

## Bricks without Straw

Pharaoh was a man who was worried about things he thought might happen, but probably would not. Still, he became cruel to the Hebrews because of his thoughts that they were out to get him. They were getting to be a large population and this caused great fear in the hearts and minds of the Egyptians.

Moses asked for the Pharaoh to allow the Hebrew people to go into the desert and offer sacrifices and worship the Lord for three days. Pharaoh said no.

Pharaoh then told the foreman, those in charge of the Hebrews, to have them make the bricks out of clay, but the Egyptians would not be supplying the straw to make the bricks. The Hebrews must search the land far and near to find straw to make the bricks. Pharaoh said they must make the same number tomorrow as they made today or they would be punished.

The Hebrew leaders became mad at Moses and Aaron because they asked for the time to worship and they determined this was why Pharaoh caused them much grief and told them to find their own straw.

This meanness is exactly why God said to Moses, in Exodus chapter 6, *“Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”*

<sup>2</sup> God also said to Moses, *“I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD.*

### Question Time:

1. Why did Pharaoh stop providing straw to the Hebrew slaves?
2. What did Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh to allow the Hebrews to do?
3. What did God say to Moses?

**Scripture:** Exodus 6:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

**6** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

<sup>2</sup>God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup>I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty,<sup>[a]</sup> but by my name the LORD<sup>[b]</sup> I did not make myself fully known to them. <sup>4</sup>I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. <sup>5</sup>Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

<sup>6</sup>"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup>I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup>And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

**Next Steps:** it might be fun to try and make a brick. You can use clay and straw. If you don't have straw available, you can use some tall grass from a field near your home. You need to let it dry out for a few days, if it is green or pick some that is already dead and dry. Mix some grass/straw and class soil and make it into a hamburger patty. Let it sit in the sun and dry for several days. See if it becomes hard enough to be a brick.