

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way! (Week 10: Exodus; the new guy in charge)

SUNDAY

A follower chooses whom to help.

A leader inspires others to help their cause or follow their example.

Follow and lead wisely.

(True wisdom=believing and obeying God. From Proverbs.)

Leaders can also be followers, and followers can also be leaders. A leader is usually following the example of someone he or she learned from, and a follower leads by inspiring others to follow, too!

Actually, everyone is either following God or following the world, the flesh, and the devil. During the next few weeks, think about the examples given and try to determine who they are following and how they are leading.

Exodus 1:6,7

*Joseph: How did he lead? Whom did he follow?
Wise or unwise?*

Joseph's brothers: Did they lead? Whom did

they follow? Wise or unwise?

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Exodus 1:8-10

*The new king: Whom did he lead?
Whom was he following?
Wise or Unwise?*

Do some things that are not wise seem to be wise to some people because they do not have all the information they need?

Should this new Pharaoh have looked into how these people came to be in Egypt and the contributions Joseph had made to his country?

Do you think this Pharaoh had an opportunity to learn about God?

Would that have been true wisdom?

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Exodus 1:11-13:

*People of Egypt: Whom did they follow?
In what way did they lead?
Wise or Unwise?*

How did God bless the Israelites?

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Exodus 1:15-16

*Hebrew Midwives: Whom did they follow?
How did were they leaders?
Wise or Unwise?*

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Exodus 1:17

*Hebrew midwives: Whom did they follow?
How were they leaders?
Wise or unwise?*

To fear the Lord means to be-_____ Him and o-_____ Him.

(believe, obey)

When we believe and obey God, we call this "following" Him. When you are in the store, do you ever follow your mom or dad? You believe they know where to go, and you obey them when they tell you to stay close, because you know they will protect you.

A word about protection: God protects us in ways we do not always understand from things we may not even realize are dangerous. His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are higher than ours. He does not promise that nothing will ever happen to us that we don't like. But for those of us who love Him, He does

promise that it will all work out for our good (Romans 8:28-29). He promises never to leave us (Hebrews 13:5). He promises to give us 100 times what we give up for Him in this life (Mark 10:29, 30). Our job is just to believe Him and obey Him. He will decide what we need protection from.

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Exodus 1:18-20

Did the midwives tell the truth?

*Do you think the Hebrew women **always** give birth to their baby boys before they arrived?*

*Do you think **some** of the Hebrew women gave birth to their boys before they arrived?*

What is God's response to what the Hebrew midwives did?

Does God command us to always tell everything we know, even if it causes harm to innocent people?

Does God command us not to give false testimony against someone (Exodus 20:16)?

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Exodus 1:22

Pharaoh: Whom did he follow?

Whom was he leading?

Wise or unwise?

Did Pharaoh tell his people to do something that God says to do, or that God says not to do?

If the leader of a country tells us to do what God says not to do, should we obey that leader, or should we obey God?

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way! *(Week 11: Exodus; the new kid on the block)*

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Exodus 2:1-3

*This baby's parents: Whom did they follow?
Whom did they lead (who also knew about what they did)?
Wise or unwise?*

Do you suppose the parents were afraid the neighbors would hear the baby cry?

Do you think it was scary for the mama to put her baby in a basket in the river--even though big sister was watching it?

Sometimes it is hard to know how God will work things out. We do not ever need to worry about anything. God tells people over and over, "Fear not!" and "Do not be afraid!" If you find yourself worrying about something, what is the absolute best thing to do (Philippians 4:6,7)?

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Exodus 2:5-6

Pharaoh's daughter: Whom did she follow?

Was she a leader?

Wise or unwise?

Do you believe that Pharaoh's daughter knew who God was?

Do you think that the baby's sister's heart was pounding fast and hard when she saw the princess look in her baby brother's basket?

What could have happened?

Did God have a special plan for this baby?

Does God have a special plan for you? Do you think you would have been born if He did not have a special plan for you?

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Exodus 2:7,8

*The baby's sister: Whom did she follow?
How was she a leader (who could follow her
example)?*

Wise or unwise?

*Was the baby's big sister show courage? Do you think God helped
her to have courage?*

*Is there something you need courage for? Can God help you have
courage?*

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Exodus 2:9-10

Pharaoh's daughter: In what way did she lead?

Whom did she follow?

Moses' mother: How did she lead?

Whom did she follow?

Wise or unwise?

Not only was the mama able to take care of her own baby, but she also got paid to do it! Don't you love it when God surprises us like that?

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Exodus 2:11-12

The Egyptian: Whom did he follow?

Whom did he lead?

Wise or unwise?

Moses: Whom did he follow?

Was he a leader?

Wise or unwise?

Was it right for Moses to want to help the Israelite?

Did Moses help the right way?

Is it important to do the right things in the right way (God's way)?

How can we know what God's way is?

(Scripture, prayer, godly council)

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Exodus 2:13-14

The two Hebrews: Whom did they follow?

Were they leaders also?

Wise or unwise?

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Exodus 2:15

*Pharaoh: Whom did he follow?
Whom did he lead?
Wise or unwise?*

Do you think Moses was sorry that he killed the Egyptian?

Sometimes people are only sorry that they got in trouble. That is not the kind of sorry that God accepts.

When we do things that are wrong, we need to be sorry that we did the thing that was wrong, whether we get in trouble for it or not. That is the kind of sorry that God accepts.

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way! *(Week 12: Exodus)*

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Exodus 3:1-3

Who is following Moses in the desert?

Do you suppose Moses felt important?

Do you think God had a reason for letting Moses stay in the desert tending sheep all those years?

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Exodus 3:7-11

People of Israel: Whose orders were they forced to follow?

To Whom did they cry out?

Wise or unwise?

Did God hear the prayers of the Hebrews (Israelites) long before He helped them?

Did God answer their prayers long before He helped them?

What was the answer for a long time? (yes, no, or wait?)

Does God always give a "yes" answer?

Does God always answer?

Is God ever too early? Is He ever too late?

Could His plan be different from ours?

Whose plan is better, overall? Who knows more, us or God?

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Exodus 4:29-31

Moses and Aaron: Whom did they follow?

Whom did they lead?

Wise or unwise?

When the people worshipped, they were thanking God for His promise to deliver them. Does God want us to be thankful?

What do you have to be thankful for?

Would it be a good idea to thank God for something every day?

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Exodus 5:6-8

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

Was Pharaoh being fair?

Should we always try to be fair in how we treat others?

Is everything always fair for us?

What should we do when our situation is not fair? It always depends on the situation, but some things are:

- *Overlook it*
- *Pray*
- *Talk to the person who is not treating you fairly*
- *Ask someone else, like an adult, to help*

There is a difference in tattling (telling on someone just so they will get in trouble) and getting help with a problem. It is ok to get help

with a problem.

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Exodus 5:10-13

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

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Exodus 5:19-21, 6:6 & 9

*Who is leading?
Who is following?
Wise or unwise?*

Is there a difference between complaining and asking for help?

Were the people complaining, or asking for help?

Is this a natural reaction for them to have, considering the problem?

Is it natural, or easy, for us to trust God in times of great trouble?

Is it wise to trust God in times of great trouble?

Trusting is easy when everything is fine. If things are only wonderful all the time, can we be sure that we really do trust God?

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Exodus 5:22,23

*Who is leading?
Who is following?
Wise or unwise?*

Is Moses reacting in a natural way?

Is Moses trusting God?

Does God expect us to always be perfect in our faith?

Does faith in hard times please God? (Hebrews 11:6)

Would we diligently seek God if we had no hard times?

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Exodus 6:6-8

*Who is the leader?
Who are the followers?
Wise or unwise?*

Does God force anyone follow (believe and obey) Him?

Is it always easy to follow (believe and obey) God?

Is it always best to follow (believe and obey) God?

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(Week 13: Exodus; signs and plagues)

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Exodus 7:10-13

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

What is a sorcerer? Whose power does a sorcerer use?

Does the devil have real power?

Whose power is stronger than the devil's?

**Parents, please take time to talk to your child about the dangers of dabbling with the occult (unseen, demonic) influences in the world:*

*horoscope
ouija boards
crystal ball
tarrot cards
palm reading
seances
psychics, mediums
and more!*

These things should not have a place in our homes. It is inviting more trouble than we want to deal with! For more information about these and other spiritual dangers, research it on the internet. Pray carefully about what sites to search. Two sites you might start with:

<http://www.tomorrowworld.org/magazines/2002/sep-oct/dangers-of-the-occult>

<http://www.spiritual-research-network.com/hazardsoftheoccult.html>

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Exodus 7:13

*Who is leading?
Who is following?
How is Pharaoh both a leader and a follower
here?
Wise or unwise?*

Did Pharaoh have an opportunity to believe and obey God?

Did Pharaoh believe and obey God?

Does God know the future?

Does God know what is in our hearts?

Did God give Pharaoh a chance to believe and obey Him?

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Exodus 7:20,21

*Who are Moses and Aaron following?
How are they leading?
Wise or unwise?*

How could this have been avoided?

Does God need to do drastic things sometimes to get our attention?

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Exodus 7:22-24:

Who is leading?

Whom are they following?

Wise or unwise?

If this were not so sad, it would be funny. They added to their own misery just to prove they could.

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Exodus 8:1-6

Who are the leaders?

Who are the followers?

(Who are the leaders following?)

Wise or unwise?

*Frogs are ok, but do you want them in your bed?? In your bread??
EW!*

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Exodus 8:13-15

Who is leading/following?

Wise? Unwise?

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Exodus 8:16,17

Who is leading?

Who are they following?

Wise or unwise?

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(Week 14: Exodus; more plagues)

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Exodus 8:18,19

Who is leading?

Who are they following?

Wise or unwise?

Pharaoh listened to his magicians when they told him what he wanted to hear. He did not listen to them when they told him what he did not want to hear. Do we only listen to what we want to hear?

Do we listen to God, even when He tells us something we might not want to hear?

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Exodus 8:24,28-32

Who is leading?

*Who is following?
Wise or unwise?*

Do you think by this time he should have learned his lesson?

Do we always learn our lesson when we do something wrong?

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Exodus 9:1-7 (for younger ones: 6,7)

*Who is leading?
Who is following?
Wise or unwise?*

Did Pharaoh's disbelief affect others?

Did Pharaoh's disbelief even affect innocent animals?

Could our disbelief cause someone else problems as well as ourselves?

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Exodus 9:10-12

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

Did you notice Who hardened Pharaoh's heart this time?

*Do you think that it is dangerous to harden your heart against God?
What might happen?*

Pray right now and ask God to help you always listen to Him and obey Him.

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Exodus 9:18-24 (for younger ones: 23 & 24)

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

Some of the Egyptians chose to believe and obey God, even though many other Egyptians did not.

If we are with people who are disobeying God, does that mean we have to disobey God, too?

Is it easier to obey God when we are with other people who also want to obey God?

What should we do about choosing friends? Should we be friendly to everyone?

Should we be best friends with just anyone?

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Exodus 9:34,35

Pharaoh: Leading/following/wise/unwise?

Pharaoh's officials:

Leading/following/wise/unwise?

Do you suppose that the servants of Pharaoh would have listened to God if Pharaoh had?

Do you think there might be someone you can help believe and obey God when they see that you believe and obey Him?

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Exodus 10:8-15

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

God said all of the people were to go. Pharaoh gave permission for just the men to go. Is it enough to only do part of what God says?

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way!

(Week 15: Exodus; final plagues)

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Exodus 10:18-20

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

Who hardened Pharaoh's heart this time?

What can we learn from this?

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Exodus 10:21-23

Who led?

Who followed?

Wise or unwise?

This darkness was the second to the last plague. God sent a great darkness, and it is a picture of what happens in someone's thinking when they reject God and His Truth. They are unable to understand just like a person who is in the dark cannot see. Ask God to always help you understand and believe His Truth.

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Exodus 10:27-29

*Who is leading?
Who is following?
Wise or unwise?*

Time was almost up! There was just one more plague to come, and it was by far worse than anything they had seen so far. How much better it would have been to listen to God in the first place. It would not have come to all this.

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Exodus 11:4-8

*Who is leading?
Who is following?
Wise or unwise?*

Do you think Moses enjoyed giving this message to Pharaoh?

Does God enjoy it when wicked people are destroyed? (II Peter 3:9)

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Exodus 12:5-7,12,13

Why was it important for the sacrifice lamb to be a male without any defects (flaws)? Who would be the final sacrifice for sin? Did He have any flaws?

Why do you think it was important for the blood to be applied to their homes? Can people be saved from God's judgment automatically, just because Jesus died for everyone, or is there something they must do?

There is a HUGE difference between salvation being available for everyone (which it is) and being automatic for everyone (which it is not--not for anyone).

See God Says II for more on this topic.

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Exodus 12:29,30:

What were the consequences for Pharaoh and the Egyptians for not believing and obeying God?

Had they been given many opportunities to believe and obey God?

*When a person dies, where does their spirit go?
(only one of two places: Heaven or Hell. See Luke 20:19-31)*

This does not fit into the category of a parable (hypothetical story to teach a truth) because Jesus calls the man by his actual name. Even if, for the sake of argument, this is a parable, the truth is still the same.

The worst thing is not dying. Dying is what we call it when we are finished with our body. The real person inside our body goes to its reward, either good or bad. The real tragedy is not being able to go to a good reward, because we all have that opportunity. Even people who live in a remote jungle on an island no one has ever heard of do. If they respond to God's general revelation (creation) and truly want to know Him, He will send more revelation about Himself so they can know Him. That's why there are so many "missionaries" in the world!

I used quotation marks around that word because, in a sense, everyone who follows Jesus is a missionary--we are on mission to share Jesus!

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Exodus 12:31,32

Who is leading?

Who is following?

Wise or unwise?

Pharaoh finally listened. How sad that he did not listen from the very first word given to him from God.