

## Session 3

Moses

Children realize that God gives all of us instructions in His Word.

**Scripture:** Exodus 1 – 3:10

**Supplies:**

- 3–4 marshmallows for each child
- Forks or kebab sticks
- Enough candles for the children to use in groups of four
- Clothing items or big pieces of material to use as clothes
- 2 crowns
- A doll
- The leader will represent the following characters: 1 Pharaoh, a few Israelites, 2 or 3 Egyptian slave masters, 1 or 2 girls as midwives/nurses, Jochebed (Moses' mother), Miriam (Moses' sister), the princess and Moses
- Resource 1 – names of the two cities: Pithom and Rameses
- Picture of animals (“Moses needed to listen” activity)
- Flames copied onto red and yellow paper
- A twig (representing a tree) for each child
- Fireproof bowl and twigs to burn
- Matches



**Welcome**

Burn some dry twigs in the fireproof bowl. Talk about the smell and what the flames look like.



**Worship**

**Settle down ritual:** Stand in a circle and hold hands.

“Because Joseph believed, he forgave the awful things his brothers did to him.

Because Joseph believed, he looked forward to a new life with God.

Because I believe in God, I can forgive those who hurt me.

Because I believe in God, I look forward to the beautiful life God is preparing for me.”



**Word**

*Tell the story. Disguise yourself as different characters.*

Today we will hear about a man whose life changed when he saw something burning.

Jacob's 11 sons went with him to Egypt to where Joseph was. I wonder who can remember why they moved to Egypt? (There was a drought in Canaan and Joseph was in Egypt.) They were 70 people altogether.

In the mean time they became more and more. *(Keep some clothes handy and let some of the children put it on as the story continues. They then dramatize the story as it's told.)*

Long after Joseph died, there was a new pharaoh in Egypt. *(Put a crown on the pharaoh's head.)* The pharaoh was very worried. *(The pharaoh puts his finger on his temple and paces.)* He saw that Joseph's descendants became more and more. *(More children get dressed up as Israelites. Make sure the children know what descendants are. Descendants are children, grandchildren, great grandchildren etc. of a person. You are your father's descendant.)* The new pharaoh became scared of the Israelites. Why? *(Give the children some time to react.)* He was scared that they would take over his country.

The pharaoh had a plan. *(Pharaoh puts his hand in the air.)* He made the Israelites his slaves and made them work very hard. *(Bind material around the children's hips to be slaves and drape more material around the slave masters' heads.)* What were the names of the two cities they had to build?

But still the Israelites became more and more and then the pharaoh did a terrible thing.

Exodus 1:15-16: He threatened the nurses that had to help the Israelite women have their babies. *(Bind white material around their heads to be nurses.)* The king called them in. *(The pharaoh calls them over and makes hand movements like pointing with a finger, drawing a finger across his throat to show that they must kill the babies.)* He told them, "If an Israelite woman has a baby and it's a boy, then you must kill him. If it's a girl, then she can live." The pharaoh was scared that the boys would grow up big and strong and would fight against him. The women did not listen to the cruel pharaoh. *(The nurses talk quietly among themselves and shake their heads "no".)*

One of the Israelites had a baby boy. *(Moses' mother rocks the doll in her arms.)* She tried to hide him at first. When he got bigger, she had to make a different plan. She put her son in a basket and let him float away between the reeds on the Nile River. *(She puts him on the ground and Miriam stands closer.)* But the baby's sister watched the basket to see what happened to him.

The pharaoh's daughter, the princess, came to the Nile to bathe. *(She comes closer, sees the basket, picks it up and takes the baby out.)* Suddenly she saw the basket between the reeds and found the baby boy inside. It was Moses. Moses' sister, Miriam, called her mother to help the princess raise the baby. *(The princess calls Miriam over, talks to her, and then Miriam walks over to Jochebed.)* So it came that his own mother raised him for the first few years of his life.

When he got bigger, she took him back to the princess and Moses grew up in the palace like a prince. *(Everyone walks away and a grown Moses comes up.)*

One day Moses was walking around between the Israelites. One of the Egyptians hit an Israelite man. *(A slave master pretends to hit an Israelite while Moses watches.)* Moses saw it. He looked around quickly. When he didn't see anyone, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. *(Moses runs closer, hits the Egyptian, and lays him on the ground. Then he walks away.)* The pharaoh heard what Moses did and wanted to punish him. Moses fled to another country. There he was a shepherd for strangers. The prince was now a shepherd!

*(No more actors from this point, the children just listen to the story.)*

One day he went deep into the desert with his father in law's animals. *(Yes, in the meantime he had married Zipporah.)* When he climbed mount Horeb he saw something very strange. He saw a bush burning, but it wasn't burning up. He saw it and thought, "I wonder why the bush isn't burning up. Let me go see!"

But when he came close to the bush, God called out to him. "Moses! Moses!"

Moses said, "Yes?"

And then God said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your shoes. You're standing in a holy place. It is I who is speaking to you. I am the God of your father and grandfather."

Moses immediately covered his face because he was scared something would happen to him if he looked at God. God said that he saw how badly the Israelites were being treated and that he wanted Moses to get them out of Egypt.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how Moses felt about what God asked him.
2. I wonder what kind of excuses Moses could think of not to do it.
3. I wonder how you would feel if God asked you something difficult.
4. I wonder what you would have done if you were Moses.
5. I wonder if God gives us instructions in the Bible.



## Working and Playing

- Moses heard God's voice. Circle all the ears in the picture below and cross out the animals whose ears we can't see.

Closing prayer to end the session

