



# MOSES

## ESCAPE FROM EGYPT

EXODUS 2:11-22, HEBREWS 11: 24-25, AND ACTS 7:22-29

### GOAL

- ▶ **To help children identify the treasure Moses saw in his future that would cause him to give up all the riches of Egypt.** As an Egyptian, he had everything the heart could desire—fame, fortune and all the glories of the world at his disposal; as a Hebrew, he would experience slavery, poverty, and the abuse of evil taskmasters. Only a great treasure could make it worth the sacrifice. Moses knew that the Egyptians' reward was temporary, but the treasure of God's mercy and goodness was eternal. "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-25).
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### WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Identity:** defines the purpose and person of an individual. Our identity as creatures should be defined by our Creator, and as Christians, by Christ. Moses was born a Hebrew, raised as an Egyptian prince, and then lived in the wilderness as a shepherd. In each move and after every change, God revealed more to Moses about who he was, what he was going to do, and where he was going. Our Christian identity is shown through Scripture and revealed by the Holy Spirit. The more we understand who God is and who He has made us to be, the more confident we can be as we follow His purpose for our lives.
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### MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Hebrews 11:24-25:** By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.



## OVERVIEW

**Read Exodus 2:11-22, Hebrews 11: 24-25, and Acts 7:22-29:**

Born a Hebrew slave and raised as a prince of Egypt, Moses was torn between two identities. As Moses grew into adulthood, his thoughts and affections turned away from Egypt and toward his fellow Hebrews. One day, he witnessed an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew slave. He took revenge by killing the Egyptian and burying him in the sand. Moses didn't realize that someone had seen what he had done until later when he attempted to break up a fight between two Hebrews. One of the Hebrews rebuked Moses for his deeds saying, "Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was terrified that he was found out, and he ran into the wilderness to get far away from the Pharaoh, who wanted him dead. Moses ended up in Midian where he saved the seven daughters of Jethro from some bullying shepherds, winning the favor of their father who invited him to stay to live among his people. Moses eventually married one of Jethro's daughters, and settled there for the next 40 years. Exiled from Egypt, rejected by his own people, and learning patience and wisdom in what seemed like nowhere, God was doing a mighty work in Moses.

## SUGGESTIONS

**Compare the treasures of God with the treasures of the world.**

Think of the things you treasure most—the virtual world of video games, clothes, acceptance of friends, popularity, fame, fortune, security, endless vacations, toys, treats, freedom, etc. Some of those things are good and fun, but how long will they last? Things rust and break, people can disappoint, money comes and goes, treats and vacations only last for brief time, and we have an enemy who specializes in robbing our joy. The rewards of God, on the other hand, are made to last forever. The Bible teaches, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-20).

## MEMORY

## VERSE

## MEANING

**Hebrews 11:24-25:** Moses believed the promises of God for deliverance, salvation, and eternal reward. He was willing to give up all that he had in Egypt to obtain them.



## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

### **Ages 5-7** Tag the Sheep

Designate one child from the group to be “Moses the shepherd,” making the rest of the group sheep. On the word “Go,” have the shepherd try to tag the sheep. Each sheep that gets tagged, lies down until all the sheep have been tagged. Once all the sheep have been tagged, designate another child to be the shepherd, and start another round of the game.

**Ages 5-7** and **Ages 8-10** **Pyramids of Sticks** | **Supplies:** boxes of toothpicks and bags of small marshmallows

Show the children how to connect three toothpicks with three marshmallows. Now show them how to connect multiple triangles together using additional toothpicks and marshmallows. Let them build their own pyramids and join the pyramids together to make even larger pyramids. It is very likely that some of the Hebrew slaves were tasked to build pyramids for the Egyptians.

**Ages 8-10** **Identity Crisis Sword Drill** | **Supplies:** a chalk board, markerboard, or butcher paper to write on; and something to write with; and a bible for each child.

Split the group into at least two teams. Using the list of verses provided in the Take Home section of this lesson, call out the first reference and have the children search their Bibles for the Scripture. Once they find the verse students should find a phrase or one to three words that describe a Christian’s true identity. The first student to raise his or her hand and provide the correct answer receives a point for the team. For instance, if the first verse called out is 1 John 3:1, the verse states, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” Students who answer, “Children of God,” receive a point for their team. The team with the most points wins.

Answers appear underlined in the Take Home section of this lesson.



## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

**Ages 5-7** **Feel the Desert** | **Supplies:** long buckets of play sand; plastic desert animals, such as lizards, snakes, and scorpions; small sticks, stones, and other small desert props.

Place sand in the long containers and scatter desert props throughout so that all the kids can reach them. Tell children about how Moses fled to the wilderness and walked through the desert lands. Let them work together to set up a likely scene for his escape using the props.

**Ages 5-7** and **Ages 8-10** **Frisbee Treasure Toss** | **Supplies:** several frisbees, two large containers, and 3x5 index cards.

On the 3x5 cards, write examples of temporary treasures (toys, food, trips to various places, clothes, shoes, etc.) and examples of eternal treasures (salvation, God's power, God's mercy, heaven, mansions in glory, etc.). Tape each card on a different frisbee. On one container write "Eternal Treasure" and on the other write "Temporary Treasures." Divide the group into two teams and line them up about 5 yards from the containers. Divide the frisbees and place a stack upside down in front of each team. On the word "Go," the person in the front of the line for each team will pick up the first frisbee, determine whether it belongs in the "eternal treasures" or the "temporary treasures" box, try to toss it in, and then run to the end of the line. Repeat, until all the frisbees are tossed. Whichever team gets the most in the correct box wins!

**Ages 8-10** **Guess the Price** | **Supplies:** items from a general merchandise store, paper, and pens.

Place each item on a large table with the price of the item on an index card hidden under the item. Give the children a pen and paper and have them write their guess for the price of each item. When everyone is done pricing the items, discuss each item's value and why certain items appear more valuable than other items. Now reveal the true prices of each product and give a point to the person who is the closest to the correct price on each. The one with the most points wins!

Moses placed more value on God's promises than all the riches of Egypt.



TAKE  
HOME

Moses was reminded throughout his life about what God had called him to be and about his identity as one of God's own. Before the students leave today, remind them who Scripture says they are:

1. **1 John 3:1:** "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."
2. **1 Corinthians 12:27:** "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
3. **Galatians 3:28:** "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
4. **Romans 8:17:** "And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."
5. **2 Corinthians 5:20:** "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."
6. **1 John 4:4:** "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
7. **Romans 8:37:** "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."
8. **Ephesians 2:10:** "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What remained in Moses' heart as he grew up as Egyptian royalty?

**A1:** The faith of the Hebrews remained in Moses' heart as he grew up as Egyptian royalty.

**Q1b:** Would you rather have everything you could ever want or undeniable proof that God is real?

**TN:** Let students answer. Moses had everything he could ever want or need, but in his heart, he knew that God was real. He didn't have any proof, just faith. It was that faith and understanding of right and wrong that led him on a path toward God's plan for his life, despite being raised in a household of people who did not believe or follow God.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What were the Hebrew people forced to do?

**A2:** The Hebrew people were forced to work as slaves.

**Q2b:** If you had all the money in the world, would you still need God's help and grace?

**TN:** Yes! There are many things in life that money can't buy or fix. When things go bad, having a heart full of faith is always better than having a wallet full of cash. There is no situation that God cannot overcome. The Egyptians trusted their money and power, neither of which the Hebrews had. Later, God would make these penniless and powerless people triumph over the Egyptians.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** What did Moses do to the Egyptian taskmaster?

**A3:** Moses killed the Egyptian taskmaster and buried him in the sand.

**Q3b:** How do you feel when you see someone do something mean to a person?

**TN:** Seeing someone do something mean to someone can make us mad. Moses saw the taskmaster hurting the Hebrew slave, and he let the anger take hold of his emotions. Using violence to punish someone for being violent is not the answer.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did one of the Hebrew men know about Moses?

**A4:** One of the Hebrew men knew that Moses killed the Egyptian taskmaster.

**Q4b:** Has anyone ever gotten mad at you for trying to help?

**TN:** In Moses' case, the people he was trying to help saw him as a hypocrite for criticizing them for fighting when Moses had killed a person the day before. Being a hypocrite hurts our credibility, making it unlikely that anyone would take our advice. For example, if we get caught lying about something, why would anyone listen to our advice about not telling lies? There are lots of reasons why people may refuse our help, and while it is very discouraging, we should never stop trying to do good for people.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** Pharaoh ordered what to happen to Moses?

**A5:** After Pharaoh learned what Moses had done, he ordered that Moses be killed.

**Q5b:** Can you hide under your bed long enough to avoid being punished for disobeying a parent?

**TN:** To avoid punishment, we'd probably have to hide under our bed long enough that hiding would become punishment enough. There are consequences for bad behavior, and it is best to be honest about our actions and accept the punishment for them. Moses did something really horrible, and the punishment for his action was really horrible. While living out in the wilderness wasn't as harsh as the death sentence pharaoh ordered, it wasn't the easy life Moses was used to back in Egypt.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What did Moses do for the seven women he met at the community well?

**A6:** He saved them from a band of rival shepherds and helped them water their flock of sheep.

**Q6b:** How would you thank a person who defended you against a bully?

**TN:** Let students answer. Moses defended the seven women who came to the well, and their father was so grateful, he ended up allowing Moses to become a part of his family. That's some serious gratitude!



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What did Moses find in the land of Midian?

**A7:** In Midian, Moses found a home, a wife, a family, humility, and strength.

**Q7b:** Does it make sense that to be a good football player, you must take ballet?

**TN:** How could ballet have anything to do with football?! Many football players learn some ballet to help them build strength, balance, speed, and flexibility. God had chosen Moses to deliver the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, so why would God's plan lead Moses away from Egypt into the wilderness? Moses had grown up in the Egyptian court; there were no lessons about God, no stories about God's love and provision, and no worship. Moses grew up with faith in His heart, but he never practiced his faith. God led Moses to a place where he could learn about Him and be dependent upon Him. Living in the wilderness provided him with an opportunity to learn who he was working for and what he was going to be fighting for in the future. Sometimes things don't make sense and may even seem like a huge setback, but God has a plan, and He can make everything work out for the best.



**MEMORY  
VERSES**

- ▶ **Hebrews 11:24-25:** By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
- .....

**BIG IDEA**

- ▶ The treasures this world offers are nothing compared to the eternal treasures God offers.
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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

- ▶ Dear Jesus, help us to keep our sights on you and your Kingdom, which are eternal. Help us to understand that whatever we lose in this life cannot be compared to what we will gain through salvation and eternal life. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



Moses was a very young child when he was taken from the care of his mother to live in the royal courts of Egypt. Although raised a prince, he would never forget the family to which he was born—Moses was a Hebrew, the special people of God's promises. The faith of the Hebrews remained in Moses' heart even as he grew up surrounded with all the power, riches, and pleasures that Egypt had to offer.

### SLIDE 2



Forty years passed, and Moses grew from a boy into a man. But even though he was raised in the Egyptian way of trusting riches, horses, and chariots, God continued to draw Moses' thoughts away from Egypt and toward his fellow Hebrews. One day, he went out to see his people who were forced to work as slaves. The things he saw were terrible, including an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave.

### SLIDE 3



When Moses saw this, it broke his heart and filled him with anger—it was as if this man were attacking his own brother! Moses waited until he thought no one was watching, then he charged toward the Egyptian, killed him, and buried his body in the sand. But as Moses would soon find out, someone had seen him, and word of his crime spread quickly.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



The next day, Moses went out to his people again, but this time he saw two Hebrews fighting with each other! In disbelief, he confronted them, "Men, you are brothers. Why do you hurt each other in this way?" One of them replied, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Are you going to kill me the way you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was terrified; everyone knew his awful secret.

### SLIDE 5



Meanwhile, Pharaoh was furious when he heard what Moses had done. By defending a Hebrew slave over an Egyptian taskmaster, Moses had rebelled against Pharaoh himself. Pharaoh ordered that Moses be captured and killed immediately! But Moses had already fled far away into the wilderness. Moses left Egypt behind, but this was just the beginning of his story.

### SLIDE 6



Moses ran for his life until he came to a place called Midian where he rested at a community well. Seven women arrived at the well to get water, but they were driven away by a band of rival shepherds. Moses sprang into action to defend the sisters, he quickly defeated the shepherds, then helped the girls water their flock of sheep. When Jethro, the girls' father, heard about what Moses had done, he insisted that Moses be brought home and given a hero's welcome.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 7



Over the next 40 years, Moses would find a new home in the land of Midian and in the household of Jethro. In time, Jethro gave one of his daughters to Moses as a bride, and Moses started a family. As the years passed, Moses would learn humility and the strength of a good shepherd. When the time was just right, God would call upon Moses to lead one of the greatest deliverance stories ever!