that he will let you go."

Moses still didn't think he was the right man for the job. "God, what if the Israelites don't believe me, what if they say, 'I think you're lying, God didn't talk to you.'"

Then the Lord said to him, "Throw your staff on the ground." Moses did as he was told and his staff became a snake right before his eyes. Then the Lord said, "Pick it up by the tail." Moses didn't like snakes but he obeyed God. He grabbed it by the tail and it turned from a snake, to his smooth wooden staff, (a walking stick).

Even after these signs Moses still didn't think he could do it. Finally God said to Moses, "I will send your brother Aaron to help you. I will help both of you, and give you the words to say." After that the bush stopped burning and God was gone.

So Moses put his sandals back on and made sure to take his staff, and went to get his wife and two sons. They traveled by donkey to Egypt where Moses would begin his work for God, who would set the Israelites free.

Discussion

1. Why did God choose a special group of people? (Jesus would be born into one of their families.)
2. Who were these people? (The Israelites, the Jews, the Hebrews are all the same people)
3. Why did they need a leader? (God wanted them to travel to a new land, and He wanted them to be holy.)
4. When did God choose Moses? (From when he was a baby boy)
5. Why did God want people of Israel to be holy? (They were to be the nation that Jesus would be born into; they had to show the world how to obey God.)
6. What did they have to do to be holy? (Obey God and never worship other gods)
7. What did they have to do to say 'sorry' for their sins? (Offer a sacrifice.)
8. What is a 'sacrifice'?
9. How can we become holy today? (Four steps)
10. How did Moses know that God was telling him to be the leader? (The burning bush and the snake)
11. How did Moses feel about becoming the leader? (He thought he was not good enough.)
12. What did God say about this? ("I will be with you and I will send your brother Aaron to help you.")
13. How would you know if God wanted you to do something for Him?
14. What if you were too afraid to do it? What would you do?

God is Pure and Holy

Week 2

God provided an escape plan

Bible references

Genesis 3 Sin enters the world.

Exodus chapters 7-11 God's strategy for the rescue

Deuteronomy 7:12 & 15; Exodus 15:26 "If you pay attention to my commandments, I will put none of these diseases upon you. I am the Lord who heals you."

Discussion

What happened to God's beautiful world after Adam and Eve sinned?

Did sickness and suffering exist in the world when God first made it?

God's beautiful world was once pure, perfect and holy. There was no sin, sickness or suffering. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God these things entered the world. The fact that people suffer from pain, hunger, sickness and sadness makes God sad too. It was not God's original plan. It also made God sad that the people He had made could not be friends with Him. So God made a plan that would allow people to be friends with God.

Bible lesson Part 1: God prepares for the rescue

It made God sad that His special people, the Israelites were suffering under the cruel Egyptian Pharaoh. They were treated very badly as slaves, but God had a rescue plan for them.

It was not easy. It would take time, as the Pharaoh's heart was very hard. He was determined to keep the Israelites as slaves.

God decided that the person to be in charge of the rescue plan was Moses. Moses knew that God's special power was upon him for the dangerous and very important task of setting the Israelites free from Egyptian rule.

Again and again Moses went to the Pharaoh and said, "God says 'Let my people go'". Each time the Pharaoh said, "No!" and his heart became more and more hardened. The Israelites worked day after day making bricks for the Egyptians. If they did not work hard enough they were whipped. The Israelites cried to God to save them but the Pharaoh would not change his mind. There was now only one thing God could do. That was to send plagues and disasters to Egypt to show the Pharaoh that God was very serious about the release of the Israelites. Sending disaster to Egypt would be the only thing that would make the Pharaoh agree to letting God's people go. In fact, God had to send ten different disasters to Egypt before the Pharaoh would finally let the Israelites go.

Bible Lesson Part 2: Disasters upon Egypt

Disaster no. 1 The Nile River is turned to blood (Exodus 7:14-25)

God told Moses that Pharaoh's heart and the heart of the Egyptian people had become very hard because of all the wicked things they had done to the people of Israel. He told Moses to go and stand by the River Nile. God said to Moses, "When Pharaoh comes to have his bath in the river, tell him that you will strike the Nile with your stick and it will turn to blood if he will not let the people go."

This would be a terrible disaster for the Egyptians because if the river turned to blood then all the fish would die, the river would stink and the Egyptian people would have no water to drink. Pharaoh did not take notice of God's warning, and sure enough, all the water became blood. Even the water that was in their houses in jars became blood. But still the Pharaoh would not let the people of Israel go.

Disaster no. 2 Frogs invade Egypt (Exodus 8:1-15)

God sent millions of frogs into the land of Egypt, so everywhere the people went there were frogs. There were frogs in their beds, their cooking pots, their cupboards, their clothes and their shoes. Frogs covered the land. Finally Pharaoh had had enough so he called Moses. He said to Moses, "Tell your God that He is the winner. Take these frogs out of my land and I will let the people of Israel go." Then suddenly all the frogs died, and they were heaped up in huge piles in the streets and fields. The smell was terrible. However now that the frogs were no longer troubling the people Pharaoh broke his promise and wouldn't let the people go.

Disaster no. 3 The Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19)

Then God sent lots of stinging insects like mosquitoes, (called gnats), onto the land. The people were driven mad with the itchy bites. Pharaoh's magic men said that the God of Moses was doing this, and Pharaoh should listen to Him. However Pharaoh would not take their advice.

Disaster no. 4 Flies (Exodus 8:20-32)

Then God sent flies into Egypt in dark clouds, and they swarmed everywhere. The people could not speak because if they opened their mouths they would swallow flies. They could not keep the flies out of their houses, their food or their water. Flies were everywhere except in the houses of the Israelite people. Pharaoh said that the people could go and Moses prayed to God that the flies would be removed. Not one fly remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Disaster no. 5 Plague on the animals (Exodus 9:1-7)

Then God sent a plague on the animals that the Egyptians used for food. All their cows, goats and sheep died, but the animals belonging to the Israelites did not die. And still Pharaoh would not let the people go.

Disaster no. 6 Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)

God then told Moses to take some fine dust out of the ovens they used for baking the bricks. Moses was to throw the dust into the air. Suddenly the dust spread all over the land of Egypt and settled on the people. Boils, (sores), broke out on all the animals that were left,

the donkeys, horses and camels, and on the Egyptian people as well. But still Pharaoh would not let the Israelite people leave the land of Egypt.

Disaster no. 7 Hail (Exodus 9:13-35)

By now God was very angry with Pharaoh because he had made so many promises and broken them all. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that he was going to send hail. Hail is small drops of ice that fall during a bad thunderstorm in cooler climates. The sky became dark and thunder started. Huge hailstones fell, destroying the plants in the fields used by the Egyptians for food; the barley, the corn and the wheat, all was now ruined. Their grapes, olives and vegetables were now spoiled too.

Pharaoh called Moses and said, “The people can go, but just stop the hail!” Moses prayed and the hail suddenly stopped. For a while the fields were covered in a layer of thick white hail, but the sun came up and melted it. Then Pharaoh hardened his heart again and would not let the people go.

Disaster no. 8 Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)

God sent locusts into the land of Egypt, and all the grain and corn that was lying on the ground, and all the new plants that had sprung out of the ground, were eaten by locusts. Locusts are like grasshoppers. They made a carpet on the ground as they moved from place to place eating everything.

Disaster no. 9 Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)

Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven, and a thick darkness came over the land of Egypt. The darkness was so black that it was like a blanket that blotted out every bit of light. The darkness stayed for three days, so people could not move around. Only where the Israelites lived did the sun shine. Pharaoh said to Moses, “Take your children and go, but you must leave your animals here.” But Moses said no; they must take everything.

Disaster no. 10 Death of the first son (Exodus 11)

This was the final disaster and it caused Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. It was most serious. God said that if Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go the first born of every Egyptian family would die.

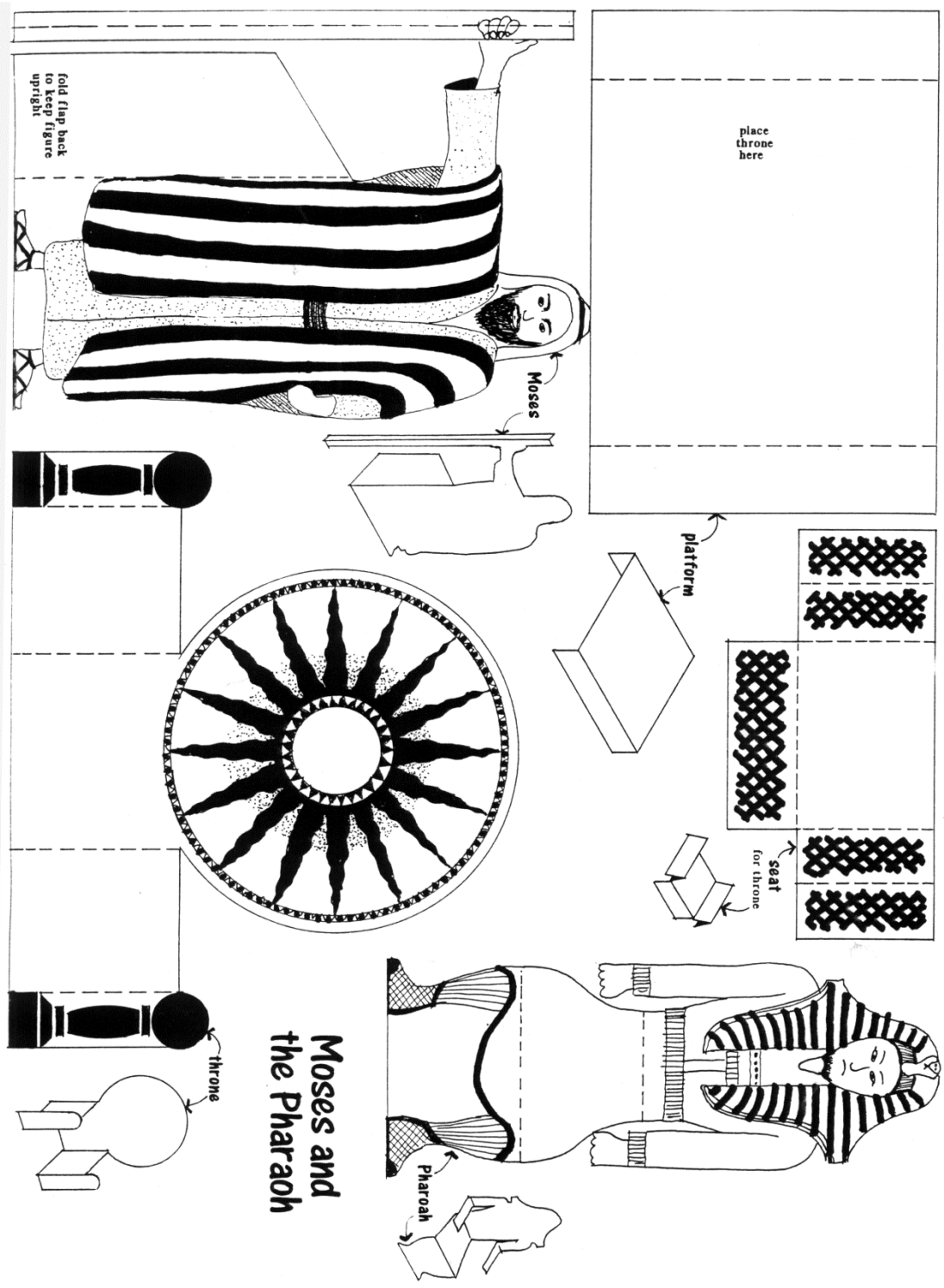
Discussion

God is love, so why did He send the disasters upon the Egyptians?

God’s love for the whole world is great. In order for His plan to be carried out, to save the world through Jesus, He had to judge the Egyptians for their cruelty to the Israelites.

God had a rescue plan for the Israelites, but this was part of a bigger rescue plan for the whole world. That was, to bring Jesus into the world. Israel therefore needed to be a holy nation. They needed to be a strong nation to carry out God’s plan. They needed to be set free from the cruel Egyptian Pharaoh.

Art/Craft: Make a cardboard model of Moses and the Pharaoh.



God is Pure and Holy

Week 3

God rescues those who trust Him.

Bible references

Exodus 9-11 God's strategy for the rescue

Psalm 91 No plague shall come near your dwelling.

Exodus 12 The escape.

Bible lesson: Disaster no. 10 and the Escape

God told Moses that the tenth disaster would be the final one. After this the Israelites were to escape. God told Moses exactly how the people were to prepare for the escape. Moses gathered the people together.

"Tonight we are leaving Egypt," he said. "Tonight at midnight, God will send the angel of death into Egypt. The oldest child in every family will die. However God will protect all the Israelite children. Every family must kill a lamb. Use the blood to make a sign on the door-posts of your houses. The blood should be placed down the side posts and across the top. Then when the angel of death goes through Egypt he will pass by your door and your oldest child will be safe."

God also told the Israelites to roast the lamb and eat it, and to make some flat bread like roti. This is bread without yeast. Yeast makes the bread soft and spongy but it takes a whole day to rise. There was no time to wait for the bread to rise so they ate flat bread instead.

The angel of death passed through Egypt at midnight, exactly as God had said, but the Israelite children were protected.

As the sun rose in the sky next morning, there was weeping and wailing and crying all over the land as the first-born sons were found dead. Pharaoh's own son was dead as well.

Then Pharaoh sent word to Moses, "Go. Leave Egypt! Take your children and your animals with you. Go before we all die!"

So God's people left Egypt that night. God went with them to show them the way to their new land.

Discussion

How were the first-born sons of the Israelites saved from death?

The blood of the lambs that were killed saved the Israelite boys.

How is this like the blood of Jesus when He died on the cross?

Art/Craft

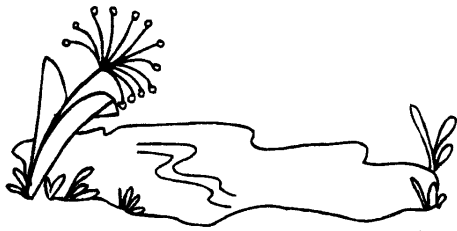
Illustrate one of the plagues of Egypt, OR, draw the Israelites with all their animals and belongings leaving Egypt.

Puzzle

There are six words missing from this message. Use the words below to complete the message from Psalm 91.

GOD HAS _____ HIS _____ IN _____ OF YOU. THEY WILL _____ OVER YOU _____ YOU _____.

Missing words: ANGELS, WHEREVER, GO, PUT, CHARGE, WATCH.



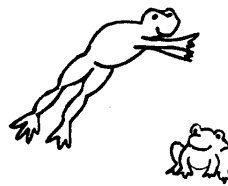
Blood



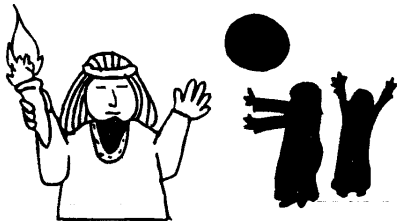
Flies



Boils



Frogs



Darkness



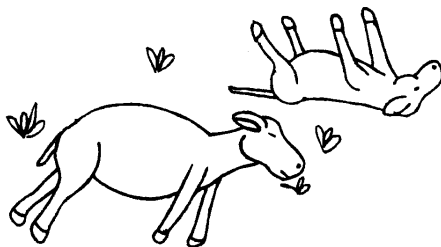
Hail



Death of a 1st son



Gnats



Locusts

God is Pure and Holy

Week 4

God rescue plan for all people.

Bible references

Exodus 14 God protects His people again. He opens the Red Sea.

John 3:16 God's rescue plan for us

Bible lesson: God Rescues His People Again

The Pharaoh was sorry he had let the Israelites go. Even though God had sent ten disasters, Pharaoh had not learnt his lesson. He called his soldiers together.

"Get ready!" he commanded. "Take your horses and chariots and go after the Israelites. Bring them back to Egypt."

The Israelites were a big group. With their children and animals and all their goods they could only move slowly. It did not take long for Pharaoh's army to catch up. The Israelites saw them coming, and were terribly afraid. The Red Sea was in front of them and they had no boats. They shouted to Moses, "What have you done to us bringing us out of Egypt? We should have stayed in Egypt and remained slaves." But Moses trusted God.

"Don't be afraid," Moses said, "Just stand where you are and watch, and you will see the wonderful way the Lord will rescue today."

Moses went into his tent to talk to God. The Lord spoke to him and said, "Ask the people to move forward. Use your rod. Hold it over the water and the sea will open up a path before you and all the people of Israel shall walk through on dry ground."

God had been leading the Israelites by a big cloud. God was in the cloud. Suddenly the big cloud was behind God's people. The sky became black over the Egyptians, but over the Israelites it was bright daylight. The Egyptians had to stop their chariots and rest because the darkness was like a thick blanket over them. They couldn't see the Israelites.

Moses went to the edge of the sea and stood there with his hand and rod stretched out over the water. Suddenly the water began to separate at the point where Moses held the rod. The sea rolled back on either side of Moses' rod, until it formed a huge wall of water on each side. Then a wind blew from the east all night, and the sea bottom became dry! What an amazing sight!

The people began walking. They walked in a straight line while the water rolled up on either side of them. They would probably have been afraid, thinking that the wall of water might come crashing down on top of them. The children held their parent's hands while they walked quickly across.

But there were so many Israelites that it took hours to cross over. Now the sun was up and the Egyptians were coming after them again! Some of the members of Pharaoh's army started to follow the Israelites across through the walls of water. But God made the wheels of their chariots get stuck in the mud and fall off.

When all of the people of Israel had crossed to the other side, the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand again over the sea, so that the waters will return." Moses did that, and suddenly the walls of water came crashing down. The Egyptians were running and riding their horses as fast as they could, back to where they came from, but they were trapped in the falling water and no-one survived.

Discussion: God's protection and rescue plan

Why did Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go free?

Was it because Moses was a very powerful man, or was it because of God's power?

Why did God allow the Egyptians to suffer the disasters?

God always gives people plenty of time to stop doing wrong, and to ask for forgiveness. He gave the Pharaoh and the Egyptians plenty of warnings and plenty of time to do the right thing. But the Egyptian enemies refused to obey God even though He proved Himself in so many ways through mighty miraculous deeds. God did not want them to die, but because He is pure and holy, had to judge them for their sin.

We have seen through the Exodus story that God had a rescue plan for His children. However God is not just concerned about the Israelites. He has a rescue plan for all people. When people became separated from God through sin in the Garden of Eden, God needed to make a rescue plan so that all people could once again be friends with God. God's rescue plan was to send Jesus. Because of Jesus we can be forgiven for the wrong things we do and become friends with God. Find out what John 3:16 says about God's rescue plan.

Activity

Make a summary of the Exodus story. Using a large sheet of paper, write down the main points, place them in correct sequence and illustrate the events.

