



UNIT 4 | SESSION 1

GOD CALLED MOSES

EXODUS 1-4

KEY PASSAGE:

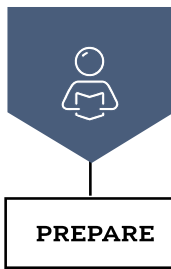
Numbers 23:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Moses' life was in danger from the moment he was born. He was an Israelite—a descendant of Israel (Jacob)—living in Egypt after Jacob's family had moved there, seeking food during a famine.

Four hundred years later, this family had grown and multiplied. Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, likely lived in fear of the pharaoh who ruled Egypt and took drastic measures to oppress the Israelites. Could God's promises for His people stand against such opposition?

Jochebed hid her baby boy as long as she could—about three months—before she put him in a basket among the reeds of the river. She couldn't have known that Pharaoh's daughter would find him and want to raise him as her own, or that the princess would let Jochebed care for him until he was old enough to be raised as an Egyptian prince. She couldn't have known that her son would grow up to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt. But God knew. All along, God had a plan for Moses and His people.

God appeared to Moses years later. Moses was a shepherd then, having grown up in Egypt's royal household only to flee as a murderer to Midian. There, Moses started a family and worked as a shepherd, perhaps never imagining he would see Egypt again.

But one night, God drew a curious Moses to Himself and spoke through a burning bush. You see, God remembered the promise He made to Eve in Genesis 3. He remembered His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12, which He repeated to Isaac and Jacob. So many years had passed, but God remembered His promises.

Moses was inadequate for the task of rescuing the Israelites, but God promised His power and presence. So in the early chapters of Exodus, we see Moses return to Egypt to confront Pharaoh—acting as a mediator between the Israelites and their burdensome king.

As you consider Moses' calling, look forward to an even greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people from their sin. Jesus is greater than Moses. Moses delivered God's people from physical captivity; Jesus delivers God's people from captivity to sin and death.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Moses: biblical patriarch; chosen by God to lead His people out of captivity and to the promised land

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: GOD SAVES GAME



Choose one person to be “Pharaoh” and one person to be “Mom.” The other kids will represent the Nile River. Give Mom a small basket, and direct Pharaoh to close his eyes. While everyone is still, Mom has 10 seconds to hide the basket from Pharaoh. She could hide the basket somewhere in the room or with one of the kids.

Count down from 10. Let Pharaoh open his eyes and try to find the basket. When Pharaoh finds the basket or 30 seconds is up, reassign roles and repeat.

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, we will hear about a mother who did everything she could to keep her baby safe from Pharaoh, the king in Egypt. She put him in a basket at the edge of the Nile River. We will see how God kept the baby safe. God had a plan to rescue His people from Pharaoh and from slavery in Egypt. ”

OPTION 2: SANDAL RELAY

Form two teams of kids, and instruct each team to form a single-file line. Give the last player in each line a pair of sandals.

Explain that when you say go, the last player will pass the sandals over the head of the player in front of her. That player will pass them under the player in front of him. Kids will continue to pass the sandals over and under until they reach the front of the line. The player at the front will slip them on his hands, bear walk to the back of the line, and then pass them over the head of the player in front of him.

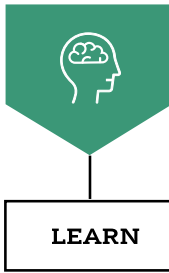
Continue until every player has had a turn moving to the back. If teams are uneven, assign a player on the team with fewer players to go twice.

SAY “ In the Bible story we will hear today, God told someone to take off his sandals. Why would He do that? Listen carefully to the story to find out. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Today and over the next few weeks, we are going to be thinking about a big picture question. The big picture question helps us learn and remember something that is true about God or ourselves. It reminds us that beyond the smaller details of a Bible story, God is working out a greater plan.

Our big picture question is, **Does God keep His promises?** What do you think? [Allow kids to respond.] **Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** Because God keeps His promises, we know that we can trust Him. Let’s say our big picture question and answer together: **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to Exodus 1–4. 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

“**Joseph’s family in Egypt grew** even after Joseph, his brothers, and their families died. **All the people in this family were known as Israelites** because they came from Joseph’s father Jacob, who was also called Israel.

When **a new pharaoh** came to power in Egypt, he **was afraid of the Israelites**. Pharaoh worried they would all fight against him. **So Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves** and gave them very hard work to do. **Still, their families grew. So Pharaoh ordered for all their baby boys to be killed.**

Around this time, a woman gave birth to a son. She hid him as long as she could, and then **she put him in a basket and set it along the bank of the Nile River**. Soon **Pharaoh’s daughter** went to the river to take a bath. She **found the baby and** felt sorry for him. Pharaoh’s daughter **wanted the baby to be her son**. **The princess named the baby Moses.**

Moses grew up as a prince in Egypt. **One day, he saw an Egyptian man mistreating an Israelite man. Moses killed the Egyptian and fled** from Egypt. **He worked as a shepherd in another land** for many years. **Back in Egypt, the Israelite people were miserable. They cried out to God, and God heard them.** He had a plan to help them.

One day, Moses saw a bush on fire. The bush was not burning up! Suddenly, **God called from the bush: “Moses, Moses!”**

Moses replied, “Here I am.”

God told Moses to take off his sandals because Moses was standing on holy ground. **Then God said, “I have seen how My people are suffering. I want you to lead them out of Egypt** to a good land I have for them.”

“What if they ask for Your name?” Moses said. “What should I tell them?”

“I AM WHO I AM,” God said. “Tell them: I AM has sent me to you.”

“What if they don’t believe me?” Moses asked.

So **God gave Moses three miraculous signs to prove that God had appeared to him:** Moses’ staff would turn into a snake, his hand would become diseased and then healed, and water from the river would turn into blood. **But Moses still made excuses.** He said, “Please send someone else.” **God was angry but agreed to send Moses’ brother, Aaron, with him.** So Moses went to Egypt.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Make faces: Whenever someone in the story conveys an emotion, prompt the kids to make a face showing how they might feel in that situation.

Use props: Whenever an object is mentioned, hold up a matching prop (basket, branch of a bush, sandal, snake, water).

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 🗨️ Wow! What a story. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Life under Pharaoh was hard. How do you think Jochebed (JAHK uh bed)—Moses' mom—felt when she held him in her arms as a baby? [Allow kids to respond.] She was probably afraid that he would have a hard life too, or even be killed. She hid her baby in a basket, and Moses was discovered and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. So Moses grew up in the palace as part of Pharaoh's family. God protected baby Moses and had a plan for him.

What happened that caused Moses to leave Egypt? (Moses killed an Egyptian.) He fled to the wilderness. When Moses was 80 years old, God spoke to him through what? (a burning bush) [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ex. 3:7-9.] God called Moses to confront Pharaoh and deliver the Israelites from Egypt. Was Moses willing to go? Not exactly. Moses made excuses and even asked God to send someone else. But God promised He would go with Moses, and He told Moses what to say. When Moses still felt afraid, God allowed him to take his brother, Aaron, with him. God had rescued Moses as a baby to be part of His plan to lead the Israelites from captivity, and God would be with Moses the entire way.

What do we learn about God in these chapters? [Allow kids to respond.] We learn that God is faithful, that He hears us, and that He is in control. We also learn God's name. What did God tell Moses to call Him when speaking to the Israelites? Look at Exodus 3:14-15. [Choose a volunteer to read the passage aloud.]

God said His name was "I AM WHO I AM." Sometimes it is translated or written as "I AM BECAUSE I AM" or "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE." All three answers describe that God is sovereign and He never changes. Sovereign means that God is in control and will accomplish or do whatever is pleasing to Him. By telling Moses His name, God reminded Moses of how great He is and that He is in control.

Open your Bible to Exodus 2:23-24. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] God kept His promise to Abraham. When the Israelites called out to God in their suffering, God had a plan to give them the land He promised Abraham. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** 🗨️

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 🗨️ 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. 🗨️

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** 🗨️ What has God promised us in His Word? 🗨️

Remind kids that God had a plan for Moses' life. God used many miracles to show that He is who He says He is and remind Moses of all the promises God kept in the past. Lead kids to recognize that just like God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God kept His promise to us by sending His Son, Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 2:25.)

| **SAY** 🗨️ What are some other times God kept His promises? 🗨️

Invite kids to think of other times in the Bible when God kept His promises. Lead kids to share their own experiences when God kept His promise. Reflect on how remembering God's faithfulness can help us feel about the future.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 1:20.)

| **SAY** 🗨️ What are some excuses we make when we don't want to obey God? 🗨️

Encourage kids to share their thoughts. Point out that God encouraged Moses with signs that He was with him. Remind kids that we can trust God to keep His promises, so we don't have to be afraid.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 2:17.)