

LESSON 1: GOD IS AWESOME

- **Key Verse:** “Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You~ majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” Exodus 15:11
- **Teaching Passage:** The Plagues – Exodus 5-12
- **Supporting Texts:** Exodus 15:11, Deuteronomy 4:34, Deuteronomy 7:21, Nehemiah 1:5

TEACH - GOD IS AWESOME:

Get the discussion started by setting the stage for the story. Remind the kids that the book of Exodus starts with God’s chosen people enslaved in Egypt. Remind them that God had promised Abraham years before that He would give Abraham’s family the promised land. BUT one of Abraham’s great-grandsons – Joseph- had been sold into slavery in Egypt, then he moved his family to Egypt to protect them from a famine.... and now generations have passed and God’s people have grown into a big nation and the Egyptians have enslaved them. God’s people called out to God, and God sent Moses to rescue His people and bring them out of slavery.

After this brief introduction, skim through Exodus chapters 7-11 with the kids. (Have them open their Bibles and call out the things that they see- maybe headings in their Bibles or words they don’t know).

Work together to make a list of all of the plagues that God brought on the people of Egypt to show them that He is the **awesome** God who is God over all.

Choose one or two of the plagues and read through the section pertaining to those plagues and have a couple of kids act out what it would have been like to experience that plague and what it would have taught them about who God is or what He is like.

Afterwards, fill in the gaps in the story by briefly talking through the plagues and how they showed the people of Egypt that God is God of all (He is sovereign) and that God is **awesome**. Tell the kids that this story helps us to see that God is **awesome** as we see God doing *things that only He could do*....things that amaze and astound us....things that cause us to be in awe of His power, His sovereign rule, His authority over all things.

DEFINE AND REMEMBER:

To help the kids remember this truth about God, take a few minutes to define the attribute.

AWESOME = INSPIRING AWE OR AMAZEMENT.

EXPLAIN: talk about how although we use the word **awesome** to describe a good pizza (or other things) that when you really think about the word **awesome**, only God should be called **awesome** and He alone should inspire real awe or amazement. Have one of the kids define 'awe.' Talk about how awe is a sense of wonder or amazement that makes you think "oh wow!"

Since motions & actions help kids remember, choose an action for *AWESOME*. A *good motion might be to open your mouth and eyes wide and put your hands on the side of your face like you're saying WOW!*

MEMORY VERSE:

SAY: "This week's memory verse is **Exodus 15:11**. This verse was sung by Moses and all of the Israelites after God led them through the sea and out of Egypt. As they reflected on what God had just sung for them, they sang a song of praise."

Have the oldest boy in the group read this whole song (Exodus 15:1-18). After reading this song, have the other kids in the group point out the awe inspiring things that they heard in the Psalm.

If time allows, you may want to give kids time to illustrate the memory verse Provide pages with the verse printed across the top and crayons or pencils. They could (1) draw a picture of the awesome things that God did to rescue His people from Egypt, (2) draw word pictures to help them remember this verse or (3) draw a picture of the awesome way that God rescued His people through Jesus. Read the memory verse (**Exodus 15:11**) a few times together and do the motion for awesome.

SONGS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox1WEI84LSg>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__tLcv3jjjA

ACTIVITIES:

Boastful or Humble

Aske the children these questions. They can choose boastful or humble.

1. Jimmy came running home from school. He got an "A+" on today's quiz. He thanked his mom for encouraging him to study the night before. Was Jimmy boastful or humble?

Jimmy was humble because he thanked his mother for her encouragement.

2. Tammy looked around at the other girls in her classroom. None of them had as nice a dress as she did. She couldn't wait for someone to notice, so she told everyone how pretty her dress was. Was Tammy boastful or humble? _____

Tammy was boastful because she looked at outward appearances. She thought her dress was better than the other girls' dresses and went out of her way to tell the others how pretty it was.

3. Carl knew his parents were wealthy. He always got a large allowance. But all of his friends said Carl didn't act rich, instead he was very generous. Was Carl boastful or humble?

Carl was humble because although he knew he came from a wealthy family he didn't act like it. Carl was also very generous.

4. Liz was doing great in school, was captain of her soccer team, and had many friends. She didn't need to worry about Jesus right now in her life. Was Liz boastful or humble? _____

Liz was boastful because she thought her earthly accomplishments were all she needed. She foolishly didn't want Jesus in her life.

5. As James entered his friend's house, he noticed how old and dirty everything looked. He laughed and said, "Our furniture looks much nicer than yours." Was James boastful or humble? _____

James was boastful because he compared his possessions with what others had and would laugh at people who had less materially.

6. Justin saw the mess his younger sister made. There was mud all over the floor. He knew his mom would clean it up, but he decided to do it himself before she noticed. Was Justin boastful or humble? _____

Justin was humble because he didn't leave the mess for his mother to clean up, but rather took the initiative to clean up the mess his sister made without being asked.

GAME: LOVE CHARADES

MATERIALS:

Index cards (10-20) with prompts

Timer

Whiteboard or scoreboard

PREPARATION:

Write prompts on each index card (each prompt should be an example of how the children can show God's love to others). If desired, you may use some or all of the following prompts:

1. Pray for a friend.
2. Sweep the floor.
3. Feed the hungry.
4. Give money to the poor.
5. Write thank-you letters.
6. Hug someone.
7. Read the Bible to someone.
8. Hold the door open.
9. Set the table for dinner.
10. Rake your neighbor's leaves

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Split the children into two groups. Explain to the class that this game involves acting out the clues on the cards to their teams (one at a time) without making any sounds. Tell the children that each clue is an example of a loving action. Each person will have one minute to act out his or her chosen card. However, the other team will receive a chance to guess the clue if the actor's team is unsuccessful. Each correctly guessed clue receives one point. Allow each child to have at least one turn acting out a clue. If there are not enough children for two teams play as one large group and have everyone guess. Keep points on the correct answers.

Conclude by emphasizing that showing God's love to others is extremely important if we want them to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Serving others in love isn't necessarily difficult, but we must ask God to help us become more humble, kind-hearted, and sacrificial so others will be drawn to Him through our actions.

GAME: Blindfold Drawing

Discussion point: God gives every person different gifts and abilities; no one person is more important than the next. Try one or more of these activities.

- Blindfold a child and ask them to draw a picture of something simple. Guide their hands to the paper, but leave the rest to the child. Next, have the child draw the same item with their eyes open. Compare the results.
- Play Tape the Tail on the Bunny. Print or draw a picture of a rabbit on some poster paper (minus the fluffy tail). Put tape on some cotton balls and have your children take turns trying to accurately tape a tail on the rabbit while wearing a blindfold.
- Stand outside a glass window or glass door and take turns trying to communicate with those inside. A vehicle works well because it's somewhat soundproof.

Activity: Pride Comes Before a Fall

Set up an obstacle course of soft pillows, then try to make it through blindfolded.

Discussion point: Pride makes us blind to our sinfulness, and to wisdom from God and others.

Set up a room as a “pride obstacle course” by padding the floor with cushions, mattresses and blankets. To illustrate how pride causes us to be “blind” to our own sins, begin by blindfolding one child. Have each of your children try to walk from one end of the room to the other without falling over the soft obstacles in their path. If a child is not comfortable wearing a blindfold, have them simply walk through the room with their eyes closed.

After each child has tried the “pride obstacle course,” discuss how pride can make us “blind” to our own sinfulness so that we see no need to repent of our sin before God.

REVIEW:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and provide markers or colored pencils. Encourage them to write the words awesome somewhere on the paper and then write or draw something to help them remember this attribute of God. They could write the definition for awesome or the memory verse or they could illustrate any of the passages you read about God being awesome. After a few minutes, bring the group back together and give kids time to share what they have drawn or written.

PRAYER:

Pray that the kids in the group would come to know God more and more each week through this study and that they would be reminded this week of God’s awesomeness as they think about the fact that Jesus died on the cross in their place.

