WEEK 12-13 **THE PLAGUES, PART 1**

**Family Discussion Exodus 7:14-9:12**

Read Exodus 7:14-9:12 aloud. (For an overview of the plagues, visit www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/thetenplagues.pdf.)

1. In your opinion, which of the first six plagues would be the hardest to endure? Why?
2. How would the first six plagues have impacted the Egyptians economically? Practically (in their dayto-day lives)? Psychologically?
3. By the third plague, Pharaoh’s magicians draw a correct conclusion. What is it (see 8:18-19)? Knowing that seven more plagues are coming, what does this tell us about Pharaoh’s resolve? His belief in the strength of his own gods?
4. What do you notice about Pharaoh’s responses to each of the plagues as they progress? How do his tactics change? What do they indicate he believes is true of Yahweh? Of himself?
5. Why did God send the plagues?
6. The Egyptians worshiped false gods, or idols. They worshiped the created things instead of the Creator. What do you love so much that it is hard for you to love God more than it?
7. How did God show His power over the Egyptian gods?
8. How can your family love each other and love God better?

**Closing**

Have you ever received a warning from God and continued in sin? What was the outcome? How would the outcome have been different if you had heeded earlier correction? Is there a warning you are currently choosing to ignore?

The first three plagues affect both the Egyptians and the Israelites, but the rest affect only the Egyptians. Why does God sometimes allow the just to suffer for the sins of the unjust? What should be our attitude in those times?

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

Look for opportunities this week in the course of everyday conversations to teach your family the true meaning of *love*—a caring commitment to God and others over yourself.

**Prayer/Praise Journal**

If you haven’t already, take the time to start a family Prayer/Praise Journal.

Review the prayers and praises that you have written down in your pray/praise journal. Celebrate the praises and recommit to praying for things not yet answered.

Write down any new prayer requests or praises your family may have. Routinely review and pray the prayer requests and praises written in the journal.