



UNIT 4 | SESSION 1

GOD CALLED MOSES

EXODUS 1–4

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God saved Moses' life so Moses could grow up and save God's people from the Egyptian pharaoh. God planned for His Son, Jesus, to save people in an even better way. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus gave up His life to save us from our sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE:

Numbers 23:19



PREPARE

YOUR HEART TO TEACH



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART
TO TEACH



WELCOME

GREET PRESCHOOLERS
and OPEN
THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH PRESCHOOLERS
THE STORY
OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD PRESCHOOLERS TO
LOVE THE GOD
OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD PRESCHOOLERS TO
LIVE OUT THE MISSION
OF THE GOSPEL

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 Israelite people.

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. He had a plan for Moses and His people.

Moses grew up in the royal household but later fled 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

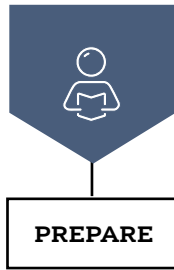
Genesis 12, which He repeated to Isaac and Jacob. So many years had passed, but God remembered and called Moses for the special work of rescuing Israel.

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

The calling of Moses points to a 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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- ☐ “Numbers 23:19” song

Activity Page

- ☐ “Match the Shoes” activity page, 1 per child

Care for a baby

- ☐ baby care items
- ☐ blanket
- ☐ children’s books
- ☐ shoeboxes
- ☐ baskets (optional)

Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



LEARN

Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ “God Called Moses” video (optional)

Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Numbers 23:19” song

Learn the Big Picture

Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- ☐ “The McDonalds to Tanzania” missions video



LOVE

Snack and talk

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Spell with letter tiles

- ☐ index cards
- ☐ letter tiles



LIVE

Collage leaves and fire colors

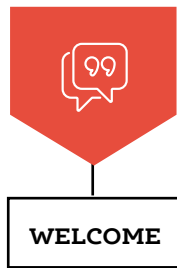
- ☐ green construction paper
- ☐ tissue paper (red, orange, and yellow)

Make and taste baby food

- ☐ hand sanitizer
- ☐ ripe bananas
- ☐ knife (adult use)
- ☐ ziplock bags
- ☐ foam bowls
- ☐ plastic spoons
- ☐ applesauce
- ☐ O-shaped cereal

Play out caring for the sick or injured

- ☐ toy medical kit
- ☐ child-safe medical supplies (stethoscopes, empty shot syringes, bandages, scrub shirts, lab coats)



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Match the Shoes" on the activity page.

SAY “ So many shoes! In today’s Bible story, God told Moses to take off his shoes! Why do you think God would tell Moses to do that? Listen to the story to find out! ”

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

TRACE SHOES



Cut construction paper in half. Lay two pieces side by side on the floor and invite a child to stand on the paper. Trace his shoes. Repeat for every child. Allow children to decorate their shoe prints with markers. Challenge preschoolers to cut out their shoe prints.

SAY “ Your shoe prints remind me of something that happened in the Bible. When Moses was working as a shepherd, taking care of sheep, he heard God’s voice telling him to take off his sandals and listen to what God had to say. We will hear more about that in our story today. ”

CARE FOR A BABY

Arrange baby care items near baby dolls. Guide preschoolers to pretend to read a book to a baby or sing softly. Show children how to swaddle a doll and pretend to rock it to sleep. Guide children to use shoeboxes or baskets as beds and put the dolls down for naps.

SAY “ I like how you used the basket as the baby’s bed. Did you know that in today’s Bible story, a mother laid her baby boy in a basket? Then she set the basket by the river’s edge and left him there. You may be surprised when you hear today’s story that the baby’s mother did these things to protect him. ”

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to remove their shoes as they arrive in the Bible study area. Guide children to pile shoes as you transition to Learn.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, hide a doll near the Bible story area. As children are getting settled and ready to hear today's story, discover the hidden baby.

SAY “What is this? A baby? I’m surprised to see a baby doll so close to where we hear our Bible story. This reminds me of something that happened in today’s true story from the Bible. The king’s daughter was surprised when she found a baby boy near a river. She felt sorry for the baby and wanted him to be her son. When we hear the story, listen to hear what she named the baby boy.”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Exodus 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “Are you ready to hear a story from the Bible? The Bible is the most important book there is because the Bible is God’s Word. The story we will hear today really happened. Today’s Bible story is from the second book of the Bible, Exodus. Let’s say Exodus together a few times.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

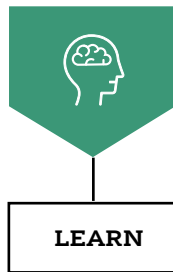
GOD CALLED MOSES

“Joseph’s family had moved to Egypt. Years passed and **Joseph, his brothers, and their families died, but their families kept growing. All the people from this family were called Israelites because they came from Joseph’s father Jacob, who was also called Israel.**

A new pharaoh, or king, took over Egypt. This pharaoh did not like the Israelites. He was afraid all the Israelites could fight him and win. So Pharaoh made the Israelites work very hard. He ordered the Egyptians to get rid of the Israelites’ baby boys.

Around this time, a woman had a baby boy. She hid him as long as she could. Then **she put him in a basket** and set the basket **at the edge of the river.** Soon, **Pharaoh’s daughter** went to the river to take a bath. She **found the baby, and she felt sorry for the baby.** The princess **wanted the baby to be her son so she named the baby Moses.**

When Moses grew up, he left Egypt. Moses found a job as a shepherd, taking care of sheep. Back in Egypt, the Israelites cried out to God for help. God heard their cries, and He



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

planned 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!”

“Here I am,” Moses said.

God told Moses to take off his sandals. Then **God said, “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? What should I tell them?” Moses asked.

God said, “I AM WHO I AM. Tell them: I AM has sent me to you.” **God warned that Moses’ job would not be easy. Pharaoh would say no, but God promised that the pharaoh would one day let God’s people go. So Moses headed back to Egypt. ”**

STORYTELLING TIPS

Act out the story: Guide preschoolers to act parts of the Bible story as you tell it. They may pretend to rock a baby, wiggle fingers to show a flowing river, baa like a sheep, or pretend to take off shoes.

Use props to tell the story: As you tell the Bible story, pull items from a pillowcase to bring the story to life. Consider using a doll, basket, bottle of water, cotton balls, fire-colored tissue paper, branch, and sandals.

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God saved Moses’ life so Moses could grow up and save God’s people from the Egyptian pharaoh. God planned for His Son, Jesus, to save people in an even better way. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus gave up His life to save us from our sin. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask children to recall the name Pharaoh’s daughter gave to the baby.

SAY “ God used baby Moses’ mother and a basket by the river to protect him. Then God used Pharaoh’s daughter to keep him safe. When Moses grew up, God talked to Him from a burning bush. God wanted Moses to know how to help God’s people. God also planned for His Son, Jesus, to save people in an even better way, because Jesus gave His life to save people from sin. ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Numbers 23:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY “ This verse tells us that God is different from people. God always tells the truth. He always keeps His promises. Moses saw a bush that was on fire and heard God’s promise that one day Pharaoh would let God’s people leave Egypt. When God makes a promise, He keeps it. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Numbers 23:19.” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY “God promised to rescue His people from a hard life in Egypt, and He used Moses to do it. When Moses was a baby, God saved him so that Moses would grow up to lead God’s people out of Egypt. Moses even heard God’s voice from a bush that was on fire. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.** God promised to make a way to save people from their sin, so He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to give up His life to save us.”

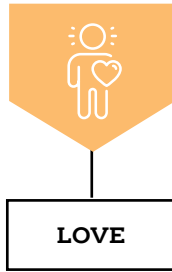
8 MISSIONS MOMENT

SAY “God gave Moses an important job—to lead His people out of Egypt to the good land He had for them. Jesus gave His followers an important job too—to tell the good news about Him to all people. People all over the world, close to home and far away, need to know that God sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin. Today we’re going to hear about a family who God called to go to a faraway place called Tanzania to help people and tell them about Jesus. Listen to their story.”

Show Tanzania on a world map or globe. Play “The McDonalds to Tanzania” missions video. Guide preschoolers to name ways they can pray for the McDonald family. Ask a volunteer to pray.

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “ You are a God who rescues Your people. You saved Moses when he was a baby and then used him to rescue Your people from being slaves in Egypt. Thank You for sending Jesus, Your Son, to earth to give up His life to rescue people from sin. Help us turn away from our sin and follow Him. Amen. ”

2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ How did God tell Moses that He had chosen him to lead God’s people out of Egypt? ”

SAY “ Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises. ”

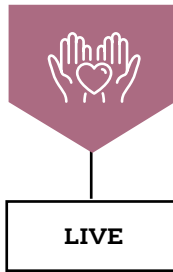
3 SPELL WITH LETTER TILES

Print the words I, AM, WHO, God, Moses, and Jesus on index cards. Lay the cards near letter tiles. Point to words and read them. Identify letters and show a child how to combine tiles to create words. Arrange tiles and spell out several story-related words. Review the Bible story as children work.

SAY “ I’ll point to words and you say them after me. I AM WHO I AM. When Moses asked God Who was sending him, God answered, I AM WHO I AM. God told Moses that talking to Pharaoh and leading the Israelites would be a hard job, but God promised that one day, His people would be saved from the Egyptian pharaoh, leave Egypt, and live in a new land. One day, God may call you to do something hard. He may call you to live by His truth in the Bible when everyone around you does not. He may want you to love someone who is hard to love. He may even give You a hard job like He gave Moses. We can remember that no matter what God calls us to, He is the great I AM. He will be with us, and He will help us do His work by His power. ”

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





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

ACT OUT JOBS



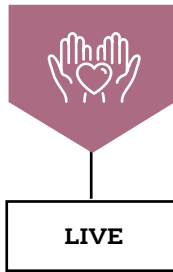
Call out various jobs or professions. Guide children to act out each job. Suggest children pretend to be teachers, professional athletes, animal caregivers, airplane pilots, kings or queens, bakers, parents, carpenters, princes or princesses, police officers, or leaders. Make parallels between people in today's Bible story and the occupations preschoolers act out.

SAY “ In today's Bible story, a mother put her baby in a basket by the river to keep him safe. The princess found the baby and named him Moses. Can you think of someone from today's story that cared for animals? Yes, Moses was a shepherd and was taking care of sheep when he heard God's voice. God told Moses that he would be the one to lead God's people out of suffering in Egypt and into a new land. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, would not make it easy for Moses and God's people, but does **God keep His promises? Yes, God always keep His promises.** ”

COLLAGE LEAVES AND FIRE COLORS

Before the session, cut green paper into simple leaf shapes and yellow, orange, and red tissue paper into small pieces. Mark Exodus 3 in a Bible. Invite a child to open the Bible. Explain that Exodus 3 tells about Moses seeing the burning bush. Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Encourage children to glue leaves on their papers to form bushes. Then layer different colors of tissue paper over the bush to make the bush look on fire. Review the Bible story as preschoolers work.

SAY “ Moses saw a bush that was on fire, but it wasn't burning up. Moses heard God's voice coming from the bush. God told Moses that the Israelites cried out to Him for help, and God planned to help them. God wanted Moses to lead God's people out of Egypt and into a new land. It would not be an easy job, but when God makes a promise, He keeps it. People make promises, but don't always keep them. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.** God kept His promise to send someone to rescue people from sin when He sent Jesus to earth. Jesus gave up His life to save us from our sin. ”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

MAKE AND TASTE BABY FOOD

Post an allergy alert. Wash or sanitize hands. Give each preschooler half a ripe banana and a ziplock bag. Guide preschoolers to peel their bananas and place them in the bag. Seal each child's bag. Invite preschoolers to gently press the banana in the bag to mash it. When preschoolers finish mashing their bananas. Set each ziplock bag in a foam bowl. Open the bags and give preschoolers plastic spoons to eat their mashed bananas. Consider serving other baby-type foods such as applesauce and O-shaped cereal as well.

SAY “Babies need soft food to eat since they may only have a few teeth. What do you think Moses ate when he was a baby? God protected Moses so he would grow up to listen to God and obey Him. God saved Moses’ life so he could save God’s people from a harsh king. God planned for His Son, Jesus, to save people in an even better way. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus gave up His life to save us from our sin.”

PLAY OUT CARING FOR THE SICK OR INJURED



Set out a toy medical kit and other child-safe medical supplies such as stethoscopes, empty shot syringes, bandages, scrub shirts, and lab coats. Invite preschoolers to take turns being doctors, nurses, and people who are sick or injured.

SAY “You pretended to be a doctor like Eric McDonald and a nurse like Heather McDonald. The McDonald family moved to Tanzania to help the people there. Heather and Eric help people who are sick or injured feel better, but the most important thing Eric and Heather do is tell people the good news of how Jesus gave up His life to save people from sin. Let’s pray for the McDonald family and the people of Tanzania right now.”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete the coloring page. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.