OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) The plagues show us that we are not in control of our own lives (we do not have personal autonomy). Is there any area of your life where you are still trying to have autonomy? Is there any area where you are asking, "Who is the Lord that I should obey him?"

b) The plagues attacked the false gods of Egypt. Many of these were good things, like the Nile, that had become ultimate things. Can you identify anything in your life that is a good thing that you are making an ultimate thing (an idol)?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) What attributes of God are demonstrated by the plagues? How do the plagues revea God's judgment? His mercy?

b) Pharaoh was not an atheist; he was a religious pluralist (open to many different gods/religions). How does the plagues narrative confront not just atheism, but pluralism? Are you a pluralist in any way? Do you believe all religions are the same? Do you believe there is only on true God/religion?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) The plagues show us that there is no salvation without judgment. How does this point us to the cross of Christ? Why does our salvation require judgment?

APPLICATION

a) Read Psalm 95:7-8. Pharaoh heard God's voice but hardened his heart. Where are you in danger of hardening your heart? Is there any "half-hearted repentance" in your heart? How can the gospel free you up to trust God completely and repent fully?

FIGHTER VERSES: Hebrews 11:24-26.

PRAYER

- Thank God that he is both the God of justice and mercy.
- Confess ways that you have made idols of good things and failed to fully repent of these idols.
- Thank Jesus for taking the plagues of God's justice that we deserve.
- Ask God to help you to continuously soften your heart to his word.