

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2009-10
Exodus #4: The Sign & Miracles**

TGQ = Tim Gray Study Set Questions
TGR = Tim Gray Study Set Responses
TGCD = Tim Gray CD Set
NJBC = New Jerome Biblical Commentary
FATHER = A Father Who Keeps His Promises
HO = Special Handout
SK = Sze Go Chinese Bible

A	<p><u>Introduction of related scriptural passages</u></p> <p>“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening”</p>	<p>Ex 8-10</p> <p>1Sam 3:9</p>
B	<p><u>The Relationship between Signs, Miracles & Faith</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Gentiles.” • God gradually leads humanity into the mystery of salvation through miracles and wisdom. To the unbelievers, this is foolishness and a stumbling block. • Those who have faith do not rely on miracles. • The Israelites were negatively influenced by the Egyptians’ practice of idolatry. Not only that God’s miracles in front of Pharaoh are to reaffirm Himself as the true Creator of all, it is also aimed to convert the Israelites to return to Him and punish the Egyptians for worshipping idols. • Each plague happens on the 7th day, the Sabbath Day, this shows that God wants the Israelites to “AVAD” (worship) Him instead of “AVAD” (work) Pharaoh. • Each plague targets each of the Egyptian gods (see TGQ 21 Chart. Message: the Egyptian gods are not true, only God is the one true God). 	<p>1Cor 1:22</p> <p>Confessions XIII 21, Jn 4:48, 20:29 TGQ 19 Wis 11:16-17</p> <p>TGQ 19, Ex 7:25, CCC 347</p> <p>TGR 4-1</p>
C	<p><u>The 2nd & 3rd Plagues: Frogs & Flies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The frog is the image of the Egyptian god, HEQET that symbolizes fertility. According to the Egyptian customs, the killing of a frog is punishable by death. All the regions plagued by frogs are paralyzed by their “god”. • The frogs, symbol of fertility, jump out from the Nile in which the male infants of the Israelites are drowned → the symbol of fertility becomes a curse to the Egyptians. Frogs represent fish; flies represent beasts. • Moses allows Pharaoh to choose when the frogs should leave; this shows him that God rules over everything, and “just so you know, no one is like God, our God”. The theme of “knowing” continues to be revealed. 	<p>Ex 8:1-15</p> <p>TG CD</p> <p>TGR 4-2 Father, p 138 Wis 19:10</p> <p>NJBC 3:19 TG CD</p>
D	<p><u>The 4th Plague: Gnats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the 4th Plague on, God divides His people from Pharaoh’s people. The former is not affected by the plagues. • Pharaoh negotiates with Moses to have the Israelites worshipping God within the boundary of Egypt. Moses’ reply explains why God insists on having His people worship Him in the wilderness and how after 400 years, their faith have been plagued and damaged by the Egyptian customs. 	<p>Ex 8: 16-28</p> <p>TGR 4-2 Ex 8:18</p> <p>Ex 8:21-23 TGR 4-2</p>

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<p>E</p>	<p><u>The 5th to 7th Plagues: Livestock Diseased, Boils, Thunder & Hail</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The magician of Pharaoh sees “the finger of God” and recognizes that the plagues are from the hands of God; those who served Pharaoh also “feared the word of the Lord”. At this point, there are divisions among Pharaoh’s forces and yet he still hardens his heart and continues to dwell in lies. This shows how easily one be blinded by sins; however, in this world filled with deception, many of us are still blinded, including religious leaders. • Why is humanity so blind? Why is Pharaoh so stubborn? This is all due to pride. • “The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out from among them.” “But this is why I have let you live: to show you my power, and to make my name resound through all the earth.” “Knowing” is the theme of Exodus and it is God’s will to let Pharaoh and Egypt know Him gradually. The price of the people’s refusal to know God is the 10 plagues; in the contemporary world, the price will be much worse than the plagues. 	<p>Ex 9 Ex 8:19 Ex 9:20 TGR 4-2 Q 6a TGR 4-2 Q8 Ex 10:3 Ex 7:5 Ex 9:16 TGR 4-2 Q6b TGR 4-3 Q11</p>
<p>F</p>	<p><u>The 8th and 9th Plagues: Locusts & Darkness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locusts – Easterly wind is uncommon in the regions of Egypt. This uncommon wind reveals God’s work. • Darkness – the Israelites are in the light while the Egyptians are in darkness. This contrast signifies that God is with the Israelites. Those who commit sins in darkness live in restlessness. • The plague is a direct attack on the Egyptian sun god, “Ra”, who is considered the greatest blessing by the Egyptians. The only force that can disperse darkness is “the light of the world”, Jesus Christ. 	<p>Ex 10 Ex 10:13 TG CD Ex 10:21-23 Wis 17:1-6 TGQ 23</p>