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**The Plagues**

**God's Power on the Line against Pharaoh**

***Exodus 7:8–10:29***

**Purpose:** To recognize the futility of trying to withstand God.

God's authority is on the line anytime a world leader like Pharaoh decides to take charge. It's also on the line when his children decide to play the game their own way. We have the benefit of looking at a historical book like Exodus to tell us the futility of resisting God. But somehow we find ourselves engaged in a recurring battle in our lives, not too dissimilar to Pharaoh's. Pharaoh opposed God, with devastating consequences. God will also challenge your right to do as you please. This lesson shows that it's futile to resist.

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**1.** In what circumstances have you recently been in a tug-of-war with God?

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**2.** Read Exodus 7:8–25. What was the sign of God's supremacy (vv. 8–13)?

What would this have done for Moses and Aaron?

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**3.** What was the condition of Pharaoh's heart (vv. 13–14, 22)?

How would such a spirit be manifested today?

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**4.**  Read Exodus 8. How did Pharaoh react to these “mighty acts of judgment,” as God called them (7:4; 8:8, 25–32)?

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**5.** What was the basic issue between God and Pharaoh (7:5, 17; 8:10, 22)?

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**6.** What new disclosure does God make to Pharaoh about his power (vv. 22–23)?

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**7.**  In what matters is God in conflict with earthly powers today?

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**8.**  Read Exodus 9. Some of the Egyptians responded positively to this outbreak of judgments (v. 20). How do people interpret natural disasters today?

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**9.** What pattern of behavior has by this time become well established in Pharaoh (8:15, 30–32; 9:34–35)?

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**10.** Read Exodus 10. Pharaoh tried to make deals with God (vv. 11, 24). How have you tried to offer God less than full surrender to the totality of his demands?

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**11.** When you are humbled by God, how can you regain your self-confidence and your trust in God?

Think of someone you know who has been humbled by God. How might you lift him or her up to Christ?