

# Living Water Fellowship

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

COME TO JESUS

**OPENING SONG:** Shout to the Lord

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:** Exodus 7:1-25

<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pay close attention to this. I will make you seem like God to Pharaoh, & your brother, Aaron, will be your prophet. <sup>2</sup> Tell Aaron everything I command you, & Aaron must command Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his country. <sup>3</sup> But I will make Pharaoh’s heart stubborn so I can multiply my miraculous signs & wonders in the land of Egypt. <sup>4</sup> Even then Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you. So I will bring down my fist on Egypt. Then I will rescue my forces—my people, the Israelites—from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. <sup>5</sup> When I raise my powerful hand & bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” <sup>6</sup> So Moses & Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded them. <sup>7</sup> Moses was eighty years old, & Aaron was eighty-three when they made their demands to Pharaoh.

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses & Aaron, <sup>9</sup> “Pharaoh will demand, ‘Show me a miracle.’ When he does this, say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff & throw it down in front of Pharaoh, & it will become a serpent.’” <sup>10</sup> So Moses & Aaron went to Pharaoh & did what the Lord had commanded them. Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh & his officials, & it became a serpent! <sup>11</sup> Then Pharaoh called in his own wise men & sorcerers, & these Egyptian magicians did the same thing with their magic. <sup>12</sup> They threw down their staffs, which also became serpents! But then Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. <sup>13</sup> Pharaoh’s heart, however, remained hard. He still refused to listen, just as the Lord had predicted.

<sup>14</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is stubborn, & he still refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup> So go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes down to the river. Stand on the bank of the Nile & meet him there. Be sure to take along the staff that turned into a snake. <sup>16</sup> Then announce to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you, “Let my people go, so they can worship me in the wilderness.” Until now, you have refused to listen to him. <sup>17</sup> So this is what the Lord says: “I will show you that I am the Lord.” Look! I will strike the water of the Nile with this staff in my hand, & the river will turn to blood.

<sup>18</sup> The fish in it will die, & the river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink any water from the Nile.”

<sup>19</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses: “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff & raise your hand over the waters of Egypt—all its rivers, canals, ponds, & all the reservoirs. Turn all the water to

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Exodus 7:1-25 & 8:16-19. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. In Ex 6:12 & 30 Moses again tries to argue his way out of being used by God to lead God’s people out of Egypt. How are Ex 7:1-5 God’s answer to Moses’ repeated objections?
3. All of the plagues have some sort of historical cultural connection to Egyptian mythology/worship. Why would God choose to strike the Egyptians with a plague that is directly associated with one of their gods? How does God “dismantle” the idolatry of Egypt? Since the gods of Egypt are powerless & now turned into a danger for the Egyptian people, what hope do they have?
4. Note also that Pharaoh’s magicians can only imitate what God does through Moses & Aaron. What does that tell you about evil? What does Aaron’s staff/snake eating those of the magicians foreshadow here? What do these events reveal about the effectiveness of miraculous signs for bringing about faith?
5. In verse 17, before Moses announces the plague he is to explain the reason for the plague. What is that reason? And then what is the plague? Why would this have been such a terrible plague?
6. According to Ex 7:23, the Egyptians are suffering, the country is being devastated, & Pharaoh is doing what? What does this tell you about sin, pride & hard-heartedness? Who is the chief object of Pharaoh’s concern?
7. From a plague on the water to a plague against the land, what does this communicate to the Egyptians about the Lord’s power?
8. Who does verse 17 says this new plague impacts? How does each successive blow against Egypt widen in impact? What is God saying to Pharaoh? What do the magicians say at this point? What does that mean?
9. What does it mean that Pharaoh’s heart was “hard?” How has God allowed him to become so fortified against God?
10. What do you think is necessary for those you know with “hard hearts” to come to see & know God for who he is & turn to him for salvation? What is your role in that happening? How can Living Water partner with you as you partner with God?

blood. Everywhere in Egypt the water will turn to blood, even the water stored in wooden bowls & stone pots.”

<sup>20</sup> So Moses & Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. As Pharaoh & all of his officials watched, Aaron raised his staff & struck the water of the Nile. Suddenly, the whole river turned to blood! <sup>21</sup> The fish in the river died, & the water became so foul that the Egyptians couldn't drink it. There was blood everywhere throughout the land of Egypt.

<sup>22</sup> But again the magicians of Egypt used their magic, & they, too, turned water into blood. So Pharaoh's heart remained hard. He refused to listen to Moses & Aaron, just as the Lord had predicted. <sup>23</sup> Pharaoh returned to his palace & put the whole thing out of his mind. <sup>24</sup> Then all the Egyptians dug along the riverbank to find drinking water, for they couldn't drink the water from the Nile.

<sup>25</sup> Seven days passed from the time the Lord struck the Nile.

#### **CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**BIBLE READING:** Exodus 8:16-19

<sup>16</sup> So the Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Raise your staff & strike the ground. The dust will turn into swarms of gnats throughout the land of Egypt.’” <sup>17</sup> So Moses & Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded them. When Aaron raised his hand & struck the ground with his staff, gnats infested the entire land, covering the Egyptians & their animals. All the dust in the land of Egypt turned into gnats. <sup>18</sup> Pharaoh's magicians tried to do the same thing with their secret arts, but this time they failed. The gnats covered everyone, people & animals alike. <sup>19</sup> “This is the finger of God!” the magicians exclaimed to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart remained hard. He wouldn't listen to them, just as the Lord had predicted.

#### **FAITH CHAT:**

1. When you think of “power,” what are you most likely to be thinking?
2. Who is someone who helps you see God? What is it that they do?

**THE MESSAGE:** *A JOURNEY OF PROMISE: PARTNERS IN THE PROMISE*

**OFFERING SONG:** Grace

#### **PRAYERS:**

#### **THE COMMUNION:**

*The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship during Communion:*

*VIDEO – O COME TO THE ALTAR (Elevation Worship) - CCL Licence 384660*

## *GO IN HIS POWER*

#### **THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God...**

**Jesus chooses you to partner with him  
in showing God's saving love to the world.  
Amen.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **SONG:**

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

## *SHOW HIS LOVE*