

UNIT 4 | SESSION 1

GOD CALLED MOSES

EXODUS 1-4



CHRIST CONNECTION: God's people in Egypt needed to be rescued. God sent Moses to save them. We all need to be rescued from sin, so God sent Jesus to rescue us.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does sin keep us from God? Sin keeps us from God because He is holy.

KEY PASSAGE: The LORD hears, and rescues. Psalm 34:17

STORY POINT: God promised to help Moses.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Moses' life was characterized by miraculous encounters with the God of Israel. The same God who called Moses into leadership promised to use His faithful servant to rescue the Israelites from Egyptian rule. As His people cried out, God heard and remembered His covenant with their forefathers.

How did God direct Moses into these divine purposes? How did Moses' calling foreshadow the One who would lead God's people into even greater victory?

From Moses' first mention in Scripture, we read how God's purposes for Moses' life would prevail despite people's wicked schemes. Though Pharaoh called for the Israelite boys to be put to death, God saved Moses from such a fate. As Moses fled his familiar life in Egypt, God directed Moses' path toward a magnificent encounter with the great I AM at the burning bush. God called the wandering Moses by name, leading him forward in obedience with the promise of His faithful presence.

While Moses would not flawlessly follow God nor perfectly trust in His promises, God promised to provide Moses with help and demonstrate His power. Moses was aware of his own shortcomings as a leader, yet God still used him mightily to rescue the Israelites.

Later in his life, Moses prophesied that a new leader would one day emerge from among the Israelites. We see this promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ who, like Moses, was born in a time of turmoil under a king who called for His death. Unlike Moses, however, Jesus lived a sinless life and saved God's people from a different kind of bondage—the tyranny of sin and death. Moses led God's people to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Jesus, however, became the perfect sacrifice for His people, conquering death and raising to new life all who would believe in Him.

As you teach preschoolers to see God at work in the life of Moses, pray that they would lift their gaze to see Jesus' work on their own behalf. Though Moses was a distinguished leader who sought to obey God, this story goes beyond a moral example and is about the One who is worthy of our obedience and trust. Pray for boys and girls to heed Christ's call to salvation



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour




WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

READ THE SECRET MESSAGE

Before the session, place magnetic letters into a large shallow bin to spell Moses, God, and Aaron. Hide the letters under shredded paper or rice. Write the words Moses, God, and Aaron on strips of paper and display in plain sight of the preschoolers. Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Encourage the children to take turns digging in the bin and pulling out a letter to match to the strips of paper. Read the words to the children as they find the letters.

SAY  Hello, friends! It's so good to see you today! The names hidden in our tub today are important in our Bible story! God chose Moses to share an important message with the king. God told Moses to tell the king to let His people go. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES** and sent Aaron along with him. God wanted to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt and be the only King over His people. God sent Jesus to rescue us because we were separated from God by our sin. We sin when we choose to do things that displease God. Our big picture question and answer asks, Why does sin keep us from God? Sin keeps us from God because He is holy.

Worship

* Me and My House

* Light of the world

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Read the secret message

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ large shallow bin
- ☐ shredded paper or rice
- ☐ magnetic letters



LEARN

Choose the king's household

- ☐ tiara
- ☐ walking staff
- ☐ basket

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "God Called Moses" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ tiara
- ☐ walking staff
- ☐ large basket

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Sink or float

- ☐ dishpan
- ☐ towel

Make a burning bush

- ☐ "Burning Bush" printable, 1 per child
- ☐ yellow, orange, and red tissue paper



LIVE

Fan your flames

- ☐ yellow, orange, and red tissue paper; 1 piece per child

Missions activity

- ☐ "Who Was Lottie Moon?" missions video (optional)

Snack and Transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Get the Message" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Sticker family

- ☐ large paper, 1 piece per child
- ☐ smiley face stickers

Build a house with blocks

- ☐ large interlocking blocks



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 CHOOSE THE KING'S HOUSEHOLD

Before the session gather a tiara, a walking staff, and a large basket. Hold up the item that represents each question.

SAY “ I brought a few things that remind me of our Bible story. Listen carefully to find out who was in the basket [hold up the basket], who was found by the king's daughter [hold up the tiara], and who grew up in the king's house [hold up the walking staff]. ”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

Open your Bible to Exodus 1–4. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

GOD CALLED MOSES

SAY “ Long ago, God brought Joseph and his family to the land of Egypt. God blessed Joseph's family, and it grew. There were so many people in Joseph's family that the king of Egypt got scared. What if God's people decided to fight the king?

So, the king of Egypt decided to be mean to Joseph's family. He made them work very hard. Still, God made their families grow even bigger. The king made a very evil plan. He said that the baby boys should be thrown into the river.

A mom named Jochebed wanted to keep her baby safe. She put him in a basket by the river. The king's daughter found the baby and decided to take care of him. She named the baby Moses.

Moses grew up in the king's house. When he was older, he left Egypt and worked as a shepherd. One day, Moses saw something surprising. He saw a bush that was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. When Moses got close, God said, “Moses! Go to Egypt and help My people. Tell the king to let My people go.”

Moses went to Egypt with his brother Aaron to tell the king to let God's people go. ”

Christ Connection: God's people in Egypt needed to be rescued. God sent Moses to save them. We all need to be rescued from sin, so God sent Jesus to rescue us.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Hold up the basket, tiara, and walking staff from as you review the story. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster.

SAY 🗣️ Who was found in a basket? Yes! Moses. His mother wanted to keep him safe. Who found Moses? Yes! The king's daughter. She decided to take care of him. Who grew up in the king's house? Yes! Moses. He was a grown man when he left the king's house to work as a shepherd. Do you remember what happened after he grew up? Moses saw a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. God told Moses to go back to Egypt and help God's people. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES.** You were great listeners! God used Moses to rescue His people, and He rescues us by sending Jesus. 🙏

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Skip to My Lou":

Hear, hear, hear and rescue
Hear, hear, hear and rescue
Hear, hear, hear and rescue
The Lord hears and rescues

* 'The Lord Hears' worship video

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 34:17. Invite a child to open up your Bible to the key passage. Encourage children to name a time they needed help. Remind them God will help them just like He helped Moses. Say the key passage phrase together.

SAY 🗣️ God's people were in the land of Egypt, but the king of Egypt was mean to them. God used Moses to help rescue His people. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES.** The key passage phrase tells us God will help us! He hears our prayers and rescues us! Let's say the key passage phrase together. 🙏

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for hearing and helping us as we serve Him.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 CARE FOR BABY DOLLS



Provide one or more baby dolls for the children to take care of. Talk about what babies need. Suggest that the children hug the dolls, rock them back and forth, and sing to them.

SAY Joseph's family was in the land of Egypt. His family grew and had many new babies. What do you think the people did to take care of their babies? [Allow responses.] After several generations, the family was so big that the king of Egypt was afraid. He thought the people might gather together and fight against him! Sinning against God, the king told the people to throw their baby boys into the river. **Why does sin keep us from God? Sin keeps us from God because He is holy.** A mother named Jochebed wanted to keep her baby safe, so she put him in a basket by the river. Do you remember what happened to the baby boy in the basket? Right! The king's daughter saw the baby and decided to raise him in her household. What did she name him? She named him Moses. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES.** He was in a new home but was safe and alive.

2 SINK OR FLOAT

Place a dishpan on a folded towel. Fill it partially with water. Gather several common objects such as a spoon, plastic cup, a pair of scissors, a crayon, a toy car, a wooden block, and a small basket. Encourage preschoolers to make predictions about whether each item will float or sink. Encourage preschoolers to take turns putting an item into the water. Assign an adult to monitor the water station to ensure safety.

SAY Some things float, and some things sink. If we don't know how to swim, we would sink. Thank goodness for floaties! You are doing a good job of testing the items to see if they float or sink. Moses' mother must have carefully picked a basket that she hoped would float to put him in. She loved Moses and wanted him to be safe. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES** and had a special plan for him. God would use Moses to rescue His people from Egypt.

3 MAKE A BURNING BUSH

Print a "Burning Bush" printable for each child. Encourage the children to color the bush with crayons. Let them tear or cut flame shapes from yellow, red, and orange tissue paper to glue onto the bush.

SAY Moses saw something surprising. He saw a bush that was on fire! A bush that is on fire should burn up, but this one was not burning up. It might have looked like the bush you made or the ones we see outside our window with green leaves and brown stems. But this bush had flames all over it! When Moses got close to the bush, God spoke to Moses and told him to go to Egypt and help His people. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES** as He used him to rescue His people.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 FAN YOUR FLAMES

Give each preschooler a piece of tissue paper. Instruct preschoolers to wave their tissue paper in the air as they say each word of the key passage phrase. Repeat several times.

SAY “While Moses was working as a shepherd away from Egypt, he came upon a burning bush. God spoke through the burning bush to instruct Moses to return to Egypt to free His people. **GOD PROMISED TO HELP MOSES.**”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Explain to preschoolers a missionary is someone who tells people about Jesus. Comment that today preschoolers will learn about a missionary named Lottie Moon. Show the “Who Was Lottie Moon?” missions video.

SAY “Lottie Moon was born on December 12, 1840, in Virginia. Lottie trusted Jesus as her Savior when she was in college. Lottie’s sister was a missionary in China. Later, Lottie became a missionary and joined her sister in China. Lottie was a missionary in China for almost 40 years. She wanted all people in China to know the love of Jesus. Lottie knew that sin keeps us from God. **Why does sin keep us from God? Sin keeps us from God because He is holy. [Lead a prayer.]**”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “God’s people in Egypt needed to be rescued. God sent Moses to save them. We all need to be rescued from sin, so God sent Jesus to rescue us.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 PLAY OUT HARD WORK



Welcome boys and girls and talk about the Bible story. Remind the children that God's people were still living in Egypt generations after Joseph. The king was afraid of the people because there were so many of them. The king was mean and made God's people work very hard. Invite kids to pretend to pick up sticks of wood. Show them how to play out picking up sticks. Then say that the king made the people pick up sticks faster. Pick up sticks faster. Say that God's people needed help. Invite kids to listen to what happened next.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Exodus 1–4. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

GOD CALLED MOSES

- Joseph and his family lived in Egypt. God made their families grow so big that the king of Egypt got scared.
- The king decided to be mean to God's people. He made them work very hard, and he made an evil plan to throw the baby boys into the river.
- A mom put her baby in a basket by the river to keep him safe. The king's daughter found the baby and took care of him. She named the baby Moses.
- When Moses grew up, he left Egypt took care of sheep. One day, Moses saw a burning bush.
- God spoke to Moses through the bush and said, "Go to Egypt and tell the king to let My people go." Moses did what God said.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "Skip to My Lou":

Hear, hear, hear and rescue
Hear, hear, hear and rescue
Hear, hear, hear and rescue
The Lord hears and rescues

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 34:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say that the king made God's people work very hard. Encourage a child to name a way they work hard such as picking up toys, sweeping, or carrying heavy loads. Encourage the children to say the key passage phrase as they pretend to do these tasks.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for loving us and hearing our prayers.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 COUNT OUR PEOPLE

Give each preschooler a block. Place one block on the ground to represent yourself. Going around the room, allow each child to bring their block forward to add to the line. See how long your line grows. Count the blocks for the children once everyone in the room has added to the line. Add blocks for children who do not wish to come up in front of the classroom to add their own.

SAY “ The Bible tells us that God’s people were blessed by Him and they grew in number. God loved them and had a plan to save them even when the king was mean to them. God has a plan for us, too. He sent Jesus to rescue us from sin by dying on the cross and coming back to life. ”

7 STICKER FAMILY

Give each child a large sheet of paper, markers or crayons, smiley face stickers, and instruct him to place a sticker on their paper for each of the people in their families. Encourage preschoolers to share things they enjoy doing with their family members. Be sensitive to children’s family situations.

SAY “ Look at all of your beautiful families! What does your family like to do together? What is your favorite place to go with your family? Families are important! Our Bible story today taught us about Moses’ family. Do you remember who helped Moses when he went to Egypt to tell the king to let God’s people go? Yes! His brother, Aaron, went with him. Let’s pray and thank God for our families. Thank You, God, for giving us families. Thank You for the ways our families help us and show us love. Amen. ”

8 BUILD A HOUSE WITH BLOCKS

Encourage the children to build a house with large, interlocking blocks. Talk about what families do to show love. Be sensitive to children’s family situations.

SAY “ Moses was born in Egypt. His family members were slaves in Egypt. His family loved him and wanted to protect him. His mother protected him by putting him in a basket by the river. When the king’s daughter found him, he went to live with the king’s household in a palace. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.