

Baby Moses to Burning Bush Lesson Set

Scripture References:

Exodus 3:1 – 4:17, with other individual references cited in “A Biblical Explanation” and in specific workshops.

Memory Verses:

Psalm 33:8, “Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.” (RSV)

Matthew 28:20 “...I am with you always, even until the end of the world.” (LB)

Goals:

That even a person who feels unworthy and inadequate, such as Moses, may be called by God to do His will.

That even children who are God’s people by faith in Jesus Christ may be called and used to proclaim God’s greatness.

That God has a plan for His people; He cares for and delivers His people when they are in need, just as He cared for and delivered the Israelites from Egypt.

That wherever we meet God is a holy place, and that “prayer” is two-way communication with God. That God loves all people everywhere.

Concepts:

We don’t have to be perfect or an adult to do God’s will.

God gives us the ability to do His will when we obey Him.

God is always with us to help us do His will.

Wherever we meet God is a holy place.

When meeting God in prayer we must be as willing to listen as to speak.

Remembering that God loves all people everywhere, we can also pray for other people.

Biblical Explanation and Background:

The history of Moses life and an explanation of how the Hebrew people became enslaved in Egypt is contained in Exodus 1 and 2. It will be briefly repeated in our teaching about Moses before God in the burning bush, so it is necessary for the teacher to know the content of those chapters.

The fact that God foreknew the enslavement of the Hebrews in Egypt is shown in Genesis, as God gives the covenant to Abraham: Genesis 15:13 – 14, “Know for certain that your descendents will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.” This enslavement came about after Abraham’s grandson, Jacob, took his family to Egypt to live. While Jacob’s son Joseph was alive, and while Pharaohs (Kings of Egypt) reigned who remembered Joseph, the Hebrew people enjoyed a good life in Egypt. Then “a new king, who did not know about Joseph” (Exodus 1:8) came to power in Egypt, and in fear that the Israelites might join Egypt’s enemies in battle, he imposed slavery on them. When you teach this to the children, explain what “slavery” is (all work, no pay or play), and how the king also decided to kill all the little boy babies, so that when Moses was born his mother had to hide him. When he grew too big to hide in the house, she made him a little floating basket bed so that his sister Miriam could watch him from the riverside. Thus it happened that when Pharaoh’s daughter came to bathe in the river Nile that she found baby Moses and adopted him as her own. The princess, thanks to Miriam’s vigilance, chose Moses’ mother to be his nurse, and so his mother was able to teach him about his people and about God’s ways.

Upon reaching maturity (Exodus 2:11), Moses’ sympathies lay with obtaining freedom for his own people, and he murdered an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew. Moses fled from Pharaoh’s wrath and settled in the land of Midian east of the Sinai peninsula, across the Gulf of Aqaba. He lived in Midian as a shepherd, married a woman named Zipporah who was a daughter of the priest of Midian, and had sons, one of whom was named Gershom. Meanwhile the Israelites suffered in their slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt.

At the right time, God decided to get Moses’ attention as Moses pastured his flock at Horeb, “the mountain of God” (Exodus 3:1). God appeared to Moses as a bush that was burning, but not burned up, and God called Moses from the bush. Moses answered, “Here I am”, and he obeyed when God said, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” When Moses realized he was talking to the Almighty, he “hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.” (Exodus 3:6) Later in his life Moses would beg God, “show me your glory” (Exodus 33: 18), and God would answer, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.” (Exodus 33:19 – 20)

When God spoke to Moses and promised to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians and lead them to “a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8) by sending Moses to Pharaoh and causing Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, Moses protested, “Who am I...” (Exodus 3:11). We also often answer God with our inadequacies, and God answers with

His abundant presence and supply, revealing Himself as “Jehovah-shammah”, “the LORD is there” (Ezekiel 48:35), and as “Jehovah-jireh”, “the LORD our provider” (Genesis 22:13 – 14).

When Moses asked God for His credentials, His Name, God revealed Himself to Moses as the eternal, self-existent God, “I AM”, and He gave Moses his instructions. Moses protested that neither the leaders of Israel nor the pharaoh would believe that God had sent him, and so God gave Moses three miraculous signs. Moses’ walking stick became a snake and then returned to being a stick (Exodus 4:2 - 4), his hand became leprous and then was healed (Exodus 4:6 – 7), and God promised to turn a sample of Nile river water to blood when Moses poured it on the ground (Exodus 4:9).

Moses protested again that he was a poor speaker, “slow of speech and tongue” (Exodus 4:10), and God replied, “Who gave man his mouth?” (Exodus 4:11), and promised to help. Moses protested again, and even asked God to send someone else, and God said that Moses’ brother Aaron would help him, and promised, “I will help both of you speak and teach you what to do.” (Exodus 4:16)

God had a plan for Moses; He says to Pharaoh in Exodus 9:16, “...I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Believers in Jesus in whom God’s Holy Spirit dwells are also called to be humble and obedient so that God can show His power, and so that His “name may be proclaimed in all the earth.” The believer, even as a child, is called to seek God’s presence, to listen to His Word, and to listen and obey in prayer. We continue throughout our lives to know more of who God is and of who we are as His people.

Video Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Uses the Animated Stories from the Bible – Moses (Nest)

Materials List:

DVD Player/TV

Popcorn to serve in paper bags, candy, slushies

Video: “Animated Stories from the Bible – Moses” (Nest) It is about 30 min. long.

Watch video and answer the questions on the video.

Art Workshop

Today we are going to talk about Moses and what it was like when he was born.

Let's open our Bibles to Exodus, the second book in the Bible, where we will find the story of Moses.

Story

Let's go back and review a little bit so we can remember how the Israelites ended up in Egypt in the first place. Jacob, his sons, and their families had gone to Egypt to live because there was a severe famine in their land. Joseph, Jacob's son, was a ruler in Egypt at that time and the children of Jacob (Israel) were treated kindly. Years passed. Jacob and his sons died as well as everyone of his generation.

The people of Israel had many children and had become a great nation, just as God had promised to Abraham. Pharaoh began to fear them. There were so many of them! If a war came, the Israelites might take sides with the enemy and fight against Pharaoh. He made slaves of the children of Israel. They had to work hard making bricks, building cities, and working in the fields. Pharaoh told the midwives Shiphrah and Puah to kill the baby boys. These two women helped the mothers when the babies were born. They knew it would be wrong to harm the children, so they didn't obey the king. The king commanded all his people, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

The Israelite women were so scared. They didn't want their baby boys to be killed. There was a man from the tribe of Levi named Amram. He and his wife Jochebed already had two children, a daughter, Miriam, and a son, Aaron. During this terrible time, another son was born. He was a beautiful child, and they loved him very much. They hid him for three months. Jochebed wanted him to be in a safe place. Their home was not a safe place for him. In those days, people would gather bulrushes, marsh grasses with long stems, to make baskets.

Show

pictures of how a basket would have been made.

A basket made of grass would not keep the water out, so Jochebed used pitch, a sticky waterproof substance, to make the ark (basket) waterproof.

She put the baby in the basket and placed it in the water among the reeds growing by the edge of the river. Miriam watched him to see what would happen. The basket bobbed in the water and floated until it came to the place where Pharaoh's daughter was bathing. She saw the ark among the reeds and sent a servant to get it. It had a cover on it, and when she opened it, the baby began to cry. She said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Her heart was tender, and

she didn't want the baby boy to be killed. About that time his big sister, Miriam, came out of hiding. She offered to get a nurse for the child. You know, of course, who the nurse was going to be. The baby's own mother! Pharaoh's daughter named him "Moses" a word meaning "drawn out" because she had drawn him out of the water. His mother raised him until he was big enough to go and live in the palace. During that time, his family taught him about his people and told him the stories of the Israelite family. Then he went back to the princess, became her son, and lived as a prince of Egypt in the palace until he was a grown man. Jochebed was used by God to save her baby boy. God had a very important job for Moses to do when he grew up. He would be the one to save his people and lead them out of slavery in Egypt.

Art Project

We are going to weave a basket today to help us remember the story of Moses and his trip down the Nile River.

Each student will have a basket form and supplies. Review the instructions with the children and show them how to get started.



Sources

www.economyhandicrafts.com

www.gardenofpraise.jochabed mother of moses

Bible Games Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activities:

Children will play a life-sized board game to review the events of the story.

Scripture Reference:

Exodus 1-4:31

Memory Verse:

“The Lord will not abandon his people; he will not desert those who belong to Him.” Psalm 94:14

Preparation and Room Set Up:

Review the Background Information, Behavioral Covenant, Teaching Tips and Lesson plan.
Gather all necessary supplies for games.

Review the Music CD. Plan to play the music in the background as the children arrive, play games and do journal questions.

Unroll the game board prior to children’s arrival.

Supplies List:

Life-sized board game - for directions to make & a photo see this link.

Large foam game dice

Question list – see below.

Props for Game: Basket of cardboard blocks, baby doll, shepherd’s crook,

White board and markers

Unroll the game board off the carpet roll

Important Note for Games Workshop Leaders:

The purpose of the games workshop is two-fold: to develop Bible skills and to reinforce that knowledge by having fun with games. The games are not frills and fluff! Playing games helps to cement the knowledge and reinforce the skills you introduce during the Bible lesson. Children learn best when actively involve, so please do not skimp on the games portion of the lesson! Follow the time guidelines to help you stay on track.. Remember – children will study this story for 4 weeks, so if you can’t cover all the details of the Bible story it’s ok.

Time Guidelines:

Introductions/Opening Prayer: 10 minutes

Bible Study: 15 minutes

Journey with Moses Game: 25 minutes

Reflection/Closing Prayer: 10 minutes

Lesson Plan

Opening:

Gather the children together at the tables with their Bibles. Welcome the children and introduce yourself. Always begin each class with introductions. Remember that workshop leaders rotate often and the children may not know you. Make sure you are wearing your name tag and that the children have picked up their name tags.

Prayer:

“Dear God, Thank you for this day and for all the people who are here today. Open our hearts and minds to your Word as we study and play here today.” Amen

Dig:

Introduce the Story: (Exodus 1-4:31)

The story of Moses is one of the most important stories in the Bible. We are going to spend several months learning about his many adventures and the ways God used him to help save his people. Moses lived a long time before Jesus did, during the time of the Pharaohs in Egypt. The story of Moses begins in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament. Exodus is the second book of the Bible. The name Exodus means “going out.” It tells the story of how God’s people went out of Egypt. Let’s find the story in our Bibles now.

Have the children locate the story in their Bibles. Note: This story is too long to be read in its entirety. Follow the prompts below and use the headings in the children's Bibles help you paraphrase the story.

Grades 1-2:

“Slaves in Egypt” and “The Story of Moses” pages 40-44 in The Little Kids’ Adventure Bible. Paraphrase the first part of the story using the headings in the children’s Bibles or the guide below.

The People of Israel Are Slaves in Egypt. Long ago, the Hebrew people lived in Egypt as slaves. (Take the children to the wall map and locate Egypt and the Nile River on the map. The king of

Egypt was called Pharaoh. He made the Hebrews work in the hot sun making bricks for his buildings. The Pharaoh was afraid there were too many Hebrews in Egypt so he ordered the Hebrew baby boys to be killed by throwing them into the Nile River.

Read "Moses is Born," "The Lord Sends Moses to Save His People" and "Miraculous Signs for Moses to Do" as the children follow along in their Bibles. (pages 40-44)

Grades 3-6:

The People of Israel Are Slaves in Egypt.

Review how the Hebrew people came to be in Egypt.

Take the children to the wall map and locate the following places: Canaan -- where Joseph's family came from originally, Egypt, Nile River)

New Pharaoh enslaves the Hebrews.

Pharaoh orders all Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the Nile River.

Moses is Born.

Moses' mother Jochebed hides him for three months.

Moses placed in a basket in the Nile.

Miriam watches

Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses.

Moses returned to Jochebed.

Moses Escapes to Midian.

Moses sent to Pharaoh's palace.

Moses kills Egyptian slave master.

Moses runs away to Midian.

Moses marries and works as a shepherd.

The Lord Sends Moses to Save His People.

God speaks to Moses through a burning bush.

God has a plan for Moses to save his people.

Read Exodus 3:4-4:17 as the children follow along in their Bibles.

Moses Returns to Egypt.

Read and discuss the following Bible notes with the children:

Life in Bible Times: The Nile page 52

Life in Bible Times: Moses' Basket Boat page 65

People in Bible Times: Moses page 66

Let's Live It! Don't Give Up page 67

Bible Study Conclusion:

The Hebrew people had been in Egypt for 400 years. At first they were welcomed there but as they grew in numbers, the Egyptian people became afraid and made the Hebrews into slaves. Their lives were bitter and hard. But God had not forgotten them. God saw their hardships and felt their pain. That is what our memory verse from this rotation tells us.

Memory Verse:

Each rotation we ask the children to memorize one scripture verse. Review it with them at this time. "The Lord will not abandon his people; he will not desert those who belong to Him."

Psalm 94:14

Moses' Journey of Faith Game

Children will play a life-sized board game designed to help them review the story. (The game board was created by painting a trail on canvas painter's cloth. For pictures of the game board see:

Supplies and Preparation:

Life-sized board game - for directions to make & a photo see this link.

Large foam game dice

Question list – see below.

Props for Game: Basket of cardboard blocks, baby doll, shepherd's crook,

White board and markers

Unroll the game board off the carpet roll

To Play:

Divide the children into teams of two to four.

Teams roll one die to determine how many spaces to move forward. All team members must move together and stay on the game board spaces together. (The crowding adds to the fun!)

When teams land on a specially marked space (cross, question or dynamite) ask them a question from the appropriate question list. Be sure to ask the questions in order.

Teams MUST CONFER together before answering – absolutely NO CALLING OUT OF ANSWERS! (This is important – we want all children including newcomers, visitors or infrequent attendees to feel comfortable. If necessary, tell teams who call out answers without conferring together, that they will lose a turn.)

If children need help and there is a Bible reference, encourage them to use their Bibles as a lifeline! (After all – we want them to learn that they can find answers in their Bibles!)

There are several arrow shortcuts on the board. If a team lands on a space with an arrow and answers the question correctly, they may take the shortcut.

If a team answers the question correctly, follow the directions on the question list. (move forward or back). Play then passes to the next team.

After following the instructions on the question list, play passes to the next team. (even if the cards tell teams to move ahead and they land on another marked space their turn ends!)

Have the team with the youngest child go first.

First team to get to the finish line is the winner.

If you finish the game, but have not read all the questions, use the remaining ones for discussion.

Moses' Faith Journey Question List:

Question Mark Spaces:

Teams that answer correctly may move ahead one space.

The story of Moses is found in which testament of the Bible? (Old –Table of Contents in their Bibles)

Where did the story take place? (Egypt and Midian or Mount Sinai – page 64, Introduction page to Exodus) Run to the wall map and show Egypt on the map!

What book of the Bible tells Moses' story? (Exodus)

To what category of Bible books does Exodus belong – Law, History, Poetry or Prophets? (Law – check the chart on the wall in the room)

The ruler of Egypt was called _____ (Pharaoh)

The Hebrew people first came to Egypt because of a famine. True or False? (True)

What happened to the Hebrews after living for many years in Egypt? (they grew in numbers – Exodus 1:7)

What unusual thing happened to Moses as a baby? (he was placed in a basket in the Nile River – Exodus 2:3)

Who found Moses in the basket? (Pharaoh's daughter – Exodus 2:5)

Where did Moses run after killing the Egyptian? (Midian – Exodus 2:15) Show this on the wall map.

When Moses was watching the sheep in Midian, what amazing sight did he see? (a burning bush that wasn't consumed by the flames - Exodus 3:2)

Why did God ask Moses to remove his shoes? (it was a holy place because God was there – Exodus 3:5) Take off your shoes and go to the Temple area and bow down and say, “God, you are so holy!”

God told Moses he saw and heard the Hebrew people as they _____ (cried out and suffered – Exodus 3:7)

What did God ask Moses to do? (go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God’s people go – Exodus 3:10)

What are some excuses Moses gave God for not wanting to go? (Who am I? Who are YOU? They won’t listen to me. I am not a good speaker. Send someone else, not me! Exodus 3:11-4:16)

Who did God say would be with Moses through everything? (God – Exodus 3:12)

Cross Spaces:

Teams may move ahead two spaces after answering or doing the action (Remember it is important to know the answers to questions, but it is more important to SHOW that we know by acting that way!)

The brave midwives refused to obey the Pharaoh’s order to kill the baby boys. They knew that God would not want those baby boys to die.

Jochbed, Moses’ mother, refused to throw her baby into the Nile River. Instead she hid him for three months. Take the baby doll and wrap him in a blanket and hide him somewhere in the room.

You obeyed your parents when they told you to do something.

Miriam was brave and strong. She boldly asked Pharaoh’s daughter if she wanted a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby. Then she took baby Moses home to his mother.

Moses did not think he would be able to do what God asked. When is a time you have been afraid. What helped you have courage?

You decide to read your Bible each night before going to bed so you could learn more about God.

God told Moses that he had heard the cries of his people. Go to the white board and write out our memory verse. Then stand as a group and recite it together. (Psalm 94:14)

God called Moses from a burning bush and spoke to him. Name three ways God speaks to us today. (Bible, prayer, song, worship, G.R.E.A.T. Adventure, our conscience, sermons)

God remembers and God keeps his promises. Tell about a time you kept a promise to someone.

God asked Moses to do a hard thing. When God asks us to do something he always gives us the strength or ability to do the task. What is a hard thing you have done?

God showed Moses how to do miracles to help convince the people of God’s message. Name one of the miracles Moses was able to do. (turned stick to snake, made hand white with leprosy, turned Nile water to blood – Exodus 4:2-9)

You invite your neighbors to come to church with you.

Sometimes God doesn't answer our prayers right away and just the way we want them. God knows best. God always wants what is good for us. Tell about a time God answered one of your prayers.

God told Moses to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt to worship God. Where is the place you like best to worship God?

You tell your new neighbors about the story of Moses that you learned at church.

You and your family memorized our memory verse and say it together as a family.

Dynamite Spaces:

Teams must go back one space, unless otherwise directed, after landing on this space.

The Pharaoh of Egypt forces the Hebrew people to be his slaves. Go stand against the wall and cry out, "We don't want to be slaves. Help us God!"

The Hebrew slaves are forced to make bricks all day in the hot sun. Go to the basket and remove all the blocks ("bricks"). Stack them up and count them.

You didn't make your quota of bricks today. Go back to START!

Pharaoh orders that all the boy babies are thrown into the Nile River and killed. Go to the wall map and point to the Nile River. Then cry out together, "Pharaoh is killing our babies!"

Moses decides to take matters into his own hands and kills the Egyptian. He is forced to leave Egypt. He heads to Midian. Find Midian on the map.

Moses lives as a shepherd in Midian. Hold the shepherd's crook and walk around the room "baaa-ing" like sheep.

God calls to Moses from a burning bush but Moses makes up excuses. What excuses has your team made before when you were afraid to do something?

You were afraid you weren't very good at softball, so you didn't try out for the team.

You made fun of someone on your soccer team who missed an easy shot.

Moses is afraid that what God wants him to do is too hard. What is something hard you have had to face before?

You spent the night with a friend and decided not to come to church.

You disobeyed your parents and lied about it so you wouldn't get in trouble.

Moses spent 40 years in the land of Midian. As a team do 40 jumping jacks.

Moses was afraid to speak to Pharaoh because he wasn't very good at speaking to others. What is something you are good at? Not so good at?

You got mad at your brother and punched him.

You didn't do your homework and lied to your teacher about it.

After the game, roll the game board back up on the carpet roll and push to the edge of the wall to store.

Reflection and Journal Time:

The last 10 minutes should be reserved for Journal Reflection time. This is an opportunity for processing and reflection about what the children have learned. Ask the shepherds to pass out the journals and pencils/pens and the journal question sticker for the day. Workshop leaders and shepherds should sit down with children in small groups to facilitate discussion and writing in Faith Journals. Children may copy the memory verse and illustrate it as an alternative to journal questions.

Journal Questions:

Grades 1-2: Draw a picture showing your favorite part of the story.

Grades 3-6: Moses made up lots of excuses about why he couldn't obey God. Why do you think people make up excuses? When is a time you made up an excuse?

Reflection:

Prayer:

Gather the children together in a circle. Review with them one word or concept that they learned during today's session. (Faith, obedience, God's love, God's faithfulness are some suggestions) Encourage children to come back next week for another workshop, and to invite their friends, especially their friends who do not belong to a church. Remind them to bring their Bibles. Ask for prayer requests and pray together.