



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

On my own, I see no need for God in my life or in the world.

Christ suffered and died on the cross to free me from the bondage of sin, enabling me to see that He is the one I need most in this world.

Bible Words

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Fun Fact

When God stopped the frog plague, the frog carcasses filled the houses, courtyards, and fields. The people gathered them in heaps, and the land stank! (Exodus 8:13–14)

Just Joking

What did Pharaoh say after he coughed?

Excuse me, I have a frog in my throat.

Moses and the Plagues

Exodus 5–10

The Lord sent Moses and his brother Aaron to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Pharaoh refused and increased the work of the Israelite slaves. Thus began a lengthy and tedious negotiation.

Each time Pharaoh refused, God sent a plague: water turned to blood; frogs; gnats; flies; death of livestock; boils; hail; locusts; and darkness. Each plague showed God's power over one or more Egyptian idols.

At first, Egyptian magicians used trickery to reproduce the plagues, but they soon failed and acknowledged the one true God at work.

Often, when Pharaoh relented, God stopped a plague. Sadly, Pharaoh always went back on his word and hardened his heart. God was winning, but Pharaoh resisted. God promised one more disastrous plague.

God's power in the plagues shamed Egyptian idols, convinced Israelites of God's love for them, and impressed most Egyptians. Considered a god himself, Pharaoh eventually fell due to his legendary stubbornness.

God's power raised His Son from the grave and gives us new life, now and forever. We are His people, and He refuses to let us go.

Fear, Love, and Trust

The first and most important commandment says, "You shall have no other gods." In the Small Catechism, Luther explained that this means "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

Question 22 in the Catechism expands these thoughts.

- **We fear God** above all things when we revere Him alone as the highest being, honor Him with our lives, and avoid what displeases Him.
- **We love God** above all things when we cling to Him alone as our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.
- **We trust God** above all things when we commit our lives to His keeping and rely on Him for help in every need.

First Commandment and Question 22 from *Luther's Small Catechism*, © 1986, 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

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