



Children working in groups to make pyramids

"The only real battle in life is between hanging on and letting go." ~ Shannon L. Alder

"Does anyone think they can be as stubborn as Pharaoh?" I had begun sharing about the plagues in Egypt and I posed the question to see if anyone thought they could stand smelling rotting fish in the Nile River for three days. Next, I asked, *"How about for three hours? Three minutes?"* One boy took up my challenge and stubbornly held his nose close to a raw fish long enough to earn the right to wear the pharaoh costume in front of everyone.



The winner of the Pharaoh challenge!

The theme for children's camp this year was "Бог е Моќен да Спасува!" (God is Mighty to Save!) and focused on the Israelites rescue from slavery in Egypt. Twenty-two children gathered once again in Gevgelija, North Macedonia for a four-day, three-night summer camp. We had lots of fun and made new friendships, but most of all we learned about the power God has to save us.

On the first night, we learned about the Egyptians and how they believed their leaders were divine. This helped us understand why Pharaoh was so stubborn when Moses told him that the God of the Israelites wanted Pharaoh to let His people go.

The next morning, I explained who the Israelites were and how they had a very difficult life in Egypt. In their small groups, the children had to build a pyramid out of playdough and straw in under ten minutes. Then, due to Pharaoh's anger, they had to build another one within the same time limit, but

this time they also had to run outside and find their baggies of straw while their group leader shouted things like, *"Faster! Come on you lazy Israelites!"* All the groups managed to finish in time and reflect on how bad it must have felt living under Egyptian rule.

On the second day, we learned about the plagues, and everyone got the chance to try to be as stubborn as Pharaoh. Group members took turns playing Pharaoh while others shook pom poms all over their bodies to simulate swarms of flies. If the Pharaoh wanted the "flies" to stop before the time period was up, all they had to do was say, "Okay, you can go." To my knowledge, not one child gave in!



[Click to watch some stubborn pharaohs!](#)

Finally, on the third day, the children learned about Passover and how the blood of the Passover lamb saved the Israelites from the final plague of death. In small groups, they brushed red paint onto door frames and then entered into safety to await the judgment. Lastly, they got to choose if they wanted to apply the blood of Jesus to the door frames of their hearts.



[Click for our Passover lesson](#)

For our closing session, I dressed up as Pharaoh and told the children that I did not want to let them go. I blocked their path with a sea of blue fabric. However, when they recited the camp Bible verse: "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles" Psalm 34:17, two other leaders split the fabric sea so the children could pass through and go home!

We had a wonderful time playing games, making crafts, roasting marshmallows, swimming in the river *and* enjoying delicious home cooked meals thanks to a volunteer team from Ogden, Utah. Part of me really did not want to let the children go home. I love working with them so much. But they do not belong to me. And if we have anything to learn from Pharaoh, it is to let things and people go when God calls.

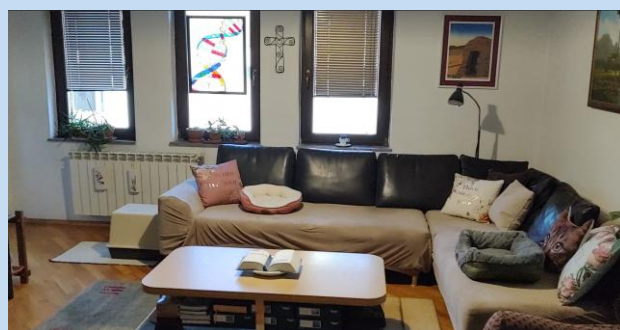
In Him,

Jennifer Moore

Let my apartment go!

Shortly after returning from children's camp, my landlord informed me that she needs me to move out of my apartment by the end of September. I love this apartment and found myself identifying with Pharaoh at not wanting to give up something I had become accustomed to and viewed as mine. But it is not mine. Please pray I can find a new place.

For now, I take comfort that no matter where I end up, God will be with me because I am eternally His and He is eternally mine.



[Click here](#) to donate



Global Ministries
© The United Methodist Church
connecting the church in mission