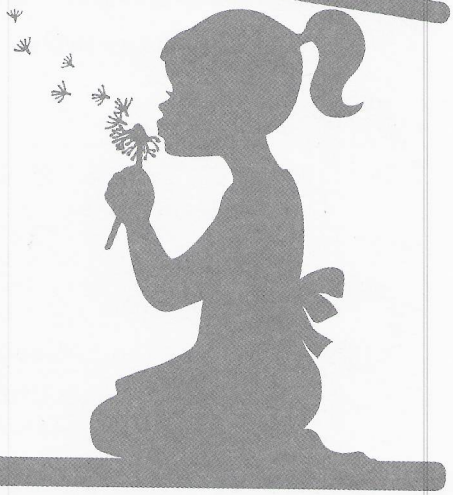
7 God Calls Moses



Key Themes

- God is sovereign over all things.
- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- Exodus 2:2–3, 2:5–6, 2:12, 3:2, 3:4–5

Lesson Focus

- God saved Moses. God was in control. God is sovereign.

Lesson Overview

Come On In

Children will color a "burning bush" on the newsprint covering the table.

Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Moses was born at the time of Israel's bondage in Egypt. After being raised in Pharaoh's household, Moses fled Egypt, fearing for his life. While living in Midian, Moses was called by God to free His chosen people. God protected Moses. God was in control of all the circumstances in Moses's life. God is sovereign.

Song Time—Children will sing the "Itsy Bitsy Moses" song followed by the "God Is Sovereign" songs.

Activity 1: The Burning Bush!

Students will remove their shoes (optional) and run a relay of sorts, draping red, yellow, and orange streamers over a plant to make a "burning bush." They will recite the "I Am Holy" statement as they participate.

Activity 2: Moses in a Basket

Students will color, cut out, and tape the basket and baby Moses templates. Baby Moses will fit inside the basket to show how God saved Moses from Pharaoh's wicked order.

Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite or repeat the memory verse.

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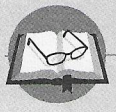
Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets

COME ON IN

- ☐ Cover the tables with newsprint for the students to color on.

- ☐ Newsprint cover for each table
- ☐ Crayons

CIRCLE TIME

- ☐ Bring in a boy doll in a basket.
- ☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart
- ☐ Stuffed animal
- ☐ Boy doll
- ☐ Basket

THE BURNING BUSH!

- ☐ Bring a large houseplant/bush into your room. (Can be artificial.)
- ☐ Cut at least one red, yellow, and orange streamer in various lengths for each student

- ☐ Houseplant or bush
- ☐ Colored streamers for each student

MOSES IN A BASKET

- ☐ Print one Moses in a Basket activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Moses in a Basket activity sheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Scissors

MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- ☐ Prepare and bring snacks.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- ☐ Snacks

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Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

As you prepare to teach this week, let God's Word prepare your heart and your mind as you read Exodus 1–4.

"There arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:6–8). And so begins this exciting account of God's people, the Israelites, finally making their way out of Egypt after hundreds of years of slavery and bondage. As the Israelites continued to be fruitful and multiply, the new Pharaoh became increasingly jealous and intimidated by them. He enslaved them and purposed to make their lives miserable with hard work—in the hopes he could reduce their growing population (Exodus 1:11–14).

But in spite of the terrible treatment, they continued to grow in numbers—their families were getting larger, not smaller as Pharaoh had hoped. In an even more desperate move to decrease their numbers, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male children born to the Israelites. But this did not work either because the midwives feared God (Exodus 1:15–21). In one last attempt to reduce the number of Israelites, Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrew male babies should be cast into the river and be killed (Exodus 1:22).

Into this political climate, Moses was born. A male Hebrew baby—destined for destruction yet preserved by a sovereign God to fulfill a promise of deliverance made hundreds of years earlier. His mother tried desperately to hide him and when she could no longer do so, she placed him in an "ark" on the river where he was providentially discovered by Pharaoh's daughter and brought into his court to live as royalty (Exodus 2:1–10).

Moses was raised in Pharaoh's court until he was 40 years old (Acts 7:23). But Moses had not forgotten his people. When he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren, he took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian. This required that Moses flee from Egypt for his life. He settled in Midian where he met Reuel, later called Jethro, and took one of his daughters, Zipporah, as his wife (Exodus 2:11–21).

It was in Midian that God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and called him to lead His people from Egypt. In this encounter, God allows us a glimpse into His character and attributes. God is holy (Exodus 3:5); God is faithful (Exodus 3:6); God is omniscient (Exodus 3:7); God is sovereign (Exodus 3:8); God is merciful (Exodus 3:9); God is omnipresent (Exodus 3:12); God is eternal (Exodus 3:14). Moses witnessed these truths of God and more during his meeting with God.

Yet Moses was still reluctant to obey (Exodus 4:10–13). The reluctance kindled the anger of the Lord, and Aaron was commissioned to serve as spokesperson and declare the words of God as given to Moses (Exodus 4:14–16).

This account of Moses allows us to delight in the faithfulness and sovereignty of God to fulfill His perfect plans through history. And He accomplishes His purposes through imperfect people in spite of their objections and shortcomings.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt is often disputed by skeptics, saying that there is no evidence for so many slaves in Egypt, or a mass exodus of more than 2 million people. This lack of evidence is based on the standard chronology of Egyptian history, which dates the time of Moses and the Exodus to around 1250 BC. However, the biblical timeline indicates that Moses left Egypt about 1491 BC, nearly 200 years earlier! This discrepancy alone would account for the lack of evidence—as archaeologists and researchers have dismissed newer evidence saying it couldn't have been remnants of the Hebrews in Egypt because the dates are wrong.

The timeline discrepancy is in part a result of miscounting the reigning years of the Egyptian kings. The kings of Egypt often overlapped in their reigns—much like the kings of Israel and Judah did later (1 Kings). These overlaps have not been taken into consideration with the traditional Egyptian timeline.

Exciting developments by archaeologist David Rohl and others are correcting this error. Mr. Rohl has researched and produced a new timeline that considers the Egyptian kings who did in fact overlap in their reigns—this, of course, affects the entire Egyptian timeline. Based on this updated research, the biblical dates for the Exodus now conform to the Egyptian dates.

And more than that, new evidence is now confirming the biblical account. In fact, excavations that began in 1966 from Tell ed–Daba in the Egyptian eastern delta indicate that a large Semitic-speaking population, most likely the Hebrews of the Exodus, lived there during the 13th Dynasty. This is perfectly in line with the understanding that Moses was born during the reign of Amenemhet III, last Pharaoh of the 12th Dynasty, who reigned for 46 years. This Pharaoh had

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no sons to inherit his throne, which could explain why he would accept Moses as the future heir.

As God allows for more discoveries to be made, we must keep in mind that our authority is the Bible. His Word is final. We do not base what we believe on what has been "proven" by men but on what has been "spoken" by the holy, sovereign, infallible, and inerrant Creator of the universe.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After Joseph died, the new king over Egypt was jealous of the Israelites and enslaved them to hard labor (Exodus 1:8–14). This was no surprise to God. Scripture records that it was more than 400 years earlier when God told Abram that his descendants would one day be strangers in a land where they would serve and be afflicted (Genesis 15:13). God also revealed to Abram that the Israelites would come out of that oppression with great possessions (Genesis 15:14)—which is exactly what happened when the Israelites finally left Egypt (Exodus 12:35–36).

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:6)—He was declaring to Moses that He was the same God, fulfilling the same covenant to give His people the Promised Land. The promises made to Abram so many years ago were about to be fulfilled as Moses led God's people to the Promised Land.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign Lord, thank you for bringing me to a saving knowledge of your Word and your gospel. Thank you for each child you have placed in my class. As we study your Word, open my eyes and the eyes of these precious children to trust the faithfulness of your sovereignty in all circumstances. Give us confidence that you can use us, in spite of our weaknesses, to fulfill your perfect plan. Give all of us the courage and wisdom, dear Lord, to willingly obey you and follow you wherever you may lead.

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COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color burning bushes on the newsprint you have put on the table. Tell them that they will hear about a burning bush, a holy God, and bare feet!

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.

REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.

Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, baby doll and basket, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets a turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today we will ask God for something. That is a prayer of supplication, or a "please" prayer. God cares about us and has promised to provide us with all we need.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Before making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

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I'll start. Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord, could you please . . . *(insert your own personal prayer here).*

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle, giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? What is in this Bible? *God's Holy Word!*

? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*

? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Remember, the new king in Egypt did not know Joseph. He did not like the Israelites and the fact that there were so many of them. He made them slaves and treated them terribly. *Show Lesson 5 Flip Chart.*

This new king wanted to kill all the Israelites. His plan was to throw all the baby Israelite boys into the river to die! This was a terrible, evil thing. Today, we are going to hear about God's plan to save one very special baby boy—Moses—and all the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt.

We will see that God was in control of everything, and God was going to save Moses and all the Israelites.

? What is it called when we talk about God being in control of everything? Can you remember? We sang some songs about it! *Sovereign.*

God is sovereign. He is in control of everything and works everything together to do what He wants to do. *Repeat the word* sovereign *with the children a few times.* Let's see what God did to save Moses!

Exodus 2:2–3

Remember, the king had commanded that ALL the baby boys born to the Israelites should be thrown into the river. Listen carefully to what this mother did. *Read Exodus 2:2–3.*

? What did the mom do with her baby boy first? *Reread Exodus 2:2 if necessary. She hid him for three months.*

God allowed her to protect her little boy for three months. The king wanted all the babies thrown in the river as soon as they were born. But God protected this baby!

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? What did the mom do after the three months? *Reread Exodus 2:3 if necessary. Bring out the boy doll and put it in the basket as a hint. Set it on the floor. She hid him in a basket in the plants growing by the river.*

? God was protecting this special baby. Listen to what happened next! It shows that God knew exactly what was going on. Someone came to the river. Tell me who it was when I'm finished reading. *Read Exodus 2:5–6. Emphasize "the daughter of Pharaoh."*

Exodus 2:5–6

? Who found the basket with the baby inside? *Pharaoh's daughter!*

That's right. The pharaoh's own daughter found the baby. Our God is pretty amazing! He knew exactly when Pharaoh's daughter would be at the river. She heard baby Moses crying, and she felt sorry for him. Do you know that God worked everything out perfectly—He is sovereign—and the pharaoh's daughter took baby Moses and raised him herself in the pharaoh's house! God was protecting Moses in a very special way for a very special reason. God had a plan for Moses that no one could change. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house. But one day he got into some serious trouble.

Listen as I tell you what he did. *Read Exodus 2:12, emphasizing that he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. Refer to the Flip Chart.*

Exodus 2:12

? What did Moses do that got him into big trouble? *He killed a man and hid him in the sand.*

When Pharaoh found out, he got very angry and wanted to kill Moses. But God saved Moses again. The Bible tells us that Moses ran away to a land called Midian. There he got married, had two sons, and became a shepherd. He thought he was through with Egypt and the Israelites. He lived in Midian for 40 years. But even though Moses thought he was through with Egypt, God wasn't through with Moses. God had protected Moses and now God was going to use Moses to do what God wanted him to do.

Moses was minding his own business taking care of his sheep. And suddenly he saw a sight that may have scared him! I think it would really scare me if I saw it. He was alone in the fields when he saw this. Listen to what happened next. It is really exciting! *Read Exodus 3:2.*

Exodus 3:2

? What did Moses see? *A burning bush.*

Yes. Moses saw a bush that looked like it was burning. The bush had a fire in it, but it wasn't burning up. I want to read this to you again. *Reread Exodus 3:2a, emphasizing "the Angel of the Lord."*

? Who was it that was speaking? *The Angel of the Lord.*

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Exodus 3:4–5

This was actually the Lord Himself—God—talking to Moses from the bush that was on fire but not burning up! Moses saw it and was very surprised, of course. He wanted to go and see what was going on with this burning bush. Why wasn't it burning up? Listen to what he heard as he walked toward the bush. *Read Exodus 3:4–5, emphasizing "I am the Lord," "take your sandals off," and "holy ground."*

? Who was speaking to Moses from the bush? *The Lord God!*

? What did God tell Moses to do? *Take your sandals off your feet!*

? Why did God want Moses to take his sandals off? *The ground was holy.*

That's right. God was there in the bush, and He wanted Moses to show Him special honor and respect. God said, "I am God. The place you are standing is holy ground. Take your sandals off!"

Moses was standing in a special place and was about to hear an important message from God. He quickly took off his shoes and listened to God. God told Moses that it was time for him to go back to Egypt. God would use Moses to save the people from slavery. God had made a promise long, long, ago to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob that He would give their descendants the beautiful Promised Land of Canaan. The time was right and God was going to fulfill His promise!

Do you see how God was in control of everything? From the time Moses was born, God protected him. God preserved him in the basket. God allowed Moses to be raised in Pharaoh's house. God sent Moses to Midian to be a shepherd, God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, and now God was ready to send Moses back to Egypt with his brother, Aaron, to save the people from the terrible slavery they were in. God saved Moses. God had a plan for Moses. God is sovereign!

SONG TIME

➤ Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song page. Hey! I have a great idea. Let's sing our "God Is Sovereign" songs. *Sing the songs, adding some fun movements to them.*

God is in control. That is a very good thing. He is much wiser than we are and does know what He is doing! Now we are going to sing a fun song called "Itsy, Bitsy Moses!" *Sing the song, teaching the hand motions.*

Lyrics to today's songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

That was great! God had a plan for Moses from when he was an itsy bitsy baby!

Now we are going to make a burning bush!

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1 The Burning Bush!

We can't really make a burning bush that doesn't burn up. Only God can do that. But let's make a pretend one!

MATERIALS

- ☐ Houseplant or bush
- ☐ Red, yellow, and orange streamers for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

This will be a relay-type activity. Put your plant at one side of the room. Have your streamers at the other side of the room. Have the children take off their shoes because they are approaching "holy ground." Children will take turns running with one streamer at a time to place on the bush until all the streamers are gone. As they approach the bush have them repeat the "I Am Holy" statement.

Moses! Moses! Don't come near;

Remove your shoes and bow in fear;

"I am holy," God said that day;

You will listen and then obey.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. God is holy and deserves our honor and respect. Moses bowed in fear and took off his shoes to show that he knew God was holy! God called Moses from that burning bush and Moses obeyed.

2 Moses in a Basket

Boys and girls, we are going to make Moses in his basket.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Moses in Basket activity sheet
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Scissors

INSTRUCTIONS

Help children color, cut out, fold, and tape the baby and the basket. The baby Moses will fit inside the basket.

Color the picture of the basket and baby Moses. Then cut out the pictures and tape the basket sides together so that Moses can ride in the basket.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God protected Moses when his mom put him in a basket and hid him in the weeds by the river. God chose to use Moses in His perfect plan to keep His promise and deliver the people out of Egypt.

Memory Verse Review/Snack

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the Lord your God . . . . You shall have no other gods before Me."

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After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.

Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God saved Moses. God protected him with his mom when he was first born. God protected him in the basket on the river. God allowed Pharaoh's daughter to find Moses and allowed Moses to be raised in Pharaoh's house. God moved Moses to Midian, where he became a shepherd, and then God spoke to Moses and told Moses to return to Egypt to save God's people. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

God had a perfect plan from the very beginning of Moses's life. God was in control of everything, and everything worked out exactly the way God wanted it to!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

God is sovereign over everything. That is really good news! We will go through hard, sad times in our lives. Maybe you already have. Maybe you know someone who is sick. Or maybe someone you loved very much died. Maybe you have to move and you just don't want to. Life is full of very difficult things. But you can trust God. He is in control of everything that happens. He is working everything out according to what He wants. God is sovereign. Because we know that God is in control, we can trust Him. It may not always be easy, but I pray you will learn how to do that!

Group Prayer Time

- Thank God that He is sovereign over our lives, just like He was over Moses.
- Thank God that we can trust Him to do what is right even if it doesn't make sense to us at the time.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, or bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

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Song Sheet

THE ITSY, BITSY MOSES

(To the tune of "The Itsy, Bitsy Spider")

The itsy, bitsy baby
(The itsy, bitsy spider)
Rock arms like holding baby.

Was laid in a basket.
(Climbed up the water spout.)
Lay baby down.

His mommy hid him on
(Down came the rain and)

The river of Egypt.
(Washed the spider out!)
Move hands like waves.

His sister watched him closely,
(Up came the sun and)
Hand shielding eyes, peering ahead.

Till a princess came.
(Dried up all the rain;)

And she kept him as her son.
(The itsy, bitsy spider)
Take baby up out of basket.

Moses was his name!
(Climbed up the spout again.)

The itsy, bitsy baby
Rock arms like holding baby.

Grew into a big man.
Pretend to grow big and tall.

Moses sinned, but God still
Turn away with sad face.

Had a perfect plan.
Turn back with happy face, pointing up.

Through a burning bush, God
Point up.

Spoke and said to go—
Wave hands to "follow."

And deliver His people
Walk forward three steps.

From evil Pharaoh.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN 2

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

God is sovereign, this is true;
(Jesus loves me this I know,)

He takes good care of me and you!
(For the Bible tells me so.)

He watches over everything,
(Little ones to Him belong,)

And is King above all kings.
(They are weak, but He is strong.)

Yes, God is sovereign.
(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yes, God is sovereign.
(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yes, God is sovereign.
(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

He reigns above all things!
(The Bible tells me so.)

GOD IS SOVEREIGN 3

(To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

God is sovereign of the sea,
(Twinkle, twinkle, little star,)
Move hands like waves.

Of the stars, and grass, and bees.
(How I wonder what you are!)
Point to sky, spread hands to floor, pretend to fly.

He controls the ants so small
(Up above the world so high;)
Scrunch down really small.

And giraffes that stand so tall.
(Like a diamond in the sky.)
Stretch up tall.

God is sovereign, this is true.
(Twinkle, twinkle, little star,)
Look up and point up.

He's in charge of me and you!
(How I wonder what you are!)
Shout "you!"

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Notes

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