

THE LIFE OF MOSES

Ask students to remember as much as they can about the life of Moses (Exodus 2-4):

- When Pharaoh ordered that all the Israelite baby boys be killed, what did baby Moses' mother do with him? (*placed him in a basket and hid him along the bank of the river with his sister Miriam watching over him*)
- Who found baby Moses in his basket on the river and adopted him as her own son? (*Pharaoh's daughter*)
- After he grew up, Moses saw how badly his people, the Israelites, were being treated. One day he saw an Egyptian hitting an Israelite. He defended the Israelite, killing the Egyptian. He then had to run from Pharaoh, who wanted to kill him. Moses ended up in the land of Midian, where he became a what? (*shepherd*)
- One day, while he was watching the sheep in the desert near Mount Horeb, Moses saw a strange bush. What was strange about it? (*the bush was on fire but it was not burning up*)
- When God spoke out of the middle of the bush and told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let His people go, was Moses excited to go? (*no, he actually tried several excuses to get out of going: he said he wasn't the right person for the job, that the people wouldn't believe that God had sent him, and that he wasn't a very good speaker*)
- Whom did God send with Moses to help him speak to Pharaoh? (*his brother, Aaron*)
- Both the Israelites and Pharaoh took some convincing that Moses was sent from God. What did God use to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go? (*10 plagues*)

Read (or have a student read) about the 10 plagues and have someone write/draw each one on the board:

1. Exodus 7:19-21 - water turned to blood (magicians also)
 2. Exodus 8:1-6, 13-14 - frogs (magicians also)
 3. Exodus 8:16-17 - lice/gnats (magicians could not)
 4. Exodus 8:20-24 - flies (division between Egyptians and Israelites)
 5. Exodus 9:6-7 - cattle died (horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, sheep)
 6. Exodus 9:8-10 - boils (boils = areas of redness, swelling, and pain on the skin; blains = sores)
 7. Exodus 9:18-26 - hail
 8. Exodus 10:12-15 - locusts
- With all the damage being done to the land, animals, and people of Egypt, why didn't Pharaoh just let the Israelites go? (*Exodus 7:3-5: God was hardening Pharaoh's*)

heart so He could use His wonders to punish Egypt and to show them that He is the one true God)

9. Exodus 10:21-23 - darkness
10. Exodus 12:21-31 - death of the firstborn

Discuss the following questions about events in the books of Exodus and Numbers:

- **What does Exodus mean?** *(the departure of a large number of people)*
- **Jacob (Israel) had moved his 70 family members to Egypt 430 years before. At the time of the Exodus, how large had Israel's family grown?** *(there were about 600,000 men plus women and children: an estimated 2.5 to 3 million people [which is more than the approximately 2.1 million people who live in the greater Cincinnati area])*
- **What two objects led the Israelites as they traveled from Egypt into the wilderness?** *(a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night)*
- **The Israelites were camped by what sea when Pharaoh changed his mind and came after them?** *(the Red Sea)*
- **How did the Israelites cross the Red Sea?** *(Moses held his rod over the sea; God sent a strong east wind that divided the waters; the Israelites crossed on dry ground)*
- **What happened to the Egyptians when they tried to follow the Israelites through the Red Sea?** *(the wheels came off their chariots, and the sea closed over them when Moses stretched out his rod)*
- **What were some of the complaints the Israelites had after they left Egypt?** *(they were hungry; they were thirsty)*
- **What did God send them for food?** *(quail and manna [what is it?])*
- **How did God provide water?** *(He told Moses to take his rod and hit a rock, and water came out of it; at a later time, God told Moses to speak to the rock only; however, Moses again hit the rock; because of this, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land: Canaan)*
- **On what mountain did God meet with Moses and give Him instructions, including the 10 Commandments?** *(Mount Sinai)*
- **Name one of the 10 Commandments.** *(1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 6. Thou shalt not kill. 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. 8. Thou shalt not steal. 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.)*

- **Besides the 10 Commandments, what other major instructions did God give on Mt. Sinai?** (detailed directions for making the Tabernacle [tent of worship] and how the priests were to take care of and minister in the Tabernacle, etc.)
- **How long was Moses on Mount Sinai?** (40 days and 40 nights)
- **What did the Israelites do while Moses was on Mount Sinai?** (made a golden calf to worship as their god)
- **What did Moses do when he saw the golden calf?** (he threw down the stone tablets of the covenant and broke them; he burned the golden calf, ground it to powder, put it in water, and made the Israelites drink it; then he went back up Mount Sinai to ask the LORD to forgive the people and to get new tablets)
- **The Israelites were heading toward Canaan, the Promised Land. Why was it called the Promised Land?** (it had been promised many years before to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob [Israel] and their descendants; the Israelites were their descendants; however, they had been away from their land for a long time)
- **When they reached Canaan, how many spies did Moses send to check out the land?** (12, one from each tribe of Israel)
- **How many days were the spies gone?** (40)
- **When they returned from spying, what did the spies report about Canaan?** (the land was good with plenty of food; the people were powerful [strong]; the cities were large with walls)
- **Only 2 of the 12 spies believed that the Israelites could take back the land of Canaan. Who were they?** (Joshua and Caleb)
- **The other ten spies caused the Israelites to become so fearful that they threatened to stone Moses and Aaron and choose a new leader to take them back to Egypt! God became angry and told them that the adults would never enter Canaan: their children would. He told them they would have to wander in the wilderness for how many more years?** (40: one year for each day they searched the land of Canaan [Numbers 14:34])
- **After 40 years, all the adults had died, except Joshua, Caleb, and Moses. It was time for the Israelites to enter Canaan, but Moses did not get to enter. Do you know why?** (he struck the rock instead of speaking to it the second time; the rock was a type of Jesus, our Rock, and He was struck [crucified] only once)

Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12. (Moses' death)

Verse 10 says there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. Exodus 33:11 puts it this way: "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend."

Even though Moses was God's friend and even though he put up with so much from the Israelites, and was overall more patient than seems humanly possible, and kept God from destroying them on more than one occasion—he still didn't get to enter the Promised Land

because he struck the rock instead of speaking to it the second time. Moses didn't seem to realize that his actions were part of something much bigger than the miraculous provision of water from a rock.

Could it be the same with us? When God is working in our lives, is He also working out some bigger purpose that goes far beyond us?

Only time will tell what God is accomplishing through us when we obey Him. And when we disobey, our actions have negative consequences that we may not realize for a long time. Let's make up our minds to obey God, realizing that He has our best interests in mind and an amazing plan that is much greater than any of us could ever dream.

Let's pray right now and ask God to forgive us for the times we've disobeyed and help us deal with the consequences of our actions. And let's ask Him to help us submit to His will and to trust Him.