

## Telling the Passover Story

*You'll need: a plastic frog, a plastic insect, and a ping pong ball.*

*Song: "Go Down, Moses"*

Moses: The song we just sang tells the story of Moses and his people, the Hebrews, who were slaves in Egypt, working all day long for Pharaoh in the hot sun. Now we're going to act out the story of the Passover together. I am going to be Moses, and Margaret is going to be Miriam. Does anyone know who Miriam is? I need all the children here to be the Hebrew slaves. Parents, you are the Egyptians and Adrian is your Pharaoh.

*Pharaoh puts on his crown.*

Miriam (*to kids*): Fellow slaves, do you like working in the hot sun all day, not getting paid any money for your work, making bricks out of mud?

Kids: No!

Moses: I will go to Pharaoh and tell him that we are tired of being slaves and want to go into the wilderness to pray to our God.

*Moses turns to Pharaoh.*

Moses: Pharaoh, my people are tired of being slaves. Our God, the God of the Hebrews has spoken to me, and wants us to go and celebrate a holy festival in the wilderness. Will you let us go?

Pharaoh: Who is this God you speak of? I do not know your God. Why should I listen to a God I've never heard of before. Your God must not be very powerful! No. I will not let you go.

Moses: So that you will know the power of our God, a plague of frogs will come upon all of Egypt. And there will be frogs everywhere – in your

streets, in your homes, even in your beds at night...then you will let my people go!

*Kids hand their frog to their parents and make ribbit noises.*

Miriam: People of Egypt, do you like having these frogs everywhere?

Parents: No!

Miriam: Well, tell your Pharaoh how you feel about it.

Parent #1: Last night there was a frog on my pillow! Make the frogs go away!

Moses: Well, Pharaoh, you have seen the power of our God. NOW will you let my people go into the wilderness?

Pharaoh: You say your God has sent frogs, but I have royal magicians who can make the frogs go away. The idols of Egypt are more powerful than your God, and I will not let you go!

Moses: Since you still do not know the power of our God, a plague of insects will come upon your land. They will eat all your crops and infect your animals with disease so that you will know what it means to be hungry, and they will buzz in your ears so that you will not be able to sleep. Then you will know our God.

*Kids hand their bug to your parents and make buzzing noises.*

Miriam: People of Egypt, do you like all these insects infesting your country?

Parents: No!

Miriam: Well, then tell your Pharaoh to let our people go!

Parent #2: The insects have destroyed all my cornfields and have infected my cows with disease so that they have all died. Please make the bugs go away!

Pharaoh: People of Egypt, listen. I need lots more palaces and nice buildings. If I let the slaves go, who will build them? Do you want to work all day in the hot sun? I need their labor, so I will not let them go.

Moses: You have seen God's power a second time, and yet you still will not let us go and celebrate our holy festival in the wilderness. Our God will again show you the power of the Lord. Fierce storms of hail and thunder will rain down upon you and your whole country until you let us go. Then you will know the power of the God of the Hebrews!

*Kids throw their ping-pong balls up into the air and make thunder and lightning noises.*

Miriam: People of Egypt, do you like all this hail and thunder?

Parents: No!

Miriam: Well, then tell your Pharaoh to let our people go!

Parent #3: Pharaoh, these hailstones have broken through my roof, and it has been weeks since we have seen the sun. You should let these people go!

Pharaoh: No! I will not let them go. Because of they have caused these storms of hail, I will make them work even harder and produce twice as many bricks each day.

Moses: Pharaoh, because your heart is so hard, the land has become dark. If you do not repent, God will be forced to take from you the thing you love the most. Tonight, when you go to sleep, God will pass over Egypt and take away your first-born son, and the first-born sons of all the families in

Egypt. When this tragedy has occurred, you will be sad and angry, and you will no longer want us here.

Pharaoh: I do not care what you say. I will never let you go. You will be slaves in Egypt forever!

Miriam: Fellow slaves, we must hurry and get ready to leave early tomorrow morning. Pack all your things, eat only a quick and simple dinner, for tonight and the angel of death will pass over Egypt and God will take all the first-born children of Egypt to Himself. Let us all bow our heads and observe a moment of silence for those children.

*All bow their heads to observe a moment of silence.*

Moses: Pharaoh, the angel of death has passed over Egypt, and God has taken the first-born of Egypt to Himself. Do you repent of your evil ways? Will you finally let us go?

Pharaoh: I have lost what I love most, and I am overwhelmed with grief. Go, Moses, take your people and leave immediately. Go out into the wilderness, and never come back.

Moses: People of Israel, let us leave this sad country and enter into the wilderness. Our journey will be long and hard, but God has promise to bring his people into His Kingdom. Let us never forget the power of God, nor the great cost of our redemption in Egypt.