

Memory Verse: “Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

Day 1: A Man Born Blind Is Healed Read [John 9:1–41](#).

QUES: What kinds of things frustrate you the most with the broken state of our world?

QUES: When or how have you been tempted to blame people for circumstances beyond their control?

QUES: When have you been frustrated with the way you see God working—or seemingly not working—in your life?

Activate This lesson deals with something difficult to come to grips with. We often hunt for both the cause and solution for brokenness in our life. We are tempted to look for someone to blame for every awful thing that happens. We try to look to ourself to help the world. But sometimes, the right response to suffering is to recognize our great need for God and His help.

Challenge This week, every time you hear about a tragedy on the news or social media, resist the urge to look for someone to blame. Instead, take the opportunity to pray that God would receive glory though the situation.

QUES: What is God saying to you about resisting the temptation to blame someone or something when you experience difficult situations?

Day 2: The Blame Game Read [Genesis 16:1–16](#). This is one of the saddest situations in the Bible, and one with far-reaching consequences. Abram and his wife Sarai (later called Abraham and Sarah) had been promised a wonderful, world-impacting future by God himself ([Genesis 12:1–3](#).) But time had gone by, and Sarai was struggling with infertility. How could they possibly have that wonderful future if she couldn’t have a baby? So she stopped trusting God and took matters into her own hands. She unintentionally caused a rivalry not only in her home, but eventually one between nations that still impacts the world today. In a time of real struggle and suffering, Sarai forgot to look to God. When the solution she created backfired spectacularly, she blamed her husband and mistreated her rival, letting her heart fill with anger and bitterness. Sound familiar? Then we see that even in the middle of suffering and seeming hopelessness, God’s goodness can shine through. When things don’t make sense, we can trust God. He sees, and He alone can bring real help.

QUES: What do you think Hagar was thinking as she fled from Abram and Sarai’s household?

QUES: How does this interaction challenge or strengthen your ideas about our brokenness and God’s goodness?

Day 3: God’s Own Plan Read [Genesis 42:1–24](#); [45:1–8](#). Joseph was Abraham’s great-grandson. He was well-loved, even spoiled, by his father Jacob. But as a young man, Joseph’s own brothers hated him enough to sell him into slavery. He had a life of suffering that few can match. Taken far away to Egypt, Joseph was falsely accused of sexually assaulting his master’s wife. Joseph was thrown into prison and seemingly forgotten. If anyone could have been bitter and full of blame toward others and even toward God, it was Joseph. And instead of rescuing him from any of these situations, God let them happen. Interestingly, we see that no matter whether Joseph was in slavery or in prison, God was still with him and even blessed him ([Genesis 39:1–2](#), [20–](#)

[23](#)). Through it all, there's no indication that Joseph ever became bitter toward God. And God used the suffering in Joseph's life to strengthen and prepare him to lead all of Egypt through a terribly difficult time. God's plans and ways are higher than ours ([Isaiah 55:9](#)) and are not always easy to understand. But He takes our brokenness and combines it with His own goodness to bring glory to His name.

QUES: If you had been one of Joseph's brothers, what would you have thought when you realized he was still alive?

QUES: How does this Bible story have application in your own life?

Day 4: Unexpected Deliverance Read [Exodus 1:1](#) to [2:10](#). Hundreds of years passed, and Joseph's importance in Egypt's history was totally forgotten. But, God had actually known all of this would happen long before it did ([Genesis 15:12–16](#)). The Israelites were now slaves in Egypt, and the oppression was growing in frightening ways. The current Pharaoh was worried that the Israelites would become too numerous and cause trouble, so he greatly increased their work and struggle. When that didn't work and they kept growing in number and prospering, he issued a horrible decree. All their newborn boys were to be thrown into the Nile River to die. It is difficult to imagine how awful and frightening this must have been for the Israelites. But one mother refused to let the terrible, broken situation steal her faith. She technically fulfilled the king's command that her baby be put in the river, though she put him in a little basket. Baby Moses floated down the river and miraculously ended up being rescued by the Egyptian princess herself. After he was weaned, Moses was brought up in the king's own household. Even in the midst of human brokenness and suffering, God's broader plan was being accomplished. In the same way, we can trust He is working and moving in spite of our circumstances.

QUES: Do you think you would have been as brave and resourceful as Moses's mother was? Why or why not?

QUES: How do you think Moses's family felt when they heard Moses was rescued by the princess?

Day 5: A Covering of Blood Read [Exodus 12:1–42](#). The time had come, and the baby—miraculously rescued from death in the river—was now over eighty years old. Moses had been on a long journey with God, unknowingly being prepared for the biggest event in his life and in his people's history. At times, Moses had tried to take matters into his own hands ([Exodus 2:11–15](#)). But God continued to work through all the hardship and brokenness in the situation. Even though Moses was following God's plan, Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt. He benefited from their work as slaves. This whole situation paints a perfect picture of what life is like today. We are part of a dark and difficult world filled with people who are slaves to sin and brokenness. But in His goodness, God has patiently prepared a great deliverance. For all human history, even before humanity's terrible fall into sin, God has had a plan to save all who trust in Him. In Exodus, the Israelites covered the doorways of their homes with the blood of a lamb. That blood would be a sign that the destroyer was to pass over that home. Today, we know that Jesus shed His own precious blood for our salvation. We are broken, but God is and has always been working. He alone can help and save us.

QUES: What do you think the Israelites must have felt like the night of the first Passover? How about the next morning?

QUES: What is God saying to you about pursuing and trusting Him in the midst of the world's brokenness?