



Enter the Story

Moses

A narrative about God's concern for His people and the people He chooses to work with.

THE BIBLE

Exodus 1-4

Prepare for the Story

ICEBREAKER

- Everyone has made excuses in their lifetime. Share at least one excuse you have used to get out of doing something you had no desire to do.

Rewind the Story

Can someone highlight what has happened in the story so far ...

- Nation – Abram's call to trust God
- Jacob & Esau – Sibling rivalry
- Joseph – Dreams and Deliverance

Hear the Story

Scene One: Life in Egypt

The family of Israel had moved to Egypt and was enjoying the blessings that God had given to Joseph. Years passed, and Israel's family multiplied so quickly that they began to fill Egypt! Soon, a new king ruled Egypt who no longer remembered how Joseph had saved them from the great famine.

This king, also known as Pharaoh, told his people, "The Israelites are becoming a threat to us. There are too many of them! If we don't stop them now, they could join our enemies and fight against us." So, the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves and treated them horribly. Pharaoh even gave the order to have every newborn son of the Israelites killed by drowning them in the Nile River.

Scene Two: A Baby in a Floating Basket

One Hebrew family put their baby son in a basket and floated him down the Nile in hopes of saving his life. Pharaoh's daughter discovered this baby crying in the basket and felt sorry for him. Moses' sister, who followed the basket from a distance, offered to help Pharaoh's daughter find a mother to nurse the baby.

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, but she didn't know that she was hiring Moses' own mother to take care of him! The princess took the baby home to raise him in the king's palace and named him Moses (which means "to draw out").

Scene Two: Moses' Conflict

Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them being forced to work as slaves. He witnessed an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrews. Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching, then killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to have Moses killed, but Moses escaped to the wilderness and started a new life as a shepherd.

Several years later, a new Pharaoh came into power and continued to punish the Israelites in slavery. The people of Israel cried out to God for help and deliverance. God heard their cries and felt deep concern for them. He did not forget the covenant promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Scene Three: Burning Bush

One day while Moses was tending sheep, he noticed a bush was on fire, but it wasn't burning up. He said to himself, "That's amazing! I've got to go over and see this." God called out to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Yes, here I am!" Moses answered.

“Don’t come any closer,” God told him. “Take off your sandals because you are standing on holy ground.”

Moses hid his face in his hands because he was afraid to look at God. Then God told him, *“I have heard my people’s cries for deliverance and have come to rescue them. I have chosen you to meet with Pharaoh and lead my people out of Egypt.”*

But Moses begged God to send someone else, saying, *“Who am I? I’m not a good speaker ... I’m clumsy with my words.”* But God said, *“Who created mouths? Who gives people the ability to speak, hear, and see? I will help you speak clearly, and I will tell you what to say. But be prepared; Pharaoh is stubborn and will not listen.”*

God allowed Moses to bring his brother Aaron with him to help him speak to Pharaoh. Then Moses asked, *“Who should I tell them has sent me?”* God replied, *“I AM WHO I AM. Tell them that I AM has sent you, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name for every generation.”*

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, *“This is what the God of Israel says,” ‘Let my people go!’”*

Retell the Story

- What happened to Israel’s family because God used Joseph to deliver them?
- What did the Egyptians fear? What did they do about it?
- How do we meet Moses?
- What did Moses do to cause him to flee Egypt?
- While Moses was living as a shepherd what happened?
- How did God get Moses’ attention?
- What did God tell Moses? How did Moses react?
- How did God assure Moses?

Discuss the Story

- What is your first reaction to this story? How did this story make you feel?
- What stood out to you from this story? What did you notice for the first time?

- What from this story made you wonder?
- Why did Moses remove his sandals when he talked to God?
- Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?
- What did God call himself in the story? What do you think this means?
- What might God's use of Moses say to us about God?
- Did you hear anything that reminded you of **other** stories?
- From this story, what did you notice about humans?
- From this story, what do you notice about God's character or His qualities?

Join the Story

1) WHAT WAS GOD THINKING?

In our story, we experience a great tragedy – all the Israelite newborn sons are killed. Why would God allow this to happen? Why would He deliver His people from a famine only to have them killed and put into slavery by the Egyptians? Did the Israelites deserve this? Based on your answer, what might this tell you about God?

2) HE HEARD THEIR CRIES

In our story, God heard the cries of His people and decided to do something about it. What thoughts or questions does this stir up for you? What does God's response show us about His concern for His people? Do you think He feels the same way when we are in distress? Why or why not?

3) ACCOMPLISHING GOD'S PURPOSES

God calls Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. What is Moses' response to God's request? Do we give similar excuses to God? Name a few of these excuses. What do you think Moses' story tells us about how God accomplished His purposes? What does it tell us about the servants He chooses?

Pray

God,

Let us never take for granted the truth that you listen to our cries. You are a God who cares about His people and their plights. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the calling you have on our lives. Help us lead others to find and follow you. Amen.