

Moses: The One Who Was “Drawn Out” of the Reeds to “Draw Out” the People of God from Egypt

Exodus 1:8–17:7; 19:1–20:21, 24:12–18, 32:1–30;
Deuteronomy 34:1–8

This lesson comes from Volume 6 of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*. The lessons in Volume 6 are all Old Testament Extension Lessons. We generally introduce these lessons to children who have spent at least three years working with the Core Lessons in Volume 2 and are now developmentally ready for more.

The princess who rescued Moses from the river Nile gave him an Egyptian name that is translated by the Hebrew verb “to draw out.” He was drawn out from the reeds of the Nile by the daughter of the Pharaoh to draw the people of God out of bondage in Egypt. He was in the wilderness for forty years as a shepherd, working for his wife’s father, Jethro, a priest of Midian. It was there that he climbed Mt. Sinai and encountered God in the burning bush. God sent him to the Pharaoh to demand the people’s freedom. Moses led the people through the Red Sea into freedom, and with God’s help he gave them the Ten Commandments.

How to Use This Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense relives—the experience of today’s lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today’s story?

Just listen. This is not a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had

meaning, and yet another talk about their own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to listen in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today’s presentation offered below. Whether you read the lesson or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the presentation can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

The Presentation

A new Pharaoh did not remember what Joseph had done for Egypt and the People of God became slaves. There were so many of them that the Pharaoh was afraid they would take his kingdom away from him, so he said that all the baby boys had to be killed.

One of the mothers hid her baby. The daughter of the Pharaoh found him. She named the baby Moses and raised him in the palace. When Moses was a young man,

Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of this story you like the best?
- **I wonder** what part of this story is the most important?
- **I wonder** where you are in the story and what part is about you?

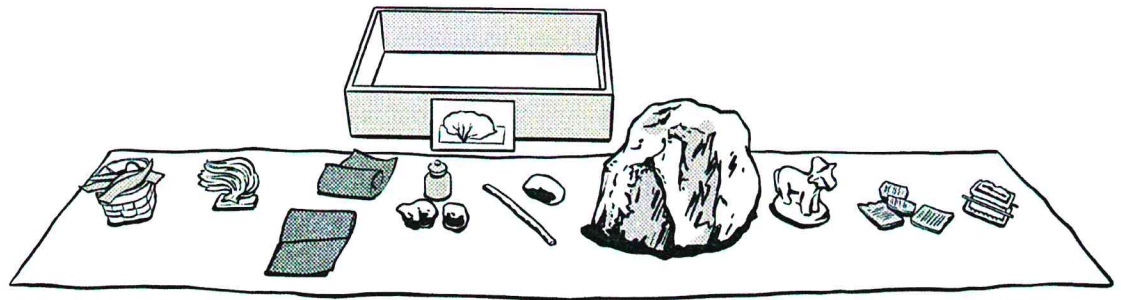
he saw an Egyptian beating one of the People of God. Moses grew angry and killed him. He ran away into the desert to live with Jethro and his family. He helped care for the sheep. One day when Moses was on Mount Horeb, which is also called Mt. Sinai, he saw a bush that was burning but did not burn up. God spoke to Moses from the bush. God told Moses that the cries of the People of God in Egypt had been heard. Moses was to go and set the people free.

So Moses went back to Egypt to tell the Pharaoh to let his people go. Terrible things happened in the land of Egypt. Finally, the Pharaoh said, "Yes." Moses led the people through the water to freedom.

The journey to the Promised Land was long and the people grew tired and hungry. But God showed the people that God was with them by giving them food and water.

The people were free. But they didn't know the best way to go. Moses went up on God's mountain where God gave him the Ten Best Ways to Live. Moses was gone a long time, so the people asked Aaron, Moses' brother, to make them a new god to lead them. Aaron made a golden calf and said to the people, "Here is your god." When Moses found the people worshipping the calf, he grew angry and broke the Ten Best Ways. The people were sorry, so God gave Moses the Ten Best Ways again. God told Moses to have the people make a box called an Ark to hold the Ten Best Ways.

After forty years, they came to another mountain, Mt. Nebo. God said, "I will give this land to the People of God, but you will not cross over." Moses died there and no one knows to this day where he was buried.



Godly Play The Godly Play Spiral, Part 3, "The Circle of the Church Year"

In every Parent Page, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. We sometimes say that Godly Play is organized as a kind of living spiral. The spiral moves upward and outward through early, middle, and late childhood making room for new experiences and learning. We have already discussed how the creative process and a Godly Play session helps moves the spiral, but the turning of the liturgical year also gives energy to the spiral.

The church year moves from the preparation for the Mystery of Christmas during Advent to the Mystery itself. It then moves on through Lent and the Mystery of Easter. Next, the season of Easter prepares the way for the Mystery of Pentecost, and then all the Sundays after Pentecost. We can spend a lifetime moving around this circle, discovering something new each time if we have the energy, the imagination, and the support of a community to help us to continue this quest. It is part of Godly Play's task to prepare the way for this journey.