

Bible Story 9:

MOSES - PART 1: BIRTH AND CALL OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 1:6-14,22; 2:1-23; 3:1-15; 4:1-20

MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 4:8

BIBLE STORY:

Joseph was a respected and powerful man who helped save the people in Egypt during a severe drought. He died, and a long time passed. The descendants of Joseph and his father Jacob (Israel) were called Israelites or Hebrews.

The new Pharaoh (king) of Egypt did not know anything about Joseph. The king and the Egyptians were afraid of the Israelites, who were increasing in number, scattering throughout the country. He was afraid that they would one day join their enemies and fight against them. Therefore, they enslaved the Israelites and treated them cruelly. In fact, the king ordered that all Hebrew newborn baby boys be killed.

During that time, a beautiful baby boy was born to a Levi couple. They hid him for three months. Because they feared that the soldiers would discover their baby, they could not hide him in the house any longer. So the mother prepared a waterproof basket, laid the baby inside and left the basket among the reeds, on the edge of the Nile River. The boy's sister, Miriam, hid and watched him from a distance.

The Egyptian king's daughter arrived at the river bank to take a bath, and she found the basket. She opened the basket, saw the beautiful baby crying and felt compassion for him. The child's sister asked the princess: *"Would you like for me to get a Hebrew woman to nurse and take care of this*

baby for you?" "Yes," she responded. The baby's mother took him home and cared for him. The child grew and when the child stopped nursing, his mother took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son, giving him the name Moses. He grew up in the palace.

When Moses was forty years old, he visited the field where the slaves worked. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. He was so angry that he killed the Egyptian. When the king of Egypt found out what Moses did, he tried to kill him. However, in fear for his life, Moses fled and went to live in the land of Midian. There he married Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro.

Another forty years passed. One day while caring for his father-in-law's flock, he saw a bush that was burning with fire, but it didn't burn up. He went closer to see what was happening. God spoke and told Moses to remove his sandals, because he was in a sacred place. Moses obeyed. God told Moses that he had seen the sufferings of the Israelites. God wanted Moses to go to Pharaoh and guide the Israelites out of Egypt. God wanted to free them from slavery and take them to the Promised Land, where they would be free and have the things they needed. With faith and trust in the power of God, Moses obeyed.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. The king wanted to kill all of the Hebrew newborn boys. God protected and took care of the life of Moses. Trust God to protect and take care of you.
2. It was unfair that the Egyptians mistreated the Israelites. God loves all people. Be a good friend and treat everyone kindly.
3. Moses obeyed the call of God. Obey God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were some ways that the Egyptian king mistreated the Israelites? Why?
2. What are some ways that people mistreat other people today?
3. How should we treat other people? How should we treat people who are different from us? How should we treat new people who come in our community, home, church, job location, school?
4. How did God protect and take care of Moses when he was a baby?
5. Mention some ways God is protecting and taking care of us.
6. Should we ever allow someone to mistreat us? How can we defend ourselves? How can we get help? (Refer to items mentioned under PRESENTATION and DRAMA.)
7. What did Moses' sister do to help her brother Moses? Did she need courage? Why?
8. How can you help your family? Brother(s)? Sister(s)? Friend(s)? Colleagues? Neighbors?
9. Explain what happened when God called Moses to do a special task, to guide the Israelites out of Egypt.
10. What are some special tasks that God asks people to do today? (Examples: pastor, missionary...)

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Show illustrations and talk about dangers and safety issues that a person may face. (*After the Bible story, it is good to say how they can avoid or resolve those difficulties and dangers.*)
- Share that in the Bible there is a story about a couple facing danger with their baby. Then tell the Bible story about Moses.
- Use drama. Write out situations on a sheet of paper. One or two persons act out the situation. The others in the group explain how to solve or avoid a bad or dangerous situation.
- Examples of situations and dangers people face: natural disasters, war, taking drugs, abuse, gangs, bullying, ridicule, kidnaping, mistreatment, unsafe situations on the internet, prejudice against a race or social class. (**Discuss these situations on the age and maturity level of the people present. Do not frighten anyone.*)

- (2) How can you protect yourself on the internet?
- (3) How can you protect yourself from harassment?
- (4) How can you say no to taking drugs?
- (5) Whom are some people or organizations that can help you if you are being abused?
- (6) Why is it important to know complete phone number and address? How can you make local, state and long distance calls?
- (7) When should you call 911? Attention: Explain when someone should call 911: When they need an ambulance, fire truck or police to come quickly. Do not use 911 for other things.

GUEST(S):

- Invite people from different vocations to come and share about their work and safety issues. (Examples: fireman, policeman, forest ranger, doctor, nurse or dentist. If possible, bring some items from his work to show.)

MISSION ACTIVITY: "VOLUNTEER"

Option 1: Volunteer at a hospital.

- Volunteer to help at your local hospital. (Examples: Hold babies in the nursery; read stories to children; deliver flowers, magazines, etc. (Check at your local hospital for information and application forms.)

Option 2: Volunteer to help a caregiver.

- Sit with someone's aging parent or sick family member, so the caregiver can go shopping, take care of business matters, rest and relax, etc.
- Give a caregiver a gift (such as a free hair cut, movie ticket, meal at a restaurant, etc.).
- Help the caregiver by cleaning the patient's home, mowing the patient's yard, racking the leaves, sweeping off the drive way, watering the flowers, etc.

SAFETY:

- Option 1: With *parents*, discuss ways they may protect their children and youth. (See list of examples of situations above.) Discuss with family members where they would meet if ever they were separated because of a tornado, etc.
- Option 2: With *children and youth*, discuss ways they may avoid or resolve various situations. (See list above.) Discuss safety:
 (1) What should you do if there is a tornado, fire or earthquake? Where would you go? How could you contact your parents or guardians?

DAILY BIBLE READING - Exodus 1:6-14,22; 2:1-23; 3:1-15; 4:1-20

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Exodus 1:6-14, 22	Exodus 2:1-10	Exodus 2:11-15	Exodus 2:16-23	Exodus 3:1-15	Exodus 4:1-9	Exodus 4:10-20