

6



MOSES & PHARAOH

Passover / Exodus / Ten Commandments

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Exodus 1, 3, 5, and 7 – 14

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- The Israelites became slaves in Egypt and cried out to God for help.
- Moses was God's answer to the people's cry for help. God sent Moses to give his message to Pharaoh, but Pharaoh did not listen to God, and therefore God sent the plagues.
- The deliverance of the Israelites through the blood of a lamb points forward to the greater deliverance through the blood of Jesus on the cross.
- God kept his promise to Abraham and made his people into a great nation – one million people when they left Egypt.
- Pharaoh finally let the people leave, and God miraculously parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through.
- God gave his people his written law through Moses. The 10 Commandments told them how to love God, how to love others, and how to live as God's people. But many forgot about God's Law. They disobeyed God's Law and did not let God be King over them.
- God disciplined his people by making them live in the desert for 40 years. Then God kept another part of his promise – to bring the Israelites into their own place, called the "Promised Land."

Memory Verse "The blood on your houses will be a sign for you. When I see the blood, I will pass over you." (Exodus 12:13 - NIRV)

**ACNA
Catechism
Connection**

Today's story of Moses is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 257 When did God give the 10 Commandments? ...after saving his people Israel from slavery in Egypt

Q 258 How did God give the 10 Commandments? ...on stone tablets

Q 183 Where can you find God's will? ...outlined in the 10 Commandments

Q 77 What does Scripture mean when it tells you to fear God? ...the unrepentant should fear God

Q 238 & 239 Of what should you be certain in prayer? ...God always hears and answers in his time and for his glory.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Two sided sign: "No/Go" for Pharaoh to hold
- Staff (cane) for Moses to hold
- Bush (ideally one that appears to be burning – e.g. a few twigs with red Christmas lights or strips of red paper on them)
- Pieces of red construction paper with masking tape on back. The children can tape the paper to a door frame.
- Blue plastic table cloths (from Dollar Store) for the Red Sea
- Two cardboard tablets representing the ten commandments
- Have a poster of the Ten Commandments ready to show during the story.
- Toy microphone (optional)
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes: Moses and Pharaoh

Memory Verse: "The blood on your houses will be a sign for you. When I see the blood, I will pass over you." (Exodus 12:13 - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - Old Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the key concepts highlighted in this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

This picture shows Moses leading God's people out of Egypt.

I wonder what Moses is thinking about.

I wonder why there is blood on the doorposts. (This is the lamb's blood that points to the blood of Jesus that would be shed for us on the cross.)

What else do you see in this picture?

I wonder how it is that the people are walking on a dry pathway with water all around them.

I wonder where they are going.

I wonder what those two stone tablets are about.

Let's find out in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of Exodus, in the Old Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY (Important introduction to the lesson): *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster: In today's story you will hear about an Egyptian king, called a Pharaoh, who turned the Israelite people into slaves and treated them very cruelly. God heard the cries of his people and sent Moses to rescue them. In the desert, God appeared to Moses and spoke to him from a burning bush. God told Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and away from the cruel Pharaoh. He told Moses to tell Pharaoh, "LET MY PEOPLE GO!" But Pharaoh had a hard heart and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt. God sent many warnings (plagues) for Pharaoh to repent, but he still would not listen to Moses. Then God told Moses that each Israelite family was to put the blood of a lamb over their doorposts so that they would be safe on the night that the firstborn of the Egyptians died. And they were safe! The lamb's blood points to Jesus' blood when he died on the cross so that all people could be saved from their sins. Pharaoh finally let God's people leave, but he chased them all the way to the Red Sea. God did a mighty act and parted the water so that the Israelite people walked across on dry land. But Pharaoh and his army, who were chasing the Israelites, were drowned in the sea. The Israelites were safe once again! During this time, God gave Moses and the people the Ten Commandments. These were laws (rules) on how to love God and live according to His ways. They were written on stone tablets. However, some of the people rejected God's ways and would NOT follow the commandments. As a consequence, the people could not yet enter into the land that God had promised them.*

STORY:

TEACHER: Last week we learned about Joseph who was in Egypt, and how God saved his people, the Israelites, from hunger. The Israelites had many, many children and were now a great nation living in Egypt.

Let's move over to this part of the room that we'll call Egypt. (*Move to the area designated with a picture of a pyramid.*)

TEACHER: In Egypt there was a now a new king (Pharaoh). He did not know about Joseph or the famine.

ACTION: Ask for a volunteer (preferably an older student) to play Pharaoh. Give the older student the appropriate costume, and the sign that says "No/Go". Divide the rest of the children into two groups; one group is the Israelites, and the other is the Egyptians.

TEACHER: One day as Pharaoh looked over the land he realized that there were too many Israelites and he became afraid that they would rise up and fight against him.

Therefore, Pharaoh said, "We will make slaves of the Israelites and make them work very hard!" They were forced to carry heavy loads and build big pyramids in the hot desert.

The Israelites cried out to God for help. God heard the cries of his people and sent a little baby boy. His name was Moses, and one day Moses would grow up and rescue the Israelites.

As Moses grew up, God spoke to him. Moses did what God told him to do.

ACTION: Ask for a volunteer to play Moses. Have Moses stand near the bush to hear what God will say.

TEACHER: When Moses was 40 years old, God appeared to him in flames of fire coming out of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up. From the bush, God called to Moses,

GOD (student): "Moses, Moses!" Take off your sandals. You are standing on holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

TEACHER: Hearing this, Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

God continued to talk to Moses,

GOD (student): "I have seen the troubles the Israelites have suffered in Egypt. And I have heard their cries when the Egyptians hurt them. I am going to send you to Pharaoh. Go now, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt!"

TEACHER: So Moses went to Pharaoh, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: "Let my people go."

ACTION: Moses shows Pharaoh the sign. "Let my people go"

TEACHER: But Pharaoh replied,

ACTION: Pharaoh holds up the sign that says "No".

TEACHER: Then God told Moses,

GOD (student): "Pharaoh is being stubborn. I am going to cause many terrible things to happen to the Egyptians so that they will let the Israelites go. I will cause the river to turn to blood, I will send frogs, gnats, flies, sores on the people, hail, locust, and even darknessbut Pharaoh will still refuse to let the Israelites go free. I will have to bring the worst plague of all."

TEACHER: God told Moses to tell the Israelites to take lambs and sacrifice them. He told them to put the blood over their front doors. The blood of the lamb was God's sign to save his people. The lamb's blood pointed to a time way in the future when Jesus would shed his blood and die to save people from dying in their sins.

ACTION: *Have the children each take a piece of the red construction paper and tape it to a door frame. As they are taping the paper, remind them that Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God.*

TEACHER: That night, the firstborn (the oldest) of each family died. However, God did not take the lives of the firstborn in the homes that had blood on their door frames. God "passed over" the families of Israel, and no one died.

Pharaoh finally listened to God and told the Israelites to "Go".

ACTION: *Have Moses show Pharaoh his sign "Let my people go". Have Pharaoh show his sign "Go".*

TEACHER: God again kept his promise to Abraham! God made Abraham's descendants into a great nation. When the Israelites left Egypt there were about one million of them.

Unfortunately, after the Israelites left, Pharaoh changed his mind and said,

PHARAOH: "What have we done? We have lost our slaves!"

TEACHER: So he took 600 of his best men and chariots and chased after the Israelites.

Again, the Israelites were frightened and cried to the Lord for help. Moses answered them: "Do not be afraid. The Lord will fight for you." Then as the people came closer to the Red Sea, Moses raised his walking stick (*have Moses raise his stick*) and the Lord drove back the sea with a strong east wind, and the Israelites walked through the sea on dry land.

ACTION: *Four teachers/helpers holding the blue table cloths. Two people per table cloth. The table cloths should be separated in order for the group of children that represent the Israelites to cross through as if on dry land.*

TEACHER: As for the Egyptians, they were swept away into the sea.

ACTION: *When the Egyptians go between the two table cloths, the table cloths should cover the Egyptians as if the Red Sea is coming in and drowning them.*

TEACHER: God continued to tell the Israelites how much he loved them and wanted them to follow and obey him. God gave Moses 10 Commandments that were written on stone tablets. These 10 Commandments are God's laws. They help people to love, worship and obey God.

ACTION: *Have Moses hold up the cardboard tablets. Point to the poster of the Ten Commandments and tell the children that we will start to learn these next week.*

TEACHER: But some of the Israelites forgot about God's Law and did not keep his commandments.

Many of them did not let God be King over them. As a consequence, God did not allow the Israelites to go into their Promised Land right away. Instead, God had them live in the desert for a long, long time.

After 40 years, God was ready to keep another part of his promise – and bring his people into their own land – The Promised Land.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (He hears prayers and sends a deliverer, he saved his people by the blood of a lamb, he gives warnings, he gives laws to live by)
- **Why did the Israelites call out to God to rescue them?** (they were being treated cruelly as slaves in Egypt) **Who did God send to rescue his people?** (Moses)
- **Why did the Israelites have to put the blood of a lamb over their doors?** (God told them to do this to protect them, so that the firstborn would not die, but would be passed over)
- **How does the blood of the lamb on their houses point to Jesus?** (Jesus is the perfect lamb of God and his blood shed on the cross saves us from our sins.)
- **How did God save his people when the Pharaoh's army was chasing them?** (God parted the Red Sea with a strong wind and the Israelites crossed over, but the Egyptian soldiers were swept away when the waters came back together.)
- **What great set of laws did God give his people so they could worship him**

rightly and live good lives? (Ten Commandments)

- Did everyone follow God's commandments? (no) What consequences did God give them for disobeying? (they could not enter the Promised Land)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

In this story we see how God rescued his people when they cried out to him. God always hears our prayers and he cares for each one of us.

The people were obedient to God when they put the lamb's blood on their doorposts. Then they were safe when the firstborn of the Egyptians died. Does the blood of the lamb remind you of something else in the Bible? Yes, it reminds us of the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross. Jesus was God's perfect lamb that rescues us from sin and eternal death. Now we can have life in fullness and life eternal.

What are some ways that God has rescued or helped us when we have called out to him? (Be prepared to share how God has helped you in times of trouble.)



Moses by the burning bush

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Make a play dough/plasticine representation of the parting of the sea.



Moses leads the Israelites through the Red Sea

"The blood on your houses will be a sign for you. When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

(Exodus 12:13)