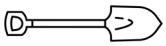
Hope Presbyterian Church WBS
October 6-7, 2026 • Exodus 7:8–9:12



DWELL Listen and follow along as you read the passage together with your group. Briefly share initial observations and/or questions that you hope to understand more fully through today's study.



DIG 1. Read the account of Moses and Aaron "proving themselves" to Pharaoh (Exodus: 7:8-12). Discuss the truth presented through this interaction. How is it similar to Joseph's moment of proving himself to the Pharaoh of *his* time? (see Genesis 41:15-33). What does "swallowing up" in these cases seem to indicate?

2. We are studying the first six plagues today, but first let's look for patterns within the ten plagues as a whole. Discuss your findings and thoughts.

Plague	**Who/What/Where/When of the Warning**	**Who / What gets the plague started?**
1. *7:14-24*		
2. *7:25-8:15*		
3. *8:16-19*		
4.*8:20-32*		
5. *9:1-7*		
6. *9:8-12*		
7. *9:13-35*		
8. *10:1-20*		
9. *10:21-29*		
10. *11:1-8; 12:29-32*		

3. Throughout the account of Pharaoh versus God, we read about the 'hardening' or 'stiffening' of Pharaoh's heart. Do you notice any differences in this hardening as the plagues progress? What do you think this means? Refer to these verses in the CSB (on back) for clearer verb tenses.

4. What changes for the magicians after the third plague (8:18-19)? What is their explanation?

5. As you reflect on this passage, what are you learning about God (Father/Son/Spirit) that is encouraging, comforting and/or challenging to you?



DEEPEN

6. After each plague, Pharaoh asks for relief but doesn't repent or recognize God as Lord. In what current situations – in your own life/relationships or in the world – have you seen this dynamic play out?

7. How do you feel about what we learned about Pharaoh's hardened heart? In what area(s) of your life might you be hardening your heart toward God? How could you ask Him to begin softening it?

8. Today we contrasted the swallowing up of abundance by famine (the vision of what first brought the Israelites to Egypt), but also the ultimate swallowing up of death by Jesus' resurrection. How does this speak to you in areas of your life that feel/have felt like a famine or death of some sort?

Genesis 41:17-32 ESV. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me." Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

1 Corinthians 15:53-55 NIV. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. [54]When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: *"Death has been swallowed up in victory."*
[55]*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

Exodus 7:13-14 CSB. However, Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hard: He refuses to let the people go." *(after the rod/serpent sign)*

Exodus 7:22 CSB. But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. *(after the 1st plague)*

Exodus 8:15 CSB. But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. *(after the second plague)*

Exodus 8:19 CSB. "This is the finger of God," the magicians said to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. *(after the third plague)*

Exodus 8:32 CSB. But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not let the people go. *(after the fourth plague)*

Exodus 9:7 CSB. Pharaoh sent messengers who saw that not a single one of the Israelite livestock was dead. But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not let the people go. *(after the fifth plague)*

Exodus 9:12 CSB. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had told Moses. *(after the sixth plague)*