

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
EXODUS 9-10

Note: The first six questions are to help you think through the bigger issues in this passage. Work through them as slowly as you need before you get to the second part.

1. Someone seriously considering Christianity says to you: "God is unjust". How do you respond to them (in only 1 or 2 sentences)?
2. With what events do you normally associate the phrase "act of God"?
3. Working as a group, try to think of the occasions in the Bible when God punishes a person, or a group. Also give the reasons for the punishment. What things do they have in common?
4. Can you think of any situations in the Bible when God has punished someone and it hasn't been explained? What does that tell you about God?
5. What are the reasons (more than one) God has been giving for his plagues on Egypt and Pharaoh in Exodus 4-10?
6. Are there any aspects of the plagues that make you feel uncomfortable with God? Why is that?

Read Exodus 9:13-35

7. This seventh plague is described in great detail (more than any other besides the Passover). Why do you think this is? What new things occur in this episode?

In the following 3 questions, also discuss how well these answers fit with your own view of God, and whether you would have used them in your answer to the inquirer in Question 1.

7. In verse 15 God seems to be saying this is not normal behaviour for him – what is God teaching about himself by behaving differently? What do we learn about God's judgment here?
8. There is a deliberate repetition of the words "all" and "every" in this plague description. What does this teach us about God's justice?
9. God has been making a distinction between the Egyptian people and the Israelites since plague 4. How are verses 19-21 a new development, and is it the same or different as the Goshen distinction (cf 8:21-22)? What is God teaching about his justice here? Reflect also how Romans 3:21-26 develops this.
10. God takes disobedience very seriously. Read verses 27-28, and 34 and discuss Pharaoh's view of disobedience. Are there times when you've been similar to Pharaoh?
11. Read what Moses says in response to Pharaoh's repentance in verse 30. As a Christian, does your daily life show you fear the LORD? How (be specific, and personal – not general and vague)?
12. How (if at all) would you modify the answer you gave in Question 1?