God said: "I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth." (Exodus 9:14)

Almighty Lord, there are many in this world who seek to have power over others and who do not respect that you are creator and ruler of all. Grant us grace to humbly submit to your power and yours alone, that we would follow your will and seek your ways. Thank you for your care and protection in our lives for without you, we would be lost and alone. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Introduction

Through Moses and Aaron, God had sent the message to Pharaoh to set his people free from their slavery in Egypt. Working many signs and wonders, God revealed his power to the Egyptians. Through ten terrifying plagues, the Egyptians were humbled.

Read: Exodus 9:13-26

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

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The Biblical Context

For many years, the Israelites endured a period of slavery in Egypt. As we read in the first chapters of Exodus, the Pharaoh had even tried to limit the population by killing all the baby sons born to the Hebrew people. But God never abandoned his people.

The word Exodus means "to leave." At this time, God raised up Moses as a prophet and deliverer in the period that shares the name of the book. Through many signs and wonders God revealed his power and freed his peoples. The Lord showed himself to be greater than all.

This important time in history is often referred back to in Scripture as a foreshadowing of our deliverance in Christ from the bondage to sin.

Discussion Questions

1. In a Bible dictionary, online, or by going through Exodus 6-9, can you list all ten plagues in order? What number is the plague of today's lesson?

1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

2. Pay close attention to what God says to Pharaoh in verses 13-16. What was God's primary purpose in sending the plagues? What did he intend to prove?

3. Did all the people of Egypt respond to Moses' warning in the same way the Pharaoh did?

4. Reread verses 20-21. How are these verses reflected in the lesson taught by Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27? What is the key to the different outcomes?

5. Visual dramatizations of this story have portrayed it in different ways. Was this a hail storm with flashes of lightning, or burning hail falling from the sky? By the description given in verses 23-25, what do you picture happened that day?

6. In response to the plagues, Scripture says, "Pharaoh's heart was hardened" (Exodus 7:13-14). Sometimes it says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (8:15), but at other times that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (9:12). Is there a difference? Who is the cause of what happened?

7. In Romans 9:14-24, read what Apostle Paul says about God and the purpose God had for Pharaoh. Does this seem unfair? How does Paul respond? What point is Paul trying to make about the nature of God's grace vs. human action?

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