

# Sometimes It Hurts to Obey God

*Exodus 5:1-21*

**The Big Idea:** Sometimes it hurts to obey God.

**Read the passage**

**Story Summary for Children:**

After Moses arrived in Egypt, he and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh and gave him a message from the Lord, the God of Israel, "Let my people go and worship me in the desert." Pharaoh asked, "Who is this God, that I should obey him?" Moses and Aaron asked again but Pharaoh became angry. He accused the Israelites of being lazy and scolded Moses and Aaron for keeping the people from their hard labor. Next, Pharaoh increased the people's work and made it even harder for them. So, life got much worse for the Israelites and many of them were beaten by their Egyptian slave masters. The Israelites became angry with Moses and Aaron and blamed them for their suffering.

**Family Story Discussion Questions:**

1. With whom did Moses and Aaron speak? (Pharaoh)
2. What did they say? (They told Pharaoh that God wanted his people to be free to worship him)
3. Did Pharaoh listen? (No)
4. What did Pharaoh do? (He made the Israelites work even harder and punished them when they failed)
5. Whom did the Israelites blame? (They blamed Moses and Aaron instead of the wicked Pharaoh)

**Family Lesson Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you think Moses felt when work got harder for the Israelites?
2. How do you think Moses felt when the Israelites blamed him?
3. Can you think of a time when doing the right thing was hard?
4. Why is doing the right thing sometimes hard?
5. Should we do the right thing even if it hurts? Why or why not?

**Memory Verse:** "...Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." *1 Peter 4:12*

**Parents:** Talk to your children about what they should do if they do the right thing and get hurt. How do we cope with that?

**A Look Ahead:** Next week the passage is Exodus 5:22-7:7 and the Big Idea will be, “Even when it hurts, God wants us to be faithful.” Ask your family, “Have you ever failed to follow through on a promise? What was the consequence?” You may also want to read next week’s passage with your child and start explaining the story.