

Moses was born and called.

Bible Passage: Exodus 1-4

Memory Verse: ⁴“But I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. **Hosea 13:4**

Bottom Line: Because nothing is too hard for God, we can fully trust Him.

Big Picture Question: Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Christ Connection: God saved Moses' life and called him to rescue God's people from slavery. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.

LEADER NOTES:

CONTEXT

Moses was born into a culture that hated his people. The Israelites—descendants of Israel (Jacob)—had set up their home in Egypt when a famine forced them to seek out food. They became so numerous that Pharaoh felt threatened and forced them into slavery. But their families still grew, and Pharaoh instituted an unimaginable method of population control: kill all of the baby boys.

Moses' story is a clear picture of God's sovereignty. Not only was Moses' life spared by the Egyptian princess, Moses' mother was able to care for him. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house and then spent years shepherding in Midian before God called him to his task.

Imagine the encounter between God and Moses at the burning bush. God drew a curious Moses to Himself and then spoke: “Moses, Moses!”

God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. He testified to His own grace: “I have observed the misery of my people ... and I know about their sufferings ... I am sending you ... so that you may lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt” (Ex. 3:7-10).

God revealed His name: “I AM WHO I AM.” The most basic and important fact about God is that He exists; He always has and always will exist. God does not change. God revealed to Moses who He is so that the people would trust in Him.

Help the kids you teach understand that God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity. Emphasize how the calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people from sin.

TEACHING FOCUS (Exodus 1-4)

*What a story! Moses barely survived being a baby because Pharaoh wanted to stop the families of Israel from growing. Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own son, but when Moses got older he left Egypt and became a shepherd. Pharaoh made life hard for God's people by making them slaves. God saw everything the Israelites were experiencing. He heard their cries for help, and **God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity.***

You see, long before Moses was born, God made a covenant with Abraham. God told Abraham that his descendants would live in a foreign land and become slaves there. The people would be slaves for 400 years, but

God would free them. [See Gen. 15:13-21.] In the next few weeks, we will hear exactly how God used Moses to rescue the Israelites.

What was the first thing God told Moses to do at the burning bush? [Allow kids to respond.] God told Moses to take off his shoes because he was on holy ground. The ground itself was not special; what was special was that God was there.

Then God told Moses to speak to Pharaoh. Moses asked God what His name was. Does anyone remember God's answer? [Allow kids to respond.] Yes! God said His name is "I AM WHO I AM." God's name means that He is in control and He never changes. Moses tried to make excuses. How would you feel about going to speak to one of the most powerful people in the world? But not even Moses could stop God's plan to lead His people to freedom.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- *God saved Moses' life because Moses would lead His people out of slavery.*
- *In this story, God proves, once again, that at nothing is too hard for God because of who He is!*
- **BL:** Because nothing is too hard for God, we can fully trust Him.
- When we pray to God, He hears our prayers like He heard the prayer of His people in Exodus 4.
- Trust God by talking to Him about what matters to you!

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Duck, Duck, Goose (or More, More, Most)

What you Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Sit the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Ask for a volunteer to stand outside the circle.
- Guide her to walk around the outside of the circle, tapping (gently) each child on the shoulder while calling "duck...duck...duck" until finally calling "goose".
- The child she tapped last will get up and chase the volunteer around the circle, trying to tag her to determine who will be "It" next.
- You could change the words up and use "more...more...more" and then "most" as way to relate to the Bible story and Joseph with his brothers and dad.

What You Say:

"When we play games, like duck, duck, goose, it reminds us that sometimes we win and sometimes God has other plans. Our story the next few weeks should help us see that God can do anything, even when people seem to mess up or make different plans. He made a way for our Savior to be born, in the middle of some really impossible situations."

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Exodus 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: " The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true! The Bible has 2 parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells about the things that happened before Jesus was born. Today's story is from Exodus, the second book in the Bible. We will hear the true story about a man named Moses, whom God chose to save His people.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

"Jacob's family grew to be a big nation in Egypt. A new pharaoh made God's people work very hard in Egypt making bricks out of mud. He was afraid of God's people, so he said, "Throw every Hebrew baby boy into the Nile River!" One Hebrew mother put her son in a basket in the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter found the baby. She named him Moses. Moses grew up as the princess's son. One day, Moses ran away to Midian. In Midian, Moses saw a burning bush. God called from the bush, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have seen how My people are suffering. I want you to lead them out of Egypt." God warned that Moses' job would not be easy, but God would be with Moses."

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: Moses was surprised God wanted him to lead His people. Moses did not think he could do it. He was right! Moses couldn't save God's people on his own. God would save His people through Moses. **Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things.**

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Hosea 13:4. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "But I have been the Lord you God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me." Hosea 13:4

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. . Make Baby Moses Art

What You Need: baby Moses printable cut out, Moses in the Nile Activity page printed on blue paper, glue sticks, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid a baby Moses and Activity Page.
- Help each kid glue their baby onto their Baby Moses Activity page.
- Write each kid's name on their page.
- Help the kids say the Story Point and Christ Connection when they are finished.

What You Say "God kept baby Moses safe in a basket. God chose Moses to bring His people out of Egypt. Moses' life pointed to a better Rescuer: Jesus. **God can do anything, and we can fully trust Him.**"

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**But I have been the Lord your God** (point to God), **ever since you came out of Egypt.** (act like you are riding a horse) **You shall acknowledge** (point to your head like you are thinking) **no God but me** (point to God), **no Savior except me.** (make the sign for Jesus [point to the holes in his hands, first left then right hand]) **Hosea 13:4**
- Our memory verse comes from a prophet named Hosea. This prophet gives God's messages to His people. God wanted His people to know that He is the only God and Savior.

What You Say: Throughout Israel's history, God's messenger to His people would point back to the time they spent in Egypt and the

wonderful way God rescued them. This story is the start of how God's people ended up in Egypt! All along, God was their God. He is the one true God, and only He can save.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God, You are good. You love us even though we cannot earn Your favor. Thank You for sending Jesus to be a new and better Moses. Help us to willingly and joyfully obey Your plans for our lives. Amen.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the baby Moses Activity Page and talk about how God's timing is perfect.