

UNIT 4 | SESSION 1

Splash 1/5/25

# GOD CALLED MOSES

EXODUS 1-4



**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 34:17

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God saw His people suffering as slaves in Egypt and sent Moses to rescue them. We all suffer as slaves to sin, and God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying and rising again.

**STORY POINT:** God called Moses and promised to help him.



## 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 kids 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 kids and open the session



## LEARN

### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



## LOVE

### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



## LIVE

### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "Exodus Word Search" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ brown paper bag

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ clear plastic cups, 1 per kid
- ☐ red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- ☐ brown and green paint
- ☐ paintbrushes, 1 per kid
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ battery-operated tealight candle (optional)



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ foam cups, 39

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ broom sticks or yard sticks, 2

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "God Called Moses" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ dry erase board and marker (optional)
- ☐ biblical costumes (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 4, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ "Who Was Lottie Moon?" missions video

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "He Rescues Them (Psalm 34:17)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Do you ever receive phone calls or video chats from people you love who live far away? Who? How does it make you feel to talk to them?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Exodus Word Search” activity page.

**SAY** “Great job! You found many words that we’ll hear in our Bible story. Today, we’ll be learning from the book of Exodus, the second book in the Old Testament.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: CALLED TO MOVE



Before the session, write down on pieces of paper different movements kids can perform and place the papers in a brown paper bag. Examples of movements include: jump on one foot, pat your head, rub your belly, scratch your back, etc.

Guide kids to stand in a straight line in front of you. You will call a kid’s name and invite her to take a piece of paper from the bag. Read aloud the movement written on the paper. Continue calling kids to draw a paper and perform the movements as time allows. Movements can be called more than once if needed.

**SAY** “Each of you were called to do a specific action. Moses was called to a specific action, too: to save God’s people from slavery in Egypt. This was a much harder task than you had to do, but **GOD CALLED MOSES AND PROMISED TO HELP HIM.** Even though Moses didn’t think he was the right person for the job, God would be with him and provide whatever he needed.”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: BURNING BUSH CRAFT

Before the session, gather clear plastic cups; red, orange, and yellow tissue paper; brown and green paint; paintbrushes; glue sticks; and scissors. Direct kids to cut the tissue paper into strips just slightly longer than the cup to create the “flames.” Then lead kids to glue the “flames” inside their cup. Next, invite kids to paint a bush on the outside of their cup, using the brown and green paint. Allow the paint to dry. (Tip: Kids can place a battery-operated tealight candle in the cup to “light up” the flames.)

**SAY** “What would you do if you saw a bush on fire but the leaves were not burning up? [Allow responses.] That would be pretty amazing! Today, we will hear how God called a man named Moses from a burning bush. Through this encounter with God, Moses learned that God is holy and all-powerful. We’ll see how God was going to use Moses to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt and show everyone He is the one true God.”

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





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m so glad you are here to learn from the truth of God’s Word. Today, we will be in the book of Exodus. Is Exodus in the Old or New Testament? [Allow responses.] Exodus is the second book of the Old Testament. As we hear our story, we will learn about a man named Moses. We’ll see that **GOD CALLED MOSES AND PROMISED TO HELP HIM.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] God was going to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt, and Moses would be the man God called to this task.

If you have your Bible with you, please take it out. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let’s prepare our hearts for what God wants to teach us in His Word. Pray with me: ‘Dear God, please open our ears to listen and our eyes to see the truth from Your Word. Give us hearts to believe that just as You sent Moses to rescue the Israelites, You sent Jesus to rescue us. Amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “Today, we will learn a big picture question and answer to help us know more about our good God. Our question is, **Why does sin separate us from God?** Why do you think sin separates us from God? [Allow responses.] The answer we will learn is, **Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.**

The Bible teaches us that all people sin. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience to God’s commands. Only God is perfectly good and right. He never sins. We’ll see that just as God sent Moses to rescue His people from slavery, God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying on the cross for our sin and raising Him from the dead. Through faith in Jesus, people are no longer separated from God. One day, God will call His people to live with Him forever. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “In the book of Genesis, we learned about a family God called to be His people. This family began with Abraham and grew into the people of Israel. Can you name some of the people in Abraham’s family? [Allow responses.] That’s right, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph were people we learned came from Abraham’s family. Eventually Jacob, his 11 sons, and their families moved to Egypt where Joseph lived. Today’s Bible story took place many years after Joseph’s death. As we hear our story, we will learn how Israel became slaves under a new Pharaoh and how God called Moses to rescue them. ”



Worship



→ \* Great things  
\* Holy Forever.

\* offering



## LEARN the Bible Story



### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 1:6–2:10,23–25; 3:1–4:20. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Called Moses.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### GOD CALLED MOSES

“God brought Joseph, his brothers, and his father Jacob to Egypt to survive the famine. **Years went by, and the family of Israel grew quickly. The land of Egypt was filled with God’s people!**

**This made the new king of Egypt nervous.** “Look, the Israelites are more powerful and more numerous than we are. **Let’s make sure they know we are in charge so they don’t join our enemies.**” So, the Egyptians appointed **taskmasters over the family of Israel, made them slaves, and forced them to work very hard.** But God multiplied the Israelites even more.

**Then Pharaoh**—the king of Egypt—made an evil plan to harm the Israelites even more to keep them from growing stronger. He **commanded for all their sons to be put to death.** Any son born to the Israelites was to be thrown into the Nile River to drown.

**A woman named Jochebed hid her baby boy for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she placed him in a basket in the Nile River.** The baby’s sister, Miriam, watched the basket as it floated at the edge of the river. **Pharaoh’s daughter found the baby and felt sorry for him, so she decided to raise him as her son. She named the baby Moses.**

**When Moses grew up, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave, so he killed the Egyptian. Then Moses fled into the wilderness and became a shepherd. One day, he saw a bush that was on fire but was not burning up.** When he went closer to see this strange sight, **God called out to him from the bush, “Moses, Moses!”**

**“Here I am,” Moses answered.**

**God told Moses that he had heard his people, the Israelites, crying out because of their suffering. God was coming to rescue them and bring them to a wonderful land flowing with milk and honey. God said, “I am sending you to Pharaoh to lead My people out of Egypt.”**

**Moses did not think he was the right person for this job. He asked, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” God told Moses that He, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, would be with him and would help him. God would perform miracles so that Pharaoh would let the people go.**

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Build a timeline:** Use a dry erase board to draw pictures or write words that describe the events of the story.

**Act it out:** Using biblical costumes, invite kids to act out the various parts of the Bible story.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

To show Moses His power, God told Moses to throw his staff on the ground. When the staff hit the ground, it became a snake! God told Moses to pick it back up by the tail, and when he did, it became a staff again. God told Moses to take the staff and his brother Aaron and return to Egypt.

Christ Connection: God saw His people suffering as slaves in Egypt and sent Moses to rescue them. We all suffer as slaves to sin, and God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying and rising again. ”

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Today, we learned how **GOD CALLED MOSES AND PROMISED TO HELP HIM**. How did God call Moses and help him? [Allow responses.] First, we saw how God protected Moses when he was a baby. How did God protect Moses? [Allow responses.] God helped Moses’ mom hide him, helped his sister watch after him, used the Pharaoh’s daughter to raise him, and allowed him to escape Egypt after he sinned.

Then we saw how God called Moses and promised to help him when he was older. How did God call Moses? [Allow responses.] God spoke to Moses from a burning bush and called him to go to Egypt and rescue the Israelites from slavery. Moses was not sure he would be able to do this great task. He made up excuses. But God promised to help him and be with him. How did God show His power to help Moses? [Allow responses.] God told Moses that God is ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ God’s name helps us understand that He alone is God, and He has all power. God showed Moses that only God is the great I AM and has power by turning Moses’ staff into a snake. God even provided Moses’ brother Aaron to help him. God was with Moses in every part of his life.

God saw His people suffering as slaves in Egypt and sent Moses to rescue them. We all suffer as slaves to sin, and God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying and rising again. Just as God was with Moses and helped him, we can be with God forever by trusting in Jesus. God wants to save us from sin and be our great Rescuer! ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and needed God to rescue them. We need to be rescued from our sin. We cannot free ourselves from sin or take away sin on our own. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save those who place their faith in Jesus. When we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus, God forgives us and frees us from the punishment our sin deserves. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 4, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Did God ever talk to anyone besides Moses? Who?
2. How does the Bible, God’s Word, share the good news about Jesus?



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



#### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Optional

**SAY** 🗣️ Charlotte, or Lottie, Moon was born on December 12, 1840, in Virginia. In 1858, while Lottie was in college, she trusted in Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She was baptized at First Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. For awhile, Lottie taught school in Virginia, Kentucky, and Georgia. But when Lottie's sister, Edmonia Moon, became a missionary to Tengchow, China, Lottie was challenged to share the good news of Jesus with the people in China as well. A year later, in 1873, Lottie became a missionary and joined her sister in China. 🗣️

Play the missions video. Tell kids that Lottie opened a school for girls in China soon after she arrived and formed close relationships with the girls she taught. Her home was a place of comfort to the young girls when they faced persecution from their families for becoming believers in Jesus. Lottie lived the rest of her life, almost 40 years, in China sharing the gospel. Pray, asking God to help you and the kids you lead be a bold witness for Jesus like Lottie was. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to save people from sin.



#### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 34:17 together.

**SAY** 🗣️ Who hears our cries for help and rescue? [Allow responses.] The Lord hears our cries and He helps us. Let's practice our key passage together. 🗣️

Break down the verse into three parts. Lead kids to repeat the phrase about "the righteous crying out" while making a crying face. Once they can repeat it well, direct kids to point to their ears while repeating the phrase about how "the Lord hears." Repeat both parts before moving to part three, where kids will point up and then wrap their arms around their bodies in a hug while repeating the phrase about how "God rescues them from all their troubles."

Lead kids to sing "He Rescues Them (Psalm 34:17)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



#### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** 🗣️ God, thank You for hearing our cries for help. We need You to rescue us from sin. Help us trust that You will help us. In Jesus' name, amen. 🗣️

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 4. Explain that the Bible is God's Word to us, and it helps us know Him. Remind kids that the Old Testament has a total of 39 books. Tell kids that Exodus is the second book of Bible, and its name means "going out." Discuss how the book of Exodus tells us how God's people left Egypt to go to the land God promised to give them.

Consider pointing out the location of Nile River (H8) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 4:12 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**SAY** 🗨️ Moses was so focused on what he could not do that he didn't think about who God is and what He can do. God promised to help Moses and give him the words to speak. God would be with Moses and work His wonders through Moses.

Sometimes, we can let our fears or weaknesses keep us from trusting God and obeying Him. But God wants to help us! God wants to show us how great He is. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, God promises to be with us and help us follow Him. 🗨️

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** 🗨️ **GOD CALLED MOSES AND PROMISED TO HELP HIM.** How has God helped you? 🗨️

Answers will vary. Remind kids that just as God was with Moses and helped him, God will help us. Share how trusting in Jesus means God gives Christians His Spirit to live in them. Tell kids that the Holy Spirit is God with us, and He helps us to turn from sin, trust God, walk in obedience, and share the good news.

**SAY** 🗨️ Does God care when His people are hurting or suffering? Why? 🗨️

Point out how God heard His people's cries and responded by sending Moses to rescue them because He loved them. Share how God cares when people hurt, are sad, or need help. Encourage kids to remember that God will one day make sin and every bad thing go away forever. Tell kids that through faith in Jesus we can have hope that we will one day live in the new heaven and earth with God.

**SAY** 🗨️ Does everyone need to be rescued from sin? Why? 🗨️

Remind kids that all people sin and need to be rescued from their sin. Share how we cannot save ourselves because no one, except Jesus, can perfectly obey God. Encourage kids to remember that God loves them and proved His love by sending Jesus to die for their sin. Remind kids that only faith in Jesus can take away our sin and save us from the punishment sin deserves.

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





LIVE

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: BIBLE CUP STACK

Before the session, write the 39 Old Testament book names on the lips of individual foam cups. Distribute the cups randomly to the kids. Then work together as a group to stack the cups in the correct order. Consider teaching the kids a song about the order of the Bible books and sing the song as you stack the cups together. Repeat if time allows.

**SAY** “Being familiar with the Bible and knowing what it says is important. When we read God’s Word, we learn how God has made a plan to save people from sin. Just as God had a plan to save Israel from slavery through His servant Moses, God has a plan to save us through His Son, Jesus. I hope you will continue to learn the books of the Bible and how they teach us about God’s big story of salvation.”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: HOLD UP THE STAFF



Gather two broom sticks or yard sticks. Form kids into pairs and invite two pairs to stand in front of the group. Provide each pair with a broom stick or yard stick and tell them this is their “staff.” Choose one kid from each pair to hold the “staff” vertically so that its base touches the ground. Direct the kid holding the “staff” to allow it to fall to the left or the right while his partner tries to catch the “staff” to keep it from falling to the ground. Repeat several times and allow kids to switch places. Then continue the activity, inviting each pair of kids to have a turn holding and catching the “staff.”

**SAY** “In our story today, we learned that **GOD CALLED MOSES AND PROMISED TO HELP HIM**. Moses’ staff was a tool God used to show Moses His power and that He would be able to help Moses free His people from Egypt. We don’t need a staff to trust that God will be with us and help us because God has given us Someone so much better—Jesus! When we trust in Jesus, we have the promise of God’s help and that He will be with us forever.”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.