



Supplies

- For older kids:
 - “Plague Poles Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
 - paper towel tubes (1 per child)
 - 3-ounce plastic cups (2 per child)
 - drinking straws (at least 10 per child)
 - thumbtacks
 - pencils
 - transparent tape
 - duct tape
 - 5 red, 5 yellow, 5 green, 5 brown, 5 white, and 10 black beads per child (various sizes will work best)
- For younger kids:
 - small, empty wide-mouth plastic bottles with lids, such as Gatorade bottles (1 per child)
 - small pony beads in a variety of colors
 - rolls of crepe streamers in a variety of colors
 - glue sticks
 - stickers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- One of our Dig In friends came up with a great alternative to make the older kids version of this craft easier. Rather than cutting straw pieces and poking them through holes, fold a straw or chenille wire in a zigzag pattern, twisting slightly so the zigzags aren't in a straight line. Stuff that in the tube so it fits snugly in place, and then tape the ends to secure it. (She also suggested using cupcake liners instead of cups to cap the ends.)

Make Plague Poles or Shakers

Show kids the sample craft you made, turning it upside down so they can hear the hail noise. Say: **One of the plagues God sent on Egypt was a huge hailstorm with thunder and lightning. We're going to make plague poles so we can hear what that might've sounded like.**

Give each child a paper towel tube and two cups. Set out the other supplies to share, and have older kids follow the instructions on the “Plague Poles Instructions” handout to make their own plague poles.

Younger kids will decorate water bottles by gluing them and wrapping crepe-paper streamers around them and then adding stickers. They'll join in when it's time to add beads to the craft.

- Use a thumbtack to poke two holes roughly opposite each other on your tube.
- Stick a pencil into both holes to make them bigger.
- Cut a straw in half, and poke it through the two holes.
- Tape down the ends of the straw using transparent tape.
- Continue poking sets of holes and sticking straws through them, all at different levels and angles.

- You'll want at least 20 half-straws poking through your tube.
- Use duct tape to secure a cup on one end of the tube.
- Put five red beads in your tube to represent the water turned to blood. (Preschoolers will join in beginning here, adding beads to their bottles.)
- Put five green beads in your tube to represent the plague of frogs.
- Put 10 black beads in your tube to represent the plagues of gnats and flies.
- Put five brown beads in your tube to represent the death of the livestock.
- Put five white beads in your tube to represent the hail.
- Put five yellow beads in your tube to represent the locusts.
- Use duct tape to secure a cup on the other end of your tube. Then wrap the entire tube in duct tape. (Preschoolers will put the lids back on their bottles.)

Make a Hailstorm

- Have younger kids shake their bottles and older kids flip their tubes back and forth all at the same time for about 30 seconds.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How does hearing the hail help you understand God's power better?**

• **What other sounds make you think of power?**

Say: **God is all-powerful. He showed his power in the plague of hail and all the other plagues.**

Pharaoh didn't respect God's power, so God had to keep sending more and more plagues. But finally Pharaoh realized God's power and did what God wanted.

Have kids take their plague poles home and show their friends and families how the poles represent God's power through the plague of hail. Kids can also talk about the different colored beads in the plague poles that represent other plagues.