

UNIT 4 | SESSION 5

MOSES LED THE ISRAELITES

EXODUS 17-18



CHRIST CONNECTION: Moses was a good leader, but only Jesus can hear and answer all our prayers. Jesus helped us in the best way. He saved us from our sins by dying on the cross and coming back to life.

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 helped Moses lead the people.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Exodus 17 and 18 reveal God’s faithfulness to help Moses in the difficulties of leadership. From the Amalekite battle to his daily struggle to teach and judge God’s people, Moses’ human limitations were evident as he came to the end of himself and depended on God to supply him with the support needed to fulfill his role as leader of the Israelites.

How was Moses ill-equipped to take on the strains of these circumstances? How do we see our own need for Jesus in today’s text?

Though Moses led with humble obedience, he could not independently fulfill all the requirements of his role. As Joshua led Israel in war, Moses was responsible for interceding on behalf of the Israelites. When the Israelites were battling the Amalekites, God allowed Aaron and Hur to assist Moses as his arms grew heavy, and God declared that He would blot out the memory of this foe under heaven. When God’s words rang true, Moses declared God to be his victory, the One in whom he placed his trust.

Later, Moses recounted to his father-in-law God’s faithful deliverance in every hardship since their departure from Egypt and went on to explain his responsibilities as leader. Jethro believed Moses’ role was too big for one man and wisely instructed Moses to select other like-minded men to serve alongside him. He explained that the delegation of these roles would help not only Moses, but the rest of God’s people too. God, in His grace, provided the right men to assist Moses in these responsibilities. In both times of need, God graciously provided for Moses.

Teach the kids in your group that God helps us in our times of need, just as He did for Moses. Even more, God provides our greatest need: a Ruler like Moses to perfectly and completely instruct and judge His people—a role that could only be fulfilled through His perfect Son, Jesus. Moses’ leadership was a shadow of Christ’s greatness to come. Pray for boys and girls to see the salvation Christ offers them today, our greatest help for our greatest trouble.



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



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
- index cards, 5



LEARN

Raise the staff

- walking staff

Tell the Bible story

- "Moses Led the Israelites" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- "Moses Led the Israelites" printable, 1 copy

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Wash rocks

- dishpan
- towel
- fist-size rocks, 1 per child
- magnifying glass
- small cleaning brushes, several

Make a village

- desert themed stickers



LIVE

Blow out candles

- birthday candles, 6
- lighter (optional)

Missions activity

- "Lottie Moon Photos" printable

Snack and Transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Being a Helper" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Follow the leader

- white paper cloud, 1
- red paper flame, 1
- walking staff

Play with play dough

- play dough
- cookie cutters
- plastic knives
- rolling pins

Make a mural

- dry erase board or poster board
- colorful dry erase markers



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

Post the Big Picture Question Poster above the bin filled with shredded paper or rice. Write Moses chose men to help on the strip of paper. Place the paper beside the shallow bin. Write a name (Joshua, Aaron, Hur, Jethro, Jesus) on each of the five cards. Hide the cards in the tub. Encourage the children to dig and find the cards. Read the sentence about Moses and comment that four of the cards name people who helped Moses and one card names someone who helps us. Read the names as the children find the cards. Help the children decide which name is someone who helps us.

SAY "It is so good to see you today! There are name cards in our tub. Four cards have names of people who helped Moses, and one card has the name of someone who helps us. Let's find the cards and see who helped Moses. Which one helps us? Yes, Jesus! God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. God knew we were sinners and separated from Him. Why does sin keep us from God? Sin keeps us from God because He is holy. God knew we would make wrong choices and sin so He sent Jesus to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven."

*
*

worship

* Every where I go

* God is so good

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





LEARN the Bible Story

1 RAISE THE STAFF

Gather preschoolers together. Allow children to take turns holding a staff in the air. Be sure to bring the preschooler holding the staff to the front of the room with a safe distance from other children. Standing nearby, count as each child takes turns raising the staff.

SAY “ Did your arms get tired holding the staff? In our Bible story, God told Moses to hold up his staff while the people were fighting. As long as he held it in the air, God’s people won the fight. But if Moses got tired and put the staff down, the other army began to win! That was a big problem! Listen to find out what God and His people did to help Moses. ”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

Open your Bible to Exodus 17–18. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

MOSES LED THE ISRAELITES

SAY “ Moses was a good leader for God’s people as they walked through the wilderness. One day, a man named Amalek and his army wanted to fight God’s people. Moses sent Joshua to lead the fight. Moses, his brother Aaron, and a man named Hur went up a hill to watch.

Moses had a stick called a staff. When he held it up, God’s people started winning the fight. But when he put it down, Amalek’s army started winning. Moses tried to hold up the staff, but he got tired. So Aaron and Hur found a rock for Moses to sit on, and they held up his hands with the staff. God’s people won the fight!

Then a man named Jethro visited Moses. He heard about all the great things God did for His people. Jethro said, “God is the greatest!”

The next day, Moses was busy all day long helping people with their problems. Jethro told him, “You need some helpers, Moses. You can’t do everything by yourself.”

So Moses chose some men to help him. That way, all the people went home satisfied. ”

Christ Connection: Moses was a good leader, but only Jesus can hear and answer all our prayers. Jesus helped us in the best way. He saved us from our sins by dying on the cross and coming back to life.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

* Cut apart the “Moses Led the Israelites” printable and place the four pictures on different walls of the room. Ask the children to follow you as you walk from place to place in the room and review the Bible Story Picture Poster.

SAY “Let’s walk around the room and look at the pictures together. Remember, Moses led the people as they walked through the wilderness. **GOD HELPED MOSES LEAD THE PEOPLE.** How did Moses use his staff when Amalek’s army attacked God’s people? (He held it up while they fought.) How did Aaron and Hur help Moses when he got tired of holding the staff? Right! They found a rock for him to sit on and helped hold up his arms. What did Jethro tell Moses? He told Moses to find some helpers! Here is a picture of the Israelites. The story told us that Moses chose helpers so that the people could get what they needed.”

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 song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE 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. Repeat the key passage together. Ask the boys to say the first part and the girls to say the second part and the reference. Repeat several times. Then switch parts.

SAY “Moses was a faithful leader! He listened to God and did what God said to do. God sent Moses helpers. God hears us and knows what we need, too.”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for the helpers in our lives.

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TALK ABOUT JOBS

Talk about different jobs familiar to children. Ask questions like “Can one person clean our room after we finish activities or should everyone help?” “Can one person build a whole house or do they need helpers?” “How many people need to fight a fire?” Help the children understand that some jobs can be done by one person but that often people need helpers to do a job well.

SAY 🍌 How many people cook supper at your house? Usually I cook supper at my house, but if my husband helps me by making a salad, and my daughter sets the table, and my son fixes drinks, we get to eat a lot quicker! Working together helps everyone! Remember, God told Moses to go back to Egypt and to tell Pharaoh to let His people go. Moses had been busy leading the people for a long time! A man named Jethro visited Moses and saw that Moses was working all day trying to help people with their problems. He told Moses that he needed helpers. Moses chose men to help him so everyone could get what they needed. 🍌

2 WASH ROCKS

Gather several fist-size or larger rocks. Place a folded towel on a table and set a dishpan of water on the towel. Encourage the children to wash the rocks. Provide small brushes to scrub the rocks and a magnifying glass to examine the rocks.

SAY 🍌 Moses was leading God’s people through the wilderness. The wilderness was a desert. There were no towns, villages, or even forests. There were no stores or restaurants. There was a lot of sand, rocks, and small bushes. The people lived in the wilderness for a long time and trusted God for their water, food, and care. In our story today, another army wanted to fight God’s people, and God helped them win the fight. 🍌

3 MAKE A VILLAGE

Fold sheets of paper in half like tents. Give each preschooler a folded paper, markers or crayons, and stickers. Encourage children to decorate their tents. Stand the tents in one area of the room to make a tent village. Guide the children to pick up their tents and move them to other areas of the room several times.

SAY 🍌 God’s people, the Israelites, didn’t have houses after they left Egypt. They probably lived in tents they made from animal skins and cloth they wove. When they moved to a new area, they would take the tents down and then set them up when they stopped each night. Do you remember that God led them with a cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night? They lived in the tents for many years after they left Egypt. God showed them where to set their tents. There were thousands of tents because there were thousands of men, women, and children following Moses. 🍌

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 RAISE YOUR ARMS

Encourage the children to pretend to hold up a staff as they say the key passage phrase.

SAY “ Do you remember what Moses did to help the people win the fight? Yes, he held up a stick, called a staff. As long as he held it up, God’s people were winning! But when he put it down, the other army began to win. Let’s pretend to hold up our staffs as we say the key passage phrase. Remember the Lord hears and rescues. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print and display a copy of the “Lottie Moon Photos” printable. Lead preschoolers to pass the printable to one another as you talk about the life of Lottie Moon. Tell preschoolers that because Lottie helped Chinese people to know about Jesus, they started churches in China to tell even more people about Jesus. Now China is one of the fastest-growing areas in the world of people trusting Jesus as Savior.

SAY “ Lottie Moon worked long and hard to help the Chinese people. She was a teacher who defended the Chinese people. She risked her own health during a famine because she gave, all her money and food to Chinese people in need. [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 “ Moses was a good leader, but only Jesus can hear and answer all our prayers. Jesus helped us in the best way. He saved us from our sins by dying on the cross and coming back to life. ”

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 NAME HELPING TIMES



Greet the children as they come to group time. Ask the children to name times each day when they need help. Remind preschoolers that everyone needs help. Moses was given a big task from God and he needed people to help him, too!

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Exodus 17–18. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

MOSES LED THE ISRAELITES

- A man named Amalek and his army wanted to fight God’s people.
- Joshua led God’s people while Moses, his brother Aaron, and a man named Hur watched from a hill.
- When Moses held up his staff, God’s people started winning the fight. When he put it down, Amalek’s army started to win.
- Moses’ arms got tired, so Moses sat down and Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ hands with the staff. God’s people won the fight!
- The next day, Moses was busy helping people all day long. Moses needed helpers, so he chose men to help. That way, all the people got what they needed.

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. Encourage the children to hold up their pretend staffs as you march in place and say the key passage phrase.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for leaders who help us follow God and obey Him.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 FOLLOW THE LEADER

Prior to the session, cut one sheet of white paper into a large, white cloud shape and a piece of red paper into a large, red flame shape. Place the cloud above your head and instruct the children to follow you in a line by day. Then, place the red flame above your head and prompt them to follow you in a line by night. Next, hold the staff. Instruct the children that when it is raised they must freeze, when it is lowered they may move around the room.

SAY “Moses was the leader God had chosen for the people. He led by following God. God used a cloud in the daytime and a fire at night to lead the people. Moses obeyed God. Later, when he held up his staff, God’s people would win the fight with Amalek’s army. When Moses put the staff down, Amalek’s army would begin to win. Moses was a good leader, but he needed help from other people and he especially needed God’s help!”

7 PLAY WITH PLAY DOUGH

Give each child a ball of play dough to play with. Gather a few rolling pins, cookie cutters, and plastic knives. Encourage the children to share the play dough tools. Talk about working together.

SAY “Playing with play dough is fun, and it is more fun when we share tools. Moses was tired because he was doing all the work of leading the people. If two people argued with each other, they would go see Moses to work it out. There were so many people that Moses was busy solving problems all day long. When Jethro visited Moses, he saw Moses needed help! He encouraged Moses to choose men to help him. Sharing the work was much better for everyone!”

8 MAKE A MURAL

Write on a dry erase board or large poster board, God is the greatest. Allow preschoolers to take turns sharing things that God has provided them. Prompt them to share about their families, homes, pets, animals and plants, friends, food, and church to the board. As preschoolers share, draw figures on the board to represent their responses.

SAY “When Jethro visited Moses, he heard about all the great things God had done for His people. He said, ‘God is the greatest!’ All the things you are sharing remind me that God is the greatest. **GOD HELPED MOSES LEAD THE PEOPLE**, and He helps us, too!”

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.