

MOSES  
AND THE FREEDOM FANATICS

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Bible School Lessons  
for  
Chetek United Methodist Church  
and  
Chetek Advent Christian Church

on  
June 7 - 12, 1982

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1 - 20

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This plan is not mandatory. It is a guide for the teachers to use as they see fit. It covers what should be taught. If the teachers have a better approach for the time allowed, they should use it.

LESSON I  
MOSES, THE ISRAELITE

Materials:

Bible

- Pictures: 1. Baby Moses in the Bulrushes  
2. Israelites working for the Egyptians

Memory Verses:

Nursery Class - "God is Good"

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, &amp; 3rd - "The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1)

4th, 5th, &amp; 6th - First two commandments (Exodus 20:3-4)

1. You shall have no other Gods before you.
2. You shall not make yourself a graven image.

The Story:

Nursery Class, Kindergarten, &amp; 1st grade - Teacher tells the story

2nd &amp; 3rd grades - Teacher reads the story from the Bible and the children follow in their Bible, or teacher reads it from the Living Bible, (Exodus 1:5 - 2:10)

4th, 5th, &amp; 6th - Children read the story from their Bible.

Suggestions:

1. Teacher should read first 20 chapters of Exodus.
2. A Bible drill, possibly for the oldest class.
3. Explain the meaning of salvation to Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd.
4. Also freedom, liberation, deliverance, redemption, saved - in connection with their memory work.
5. After reading or telling the story, use the questions that the teacher thinks that the group should be able to answer.

STORY - MOSES, THE ISRAELITE

For Nursery, Kindergarten, &amp; 1st (Use introduction for the other groups, if you wish.)

Hold up Bible and ask:

Do you know what this book is?

Yes, it's the Bible.

Do you know what we find in the Bible?

Yes, we find many things. We find many true stories about people who lived hundreds of years ago.

We find what God wants us to do, and we find God's word in the Bible.

Today, I am going to tell you a story that is in the Bible. It is right here (turn to Exodus). Many of God's people who were called Israelites or Hebrews were living in a land called Egypt. Many years before the time of this story, their grandfathers and great-grandfathers had gone to that land of Egypt for food because there was no food in their own country. Many families moved there and the number of Israelites grew to a great number. When the old King or Pharaoh, as he is called in Egypt, died, a new Pharaoh ruled the people. Now he was really an "old meanie." He made the Israelites slaves to his people. They had to carry heavy loads and work long hours. They had to work real hard every day from early morning until dark. The people cried out to God for help, and God had a plan, but it wouldn't all come about for a few years. Now, the mean old Pharaoh decided there were just too many Israelites in his country. He made it a law that all boy babies should be thrown into the river and drowned. Isn't that awful?

How sad the people were! There was a man and woman there who had a baby boy, and they kept him hidden until he was about three months old. Then the mother made him a basket of stalks from the reeds, called bulrushes, that grew in the river. She plastered pitch on the stalks so the basket wouldn't leak. She put the baby in the basket and put it in the river near the bank. His older sister stood by and watched him. The movement of the water made the basket rock like a cradle.

One day the Pharaoh's daughter, a princess, and her maids came down to the river to bathe. She noticed the basket and told one of her maids to bring it to her. When the basket was brought and opened, the princess saw the baby, and the baby started to cry. She picked him up and held him. She said, "He must be one of the children of the Hebrews." She felt sorry for him and decided to take care of him. The baby's sister came out of her hiding place and asked the princess if she should get a nurse for the baby, and the princess told her to go and find one. The girl brought the baby's very own mother, and the princess hired her to take care of the baby. His own mother took care of him until he was old enough to go to the palace to live with the princess. The princess named the baby "Moses."

See the beginning of God's plan by letting Moses live? We will learn more about His plan this week.

Questions:

1. How did God keep Moses from being killed?
2. What did Moses' Mother do to help?
3. What did you think would happen when the princess found the basket?
4. Imagine that you were Moses' sister, and you saw the princess take the baby out of the basket. What would you have done? She was a brave girl, wasn't she?
5. Where do we find the story of Moses? In what Book of the Bible?
6. What were God's people called?
7. Are Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews all the same people?
8. What was the ruler of Egypt called?

Activity:

1. Discuss the pictures
2. Pretend the story

LESSON II  
GOD CHOOSES MOSES

Materials:

Bible

- Pictures: 1. The Burning Bush  
2. Rod turning into a Snake

Memory Verses:

- Nursery Class - "Great is the Lord" (Psalm 19:1)  
Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd - "God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)  
4th, 5th, & 6th - (3rd and 4th Commandments) Exodus 20: 7-8  
3rd - You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.  
4th - Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.

The Story:

1. Found in Exodus 2:11 - 4:5
2. You could have the children close their eyes and pretend they are watching the events in the story.

Suggestions:

Explain the meaning of refuge to Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd (shelter, protection)

STORY - GOD CHOOSES MOSES

Remember in yesterday's story, Moses was taken to the palace to live after he was a baby no longer, and he became the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He was raised in the palace and given all the things a prince would have been given. One day, after he was grown up, he was in the city. He noticed his own people, the Hebrews, working as slaves and carrying heavy loads. He watched them and had a feeling of being sorry for them. He saw an Egyptian guard beating one of the old Hebrews because he was not keeping up with the younger ones. Moses became so angry that he killed the Egyptian and hid his body. He decided that he must leave Egypt because when Pharaoh would hear about what he did, he may decide to kill Moses. So Moses went to a land far away. As he was resting near a well and drinking some water, seven sisters came with their father's sheep to water. The other shepherds near there wouldn't let the girls get near the water and drove them away. Moses stood up and helped the girls water their father's sheep. When their father heard about it, he invited Moses to stay with them. In time Moses married one of the sisters. Her name was Zipporah.

The mean Pharaoh back in Egypt died. The Israelites still couldn't see any hope of being free. They were so tired of being slaves. They called out to God to help them. God heard their prayers and their crying and felt sorry for them. God most likely decided He'd better get on with His plan.

One day when Moses was out taking care of his father-in-law's sheep, he came to the Mountain of God. An angel appeared to Moses in a flame of fire that was a burning bush. Yet the bush did not burn to ashes. When Moses turned to see the reason for this, God said to him, "Do not come near, take your shoes off because the place where you are standing is holy ground. I am God of your father and grandfather. I have seen what is happening to my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry, and I know how they are suffering. I have come down to deliver them out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan. I will send you, Moses, back to Egypt to take my people out of that land." Then Moses said to God, "Will those people listen to me? They will ask who sent me." God said, "You will tell them the God of their fathers sent you to take them out of that land. I will prepare the people and will also harm Egypt so they will let the people go." Then Moses said, "Yes, but maybe the people of Israel still won't believe me that you, the Lord, have appeared to me. Then what should I do?" God said, "What do you have in your hand?" Moses said, "My rod." Moses was carrying it to help him herd the sheep and beat off any animal that may have wanted to harm the sheep. God said, "Throw it on the ground." So, Moses threw it on the ground, and do you know what happened? That rod of Moses' turned into a snake. Moses was going to run away from it, but God told him to pick up the tail, and when he did, guess what! The snake turned back to a rod again. When the people would see that happen, they should know that God had chosen Moses to take them out of Egypt.

Questions:

1. Why did Moses leave Egypt?
2. Who did Moses marry?
3. What did he do for his father-in-law?
4. What happened to the bush?
5. Why did Moses carry a rod?
6. What happened to the rod when Moses threw it on the ground?
7. Who did God choose to take the Hebrews out of Egypt?

Activity:

1. Discuss the pictures
2. Play the story

LESSON III  
MOSES CARRIES OUT GOD'S PLAN

Materials:

Bible

- Pictures: 1. Any of the plagues  
2. The parting of the Red Sea

Memory Verses:

- Nursery Class - "I will give thanks to the Lord" (Psalm 9:1)  
Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd - "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." (Psalm 48:1)  
4th, 5th, & 6th - 5th, 6th, and 7th Commandments (Exodus 20:12-14)  
5th - Honor your father and your mother  
6th - You shall not kill  
7th - You shall not commit adultery

The Story:

Due to the length of the scriptures, it will be best for the teacher to tell the story to Nursery, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. A different approach for 4th, 5th, and 6th follows the questions for this lesson.

Suggestions:

1. Teacher will have to read and be able to tell about the Passover. (Exodus 12:1-31 for grades 4, 5, and 6)
2. Some of the scriptures for grades 4, 5, and 6 are quite short so children given those could be given a second one to read.

STORY - MOSES CARRIES OUT GOD'S PLAN

After talking to God about leading His people out of Egypt, Moses told his father-in-law that he wanted to go back to Egypt to check on his people, the Hebrews. So he took his wife and sons and started for Egypt. Before he got there, his brother, Aaron, met him. God had sent him out to meet Moses so they could make their plans on how to get the people out of the land of Egypt. First they met with the elders of the Hebrews and told them what God had said to Moses. Moses performed the miracles that God had told him to do. What was one of them? Yes, his rod turned into a snake and then back to a rod again. The elders believed him and were glad that God had sent him to get them away from Egypt and back to a land of their own.

Then the big job faced Moses and Aaron. They had to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go. They went to see him and told him that they brought a message from Jehovah that he must let the Hebrews go. Jehovah is the name the Hebrews had for God. Then Pharaoh said that he didn't know any Jehovah, and he wouldn't let the Hebrews leave. Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh that if they did not obey Jehovah that they would face death by a plague or by the sword. A plague is a nuisance or a torment of some kind. Pharaoh still wouldn't listen to them, and then he made work all the harder for the Hebrews. They in turn told Moses they were better off before he came. Poor Moses! He was really in a spot! He turned to God and said, "Ever since I gave Pharaoh your message, he has been more brutal to the people, and you haven't let them get away." God said, "Now you will see what will happen to Pharaoh." Moses went and told the people what God had said, but

they wouldn't listen to him. God again told Moses to go and urge Pharaoh to let his people go. This time he showed him the miracle of the rod and snake. Pharaoh called his magicians, and they too changed rods into snakes, so he didn't believe he had to do anything Moses wanted. The next morning Moses was down by the river when Pharaoh came down. Again Moses asked him to let the people go. Then, because Pharaoh refused, God had told Moses and Aaron to hold their rods out over the River Nile, and the water turned to blood. The fish died, too, and there was a terrible smell in the land. But Pharaoh would not let the people go. That was the first plague.

After that God sent big bunches of frogs on the land. There were frogs everywhere, even in the dishes in the cupboards. Pharaoh then asked Moses to ask God to take away the frogs, and he would let the people go. When the frogs were gone, Pharaoh wouldn't let the people go. Then God sent lice, then flies, then boils and sores broke out on all the Egyptians, then a terrible hailstorm with lightning and thunder that killed animals and people, and even trees. Then God sent locusts which are bugs something like grasshoppers. They were thick and all over the ground and everywhere. Each time God sent a plague, then Pharaoh promised to let the people go if Moses would ask God to stop the plague. When God stopped the plague, then Pharaoh didn't keep his promise and wouldn't let the people go. Then God said that he would see that the oldest son in each Egyptian family would be killed, and when that happened, Pharaoh let the people go.

They were to be gone only three days to worship their Jehovah. God told Moses where to take the people and where to camp. When Pharaoh found out that the Hebrews weren't going to come back after three days, he and his men started out after them to bring them back. God told Moses to take the people to the Red Sea. The Hebrews saw the Egyptians coming behind them. They turned to Moses and blamed him for bringing them out there to die. Where were they to go? The sea was in front of them, and the Egyptians behind them. Moses told them not to be afraid as God told them to march toward the sea, and He would take care of them. Moses held his rod out over the water as God had told him to do, and the sea opened a path for the Hebrews, and they walked across on dry land. When the Egyptians tried to follow them, the water closed in and drowned them. God had carried out His plan to get His people out of Egypt. Wasn't that wonderful? See what God can do when we do what He tells us to. He really will take care of us if we mind Him.

#### Questions:

1. Who chose Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt?
2. What was his brother's name?
3. What was the Hebrew's name for God?
4. Why wouldn't Pharaoh let the people go?
5. Name the plagues that God sent down on the Egyptians.
6. What was the name of the sea that the Hebrews had to cross?
7. Who parted the water for the Hebrews? (God)

#### Story for Grades 4, 5, and 6:

Give each child a numbered slip of paper with the scripture references on it. They are to read it to themselves and be able to answer the questions the teacher will ask, and they will answer in their own words, thus the story will be told. Following the distribution of the references, allow enough time for children to read them to themselves, then ask the questions as follows for each reference.

1. Read - Exodus 4:18-20 and Exodus 4:27-28  
 What did Moses do after he talked to God?  
 Who met Moses on his way to Egypt? What did Moses want Aaron to do?

2. Read - Exodus 4:29 to Exodus 5:5
  - Who did Moses and Aaron go to see first?
  - What did they tell the elders?
  - Did the elders believe them?
  - Then who did they go to see?
  - What was Pharoah's answer?
3. Read - Exodus 5:6-19
  - What did Pharoah order the guards over the Hebrews to do?
  - How many bricks were they to make?
  - What happened if they didn't meet their quota?
  - Why did Pharoah issue this order?
4. Read - Exodus 5:20 - Exodus 6:3
  - What did the foreman accuse Moses and Aaron of? Did it trouble Moses?
  - What did Moses tell the Lord?
  - What did God tell Moses?
5. Read - Exodus 6:9-13
  - What happened when Moses told the people what God had said?
  - What did God tell Moses to do again?
  - Did Moses want to do this?
  - What did he say to God?
  - Did God change His mind?
  - What did He tell Moses?
6. Read - Exodus 7:8-14
  - What did Moses do to prove to Pharoah that God had sent him?
  - What did Pharoah do?
  - Did he agree to let the people go?
7. Read - Exodus 7:15-24
  - Tell in your own words what happened next.
  - How did the Egyptians finally get fresh water?
  - What was the first plague?
8. Read - Exodus 8:1-15
  - What was the second plague?
  - Did Pharoah agree to let the people go?
9. Read - Exodus 8:16-19
  - What was the third plague?
  - Did Pharoah let the people go?
10. Read - Exodus 8:20-32
  - What was the fourth plague?
  - Did Pharoah keep his promise and let the people go?
11. Read - Exodus 9:1-7
  - What was the fifth plague?
  - Did Pharoah change his mind and let the people go?
12. Read - Exodus 9:8-12
  - What was the sixth plague?
  - Did Pharoah let the people go?

13. Read - Exodus 9:13-33  
What was the seventh plague?  
Did Pharoah let the people go?
14. Read - Exodus 10:3-20  
What was the eighth plague?  
Did Pharoah let the people go?
15. Read - Exodus 10:21-27  
What was the ninth plague?  
Did Pharoah let the people go?
16. Teacher - Explain what happened next - the meaning of Passover -  
Exodus 12:1-31  
Then Pharoah told Moses and Aaron to take the Hebrews and go! So they  
go on their way.
17. Read - Exodus 14:1-28  
Tell us what happened when the Hebrews got to the sea.  
What happened to the Egyptians?  
What do you think this story should mean to us? (Yes, if we do what  
God tells us to do, He will take care of us.)

As a summary - ask the questions as you did for the younger grades.

#### LESSON IV GOD GIVES MOSES THE LAWS

##### Materials:

Bible

- Pictures: 1. Moses with the Tablets of Stone  
2. Moses on Mt. Sinai with God  
3. People gathering Manna

##### Memory Verses:

- Nursery Class - "Praise the name of the Lord" (Psalm 135:1)  
Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd - "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try  
me and know my thoughts!" (Psalm 139:22)  
4th, 5th, & 6th - 8th and 9th Commandments  
8th - You shall not steal  
9th - You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor  
10th - You shall not covet your neighbor's house or anything that  
is your neighbor's.

##### The Story:

Found in Exodus 19:16 to Exodus 20:17 and Exodus 24:1-28

##### Suggestions:

According to which group is being taught this lesson, the teacher will have to use her own judgment into how much detail she will go when explaining the Ten Commandments.

##### STORY - GOD GIVES MOSES THE LAWS

After God helped Moses and the Hebrews escape from the Egyptians, they started on their long trip to the land God had promised them, called Canaan. The way wasn't



easy. Sometimes they traveled miles before they found water. Then again sometimes when they did find it, it wasn't good. God would make the water good or have Moses strike a rock where fresh spring water would pour out. Sometimes the Hebrews found themselves without food and God provided food too. He gave them "Manna." It was a thin wafer found in the mornings on the grass while there was still dew on the grass. God told them to gather only what they needed for each day. On the sixth day of the week, they should gather enough for two days because on the Sabbath, or Sunday, there would be none. Each evening quails came and landed in the camp so the people killed them, and they had meat to eat, too. See how God fed them? He was really taking good care of them.

But the people were selfish at times and would quarrel between themselves. Moses had to settle many fights. It kept him busy and often it kept them from moving very far some days. Sometimes they stayed several days in one place. The people started to blame Moses for taking them away from a land of plenty, and that they would die instead of getting to Canaan, and sometimes they doubted that God was leading them.

Three months after they had left Egypt they found themselves in the wilderness of Sinai. They camped there near the mountain, and Moses went up to the mountain to talk to God. God told Moses to go back down to the people and give them His blessing and have them wash their clothes and bathe. On the third day, God would come down far enough on Mt. Sinai so that all the people could see Him. He told Moses to set up boundaries so that the people wouldn't go beyond them because the ground closer to God was Holy. Moses did what God asked. On the morning of the third day there was thunder, lightning, and a dark cloud on the mountain. There was a very loud blast of a trumpet, and all the people trembled. They wondered what was about to happen. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to the foot of the mountain. The Lord came out of the cloud and called to Moses and asked him to come up on the mountain. That is when God told Moses what the laws were that he wanted His people to obey. These laws are called the Ten Commandments. After Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights with God, he went back down to the people with the two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments written on them.

Do any of you know even what one of the Commandments is? They are:

1. You shall have no other God but me, said God.
2. You shall not make yourself any idols or images to worship.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain (meaning you should not swear using God's name).
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet (wish for things someone else has).

You see, God wanted His people to do what was right, and if they did, he would continue to take good care of them and lead them to the promised land. He will do the same for us, and our reward or prize will be that we will be able to live forever with Him because Heaven is our promised land.

Questions:

1. Where was Moses taking the people?
2. Did they take all the food and water along that they would need for the trip?
3. What happened when they wouldn't find water?
4. When they ran out of food, how did God provide for them?
5. Who went up to the mountain with God?
6. What did God give Moses?
7. Who wrote the Commandments on the two stones?
8. Are God's laws and the Commandments the same?