

God Cares for His People

Lesson 10



Scripture: Exodus 7–13













Bible Memory: 1 Peter 5:7

Focus: ♥ God can do anything.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotions

God never changes. In a world that craves the latest and newest, this phrase may not stir our hearts. But the powerful God who inflicted plagues on the Egyptians to free His people is the same powerful God who today can free us from our bondage. He is the God who heals relationships and works for good in our lives. God has not changed. He is still all-powerful. Acknowledge His supremacy. Praise Him, for God can do anything.

Lesson 10 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one of these activities to help children <i>discover things people can and can't do</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step "I Can" Tic-Tac-Toe</p> <p> Option Challenging Art</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I Can" Tic-Tac-Toe reproducible page • none • <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 Bible Memory Poster 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • paper, pencils • none
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use all of these activities to help children <i>describe how God showed He can do anything</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Exodus 7–13</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory 1 Peter 5:7</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 7 story figures, easels, and circles 10b–10m and sheet 8 story figures 10a and 10n/10o; <i>Teaching Picture</i> 10 • <i>Activities</i> p. 23, <i>Resources</i> sheet 7 plague circles 10d–10m • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, ruler, 10 craft sticks, tape • pencils • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, balloons
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>name times when God can help them</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step God Can Do Anything</p> <p> Option Through the Hole</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 24 • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • poster board, scissors, marker, tape, paper • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>remember God can do anything</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step "God Can Help Me" Game</p> <p> Option "God Can!" Cans</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • <i>Activities</i> pp. 23 and 24 • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 sheets of construction paper, marker, masking tape, beanbag • empty soup cans, construction paper, scissors, markers, tape, plain paper • none

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one of these activities to help children **discover things people can and can't do**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 3 page.

Quick Step “I Can” Tic-Tac-Toe

Gather children in a circle. SAY: **Let's play a game and discover some things people in our class can do.** Distribute the reproducible pages and pencils. Tell the children to find classmates who can do the things shown. When they find someone who can do a particular task, that person should write her name in that space on the game board. Offer to help children who have difficulty with speaking or writing. The goal is to get three names in a row—vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

ASK: **What are some things you can do?**
What are some things you can't do or have a hard time doing?

SAY: **There are lots of things we can do, and there are lots of things we can't do. We're going to find out today that ♥ God can do anything.**

Option Challenging Art

Gather children at tables. SAY: **Let's see if you can do a fun challenge.** Pass out paper and pencils. Tell the children to draw a flower. Then have them draw a flower with their eyes closed. Next have the children turn their papers over and draw an animal with their non-dominant hand. Then have them try to draw an animal with the pencil between clasped hands.

ASK: **Which ways could you draw a good picture?**
Which ways could you not draw a good picture?
What are some other things you can do?
What are some other things you can't do?

SAY: **There are lots of things we can do, and there are lots of things we can't do. We're going to find out today that ♥ God can do anything.**

Bible Memory 1 Peter 5:7

SAY: **Our Bible Memory is 1 Peter 5:7.** Display the poster. Point to the pictures and words as you read the verse aloud. Lead the children in reading the verse with you; tell them to emphasize the word *all*. Read the verse together again, but this time emphasize the word *your*.

ASK: **What do you think the word *anxiety* means?** (problems, fears, worries) Ask the children to name some problems, fears, or worries they have.

SAY: **It's good to know God cares for us and that He can help us with all our problems. Today we'll learn that ♥ God can do anything.**

Focus

♥ God can do anything.

Materials

copies of the “I Can” Tic-Tac-Toe reproducible page, pencils



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. The “I Can” Tic-Tac-Toe activity is also provided with the lesson 10 printable files on the *Resources* CD.



See the *Resources* CD lesson 10 printable files for another way you can offer this activity.

Materials

paper, pencils



Teaching Tip

When choosing which Focus In activity you will offer, think about the children in your class. Start each lesson with something that will be fun and successful for everyone.

Materials

Resources sheet 2 Bible Memory Poster



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ God can do anything.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **describe how God showed He can do anything.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

God had a plan to get the Israelites out of Egypt. He chose Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to let the people go. Archaeology reveals that a snake on Pharaoh's crown symbolized power and wisdom. Scripture tells us that Aaron's staff became a snake and swallowed the snakes of Pharaoh's sorcerers. The outcome was already clear—God was more powerful.


When God sent the first nine plagues, He showed total control over the world He created, as well as over the perceived power of Egypt's many gods. The people of Egypt worshipped the Nile River, frogs were a divine symbol of fertility, and their sun god was considered the divine father of Pharaoh. What did God do? God turned the Nile River to blood, frogs invaded the land—and died, and darkness covered the sun. It was obvious that the one true God had power and authority over Egypt's man-made gods.

When the last plague, the death of Egypt's firstborn sons, occurred, Pharaoh's son died. This affected Pharaoh not only personally as a father but also politically, for the heir to his throne was gone. Pharaoh finally realized God's sovereignty and let the Israelites go.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the *Resources* CD unit 3 Worship Time Ideas printable file.

Materials

Bibles; *Resources* sheet 7 
Aaron and Pharaoh
Figures 10b, 10c and easels and
Plagues Story Circles 10d-10m;
sheet 8 Moses and Story Figures
10a and 10n/10o; ruler; 10 craft
sticks; tape; *Teaching Picture* 10
(optional: *Resources* CD, CD
player)



Before Class

Assemble Moses figure 10a, folding and taping the flaps together to form a base. Attach easels to 10b and 10c. Attach a craft stick to each of the plague circles, 10d-10m. Tape the pillars of fire and cloud back-to-back on a ruler.

Bible Exploration Exodus 7-13

SAY: Our Bible story today is from the Old Testament book of Exodus. Exodus comes right after Genesis. At the beginning of Exodus, Moses is a baby; by chapter 7, he is a man. Help the children find Exodus 7:7 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud. **SAY: Help me tell the story. When you hear the word *but*, shake your head, and say, "That didn't change the king's mind!" Listen for ways God showed He could do anything.** Say the word *but* in an exaggerated fashion to signal the children. Display the story figures and ask children to hold the plague circles as prompted.

SAY: God's people, the Israelites, had a big problem. They were slaves in Egypt. They had to work very, very hard. They were sad and miserable. They prayed to God for help, and He heard their prayers. Show 10a. **Moses had grown up in Egypt, living as a son of the king's daughter. God told Moses he was going to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses, along with his brother Aaron, went to the king to ask him to let God's people leave Egypt.** Show 10b and 10c. **The king said, "No!" He wanted God's people to stay and work for him.**

So God sent plagues, or troubles, on the Egyptian people. First, all the water became blood. Show 10d. There was no water for the Egyptians to drink. All the fish died. But (kids say "that didn't change the king's mind!").

Next God sent a plague of frogs. Show 10e. Frogs hopped into ovens and onto people. But (kids say "that didn't change the king's mind!"). **Then came a plague of gnats (show 10f), followed by a plague of flies. Show 10g. Although flies were everywhere in the Egyptians' houses, there were no flies in the homes where the Israelites lived. But** (kids say "that didn't change the king's mind!").

God sent more plagues. Next came a plague on animals. Show 10h. All the animals that belonged to the Egyptians died. Then came a plague of boils. Show 10i. Nasty boils broke out on the skin of all the Egyptian people and all their animals. The seventh plague was hail. Show 10j. Huge pieces of hail fell and killed all the Egyptian people and animals that were outside. **But** (kids say “that didn’t change the king’s mind!”).

God sent another plague—locusts! Show 10k. The large, noisy bugs covered and ate everything. No green plant or tree was left. Plague nine was darkness. Show 10l. Total darkness covered Egypt for three days. The Egyptian people couldn’t see anything or go anywhere. **But** (kids say “that didn’t change the king’s mind!”).

God warned His people to get ready for the last plague. He told them to paint their doorframes with lamb’s blood. Then came the tenth, and final, plague. Show 10m. All the firstborn sons in Egypt died. Even the king’s oldest son died. Not one of the sons born to God’s people died. God kept His people safe.

The king of Egypt called for Moses and said, “Go! Leave us alone. Go worship your God.” God’s people, the Israelites, left Egypt in the middle of the night. By day God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. Show 10o. By night He went ahead of them in a pillar of fire. Show 10n and Teaching Picture 10. God’s people knew God was taking care of them. They knew ♥ God can do anything.

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **How did God show He can do anything?** (He brought all kinds of plagues on the Egyptian people. He protected His people from the harmful plagues. He guided His people by a pillar of cloud and fire.)

SAY: **Let’s see what else you remember from the Bible story.** Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Read the directions and do the Yes, God Can! activity together.

For further review, lay all the plague circles facedown. Have kids take turns choosing circles and telling about the plagues pictured. See if they can lay the circles in order from the first to final plague. SAY: **God proved to both the Egyptians and the Israelites that He can do anything. We need to remember ♥ God can do anything.**

Bible Memory 1 Peter 5:7

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

Write “1 Peter 5:7” on the board and help the children find the verse in their Bibles. Remind them that 1 Peter is in the New Testament, near the end of the Bible. Ask the kids to read the verse together.

Form small groups of children and have each group stand in a circle. Give each group a balloon. Tell kids they are to say the memory verse, one word at a time, as they tap the balloon around the circle, not letting the balloon fall to the floor. If the balloon hits the floor, they should start again at the beginning of the verse. After groups have had time to say the verse several times, SAY: **You can say this verse whenever you need to remember that God cares for you and that ♥ God can do anything.**

Added Fun!

Play the first two stanzas of the Unit 3 Bible Rhythm Activity from the *Resources* CD track 5. Play again and invite kids to join in. Words can be found in the unit 3 printable files on the *Resources* CD.



Materials

Activities p. 23, pencils, *Resources* sheet 7
10 Plague Story Circles 10d-10m (optional: *Resources* CD track 6, CD player)



Option

Play the recorded Bible story from the *Resources* CD. Have kids join Pharaoh in saying, “No! You cannot go!”



Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, inflated balloons



Optional Bible Skill Builder

Two classroom tools provided on the *Resources* CD are the Old and New Testament books posters. Display the posters. Name books of the Bible and let children tell you whether the books are in the Old or New Testament.



Focus

♥ God can do anything.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **name times when God can help them.**

Materials

Activities p. 24



Teaching Tip

If personal family situations are mentioned during discussion activities, follow your congregation's policies in dealing with such issues.

Added Fun!

Let kids act out some things God can do.

Materials

prepared poster board, scissors, marker, tape, paper



Before Class

Cut five circles about the size of a small paper plate out of a piece of poster board. Write at the top of the poster board, "God can help me when . . ." Attach the poster board to the edge of a table or between two chairs.

Teaching Tip

If you have a large class, make two or more poster boards.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 10



Children who struggle with reading can be paired with confident readers. Let partners work together to identify and call out the pictured words.

Quick Step God Can Do Anything

SAY: Just as God cared for Moses and the Israelites, it is important for us to remember that God cares about us. God can help us anytime and anywhere, because ♥ God can do anything. Let's think about times when God can help us. Distribute the activity pages. Lead kids in talking about the pictures and things God can do to help in each situation. Suggest other times when kids may need God's help. Let kids tell whether they have ever experienced a particular situation by showing thumbs-up or thumbs-down. (Examples: God helped you make a new friend. God helped you to not be afraid. God helped you when you were sick.)

ASK: What are some other times when God can help you? Be prepared to share about a time when you needed help, and tell how God helped. This will help children who are hesitant to admit there are times when they need help.

Option Through the Hole

SAY: Just as God helped Moses and the Israelites, He wants to help us when we are trying to do something hard or going through a tough time. Let's name times when God can help us. We'll remember ♥ God can do anything! Read aloud the words on the poster board. Give the kids pieces of paper to wad up. One at a time, kids can name a time when they need God to help them. Then they can try to throw their paper wads through one of the holes. When a paper wad goes through a hole, everyone should shout: "God can do anything!"

ASK: When do we need God to help us? (when we're scared, when we're sick, when the weather is bad, when we are having problems with family members or friends, when we need forgiveness)

SAY: It's important to remember that God cares about us. He can help us anytime and anywhere, because ♥ God can do anything.

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

Read the rebus story, "The Class Field Trip." Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let the children say the pictured word. Talk about how Emily learned that God cares about us and wants to protect us.

ASK: Why were Carla and Emily scared? (Something was wrong with the bus.)

What did they do and what happened? (prayed to God; their prayer was answered)

When do you need to remember that ♥ God can do anything and He can help you?

Live It Out (5-10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **remember God can do anything.**

Focus

♥ God can do anything.

Quick Step “God Can Help Me” Game

SAY: **Let’s play a game and remember ♥ God can do anything.** Ask kids to name nine things God can do or times when God can help them. They can name things God did in the Bible story or times God can help that have been discussed in class. Quickly write each thing or time named on a separate sheet of construction paper. Tape the papers to the floor, three across and three down. Let kids take turns tossing a beanbag. The person who tosses the bag can say, “God can do anything. He can help when . . .” The sentence should be completed by telling what is written on the paper where the beanbag has landed. Close your class time with prayer, asking God to help the children remember that God cares for them and can help them because He can do anything.

Materials

9 sheets of construction paper, marker, masking tape, beanbag



Teaching Tip

If some children do not want to pray by themselves, offer to pray with them or have children pray in groups of two or three.

Option “God Can!” Cans



SAY: **We’ve talked about lots of things God can do, and we’ve named times when God can help us. Let’s make a craft that will help us remember ♥ God can do anything.** Distribute supplies. Have each child write “God Can!” on a precut piece of construction paper and decorate the paper as desired. Wrap the paper around an empty can and secure with tape. Let kids cut pictures from their activity pages that remind them of things God can do. They can draw on slips of paper additional pictures of things God can do or times when God can help them. They should place all the pictures in their cans.

SAY: **Take your cans home and put them where you will see them often. Whenever you are having a hard time, pull a paper from your can and remember ♥ God can do anything. He will help you. He cares for you.**

Materials

empty soup (or vegetable) cans (1 per child), construction paper, scissors, markers, tape, *Activities* pp. 23 and 24, plain paper



Before Class

Cut pieces of construction to fit around the cans you are providing. Cut 2" x 3" slips of plain paper for additional pictures kids may want to draw.

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 3 page.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

