

GOD CALLS MOSES

After the death of Joseph and his brothers, their families continued to live in the land of Egypt. There they grew great in number and later became known as **Israelites**.

After many years, a new Pharaoh became king of Egypt. He was very mean to the Israelites. He made them **slaves** under harsh **taskmasters**. The Israelites were made to work very hard.

Pharaoh thought this would stop them from having more children. But the harder the Israelites worked, the more children they had.

Then Pharaoh told the **midwives** to kill all the newborn Israelite boys. But the midwives did not obey Pharaoh. They obeyed God and did not kill the baby boys. God blessed them for obeying Him and gave them houses to live in.

One day, a baby boy was born to one of the Israelite women. He was a very handsome baby. His mother hid him for three months. She did not want him to be killed by Pharaoh's soldiers.

When she could no longer hide her son, she put him in a small reed basket. Carefully she smeared it with **pitch**. Then she set the basket among the bulrushes of the Nile River, and sent her daughter along to see what would happen.

Soon the young girl saw Pharaoh's daughter find the basket floating among the bulrushes. When Pharaoh's daughter opened the basket, she saw the baby boy inside. Happily she took him from the basket. The baby's sister excitedly ran to Pharaoh's daughter. "Will you need someone to nurse the child?" she asked. "Yes, go and find an Israelite to nurse the child!" Pharaoh's daughter ordered. The young girl quickly ran to tell her mother.

Because the child's mother trusted God, He allowed her to care for her own son. But before long, Pharaoh's daughter returned and took him back to be a prince in Pharaoh's court. She named him Moses.

As Moses grew into a man, he thought about the Israelites **suffering** as slaves. One day he went to see them. On the way, Moses saw an Egyptian hitting one of the Israelite slaves. Moses was angered. After looking to see if others were watching, he killed the Egyptian.

Moses knew he should not have killed the Egyptian and hoped that no one saw him. But later, Moses learned that someone did see him.

Pharaoh soon heard that Moses had killed an Egyptian. Knowing his life was in danger, Moses quickly fled to the land of Midian. While in the land of Midian, Moses stayed with a man named Reuel (also called Jethro). Moses later married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah.

Many more years passed. The Israelites, who were very sad, were still slaves in Egypt. They worked very hard to make bricks for Pharaoh's buildings. God saw how the Egyptians treated the Israelites and decided to help them. He called Moses to lead them out of slavery.

Moses was tending his father-in-law's sheep near Mount Sinai. As he was herding the flocks, God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. Moses went closer to see the bush as it burned. He was surprised when he saw that the bush was not burning

Parents: Explain the meaning of the **boldface** words. Discuss with your child why it was wrong for Moses to kill the Egyptian. Also, explain why he was given the name, Moses.

up. God then spoke to Moses, "Take off your shoes!" God's voice boomed. "You are standing on holy ground." God then told Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites.

"How will they know that You have sent me?" Moses asked. "Cast down your shepherd's rod!" God commanded Moses. When Moses threw his rod to the ground, it became a snake. When he grabbed it by the tail, it became a shepherd's rod again.

God also performed another **miracle** by causing Moses' hand to become **leprous** and be healed again. Moses could use these miracles to show that God had called him to go before the Pharaoh.

But Moses was afraid to face the king of Egypt. He explained to God that he could not speak well. So God agreed to let Moses' brother, Aaron, go with him and talk to Pharaoh.

God told Moses that Pharaoh would not want to free the Israelites. God knew He would have to perform great miracles before Pharaoh would let them go.

Moses and Aaron then went to see Pharaoh. They asked Pharaoh to free the Israelites. This made the king angry. He made the Israelites work harder than before. Now they had to make more bricks and gather the straw, also.

Later, Moses and Aaron went to see Pharaoh again. This time God did miracles before Pharaoh by turning the shepherd's rod into a snake. But Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

In our next lesson, we will learn about the **plagues** God sent upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

Parents: Explain how the people of Israel came to be in the land of Egypt. Also explain what made the ground holy where Moses was standing. Discuss with your child the miracles that God performed through Moses before Pharaoh.



Moses is placed into a small basket by his mother.



Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses floating among the bulrushes.



Moses flees to the land of Midian.



God speaks to Moses from the burning bush.



Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt.



Follow the paths to see which one leads to Moses.

Connect the dots to see what Moses saw when God called him.

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BIBLE MEMORY

Matthew 5:3-8

