



December 5

UNIT 4 | SESSION 1

GOD CALLED MOSES

EXODUS 1-4

CHRIST CONNECTION:

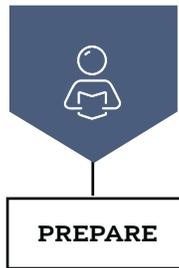
God chose Moses to save God's people from the king of Egypt. God planned and sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

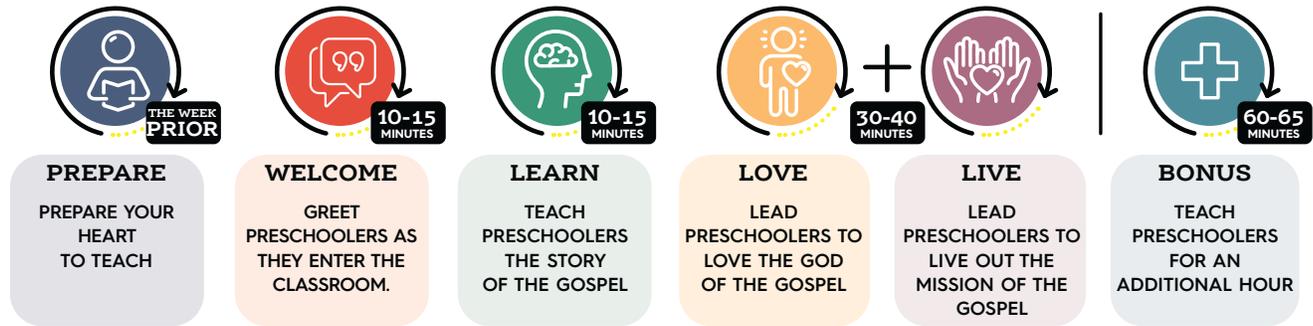
Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

God keeps His promises. Numbers 23:19



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Moses' life was in danger from the moment he was born. He was an Israelite—a descendant of Israel (Jacob)—living in Egypt after Jacob's family had moved there, seeking food during a famine. Four hundred years later, this family had grown and multiplied. Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, likely lived in fear of the pharaoh who ruled Egypt and took drastic measures to oppress the Israelites. Could God's promises for His people stand against such opposition?

Jochebed hid her baby boy as long as she could—about three months—before she put him in a basket among the reeds of the river. She couldn't have known that Pharaoh's daughter would find him and want to raise him as her own, or that the princess would let Jochebed care for him until he was old enough to be raised as an Egyptian prince. She couldn't have known that her son would grow up to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt. But God knew. All along, God had a plan for Moses and His people.

God appeared to Moses years later. Moses was a shepherd then, having grown up in Egypt's royal household only to flee as a murderer to Midian. There, Moses started a family and worked as a shepherd, perhaps never imagining he would see Egypt again.

But one night, God drew a curious Moses

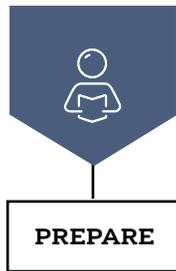
to Himself and spoke through a burning bush. You see, God remembered the promise He made to Eve in Genesis 3. He remembered His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12, which He repeated to Isaac and Jacob. So many years had passed, but God remembered His promises.

Moses was inadequate for the task of rescuing the Israelites, but God promised His power and presence. So in the early chapters of Exodus, we see Moses return to Egypt to confront Pharaoh—acting as a mediator between the Israelites and their burdensome king.

As you consider Moses' calling, look forward to an even greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people from their sin. Jesus is greater than Moses. Moses delivered God's people from physical captivity; Jesus delivers God's people from captivity to sin and death.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Moses: biblical patriarch; chosen by God to lead His people out of captivity and to the promised land.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Examine a basket

- Big Picture Question Poster
- medium-sized cardboard or plastic box (keep box to be used in unit 4, sessions 2-4)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- small basket



LEARN

Move to group time

- box used in “Examine a basket” activity

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Care for babies

- baby care items
- small blankets (optional)
- baskets, large enough for a baby doll (optional)

Explore water

- large plastic container
- water
- towel
- smocks
- items for pouring water such as plastic or measuring cups, pitchers, and spoons

Match shoes

- laundry basket or another large container
- pairs of shoes in a variety of sizes and styles
- Bible Story Picture Poster



LIVE

Create a picture with red, orange, and yellow paint

- smocks
- red, orange, and yellow washable paint
- small containers for paint, 1 for each color
- paint brushes
- large white construction paper, 1 page per child

Make adhesive bandage art

- “McDonald Family Photo” printable
- adhesive bandages

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child



BONUS

Tiptoe to group time

- a baby doll used in “Care for babies”

Whisper the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Roll a ball

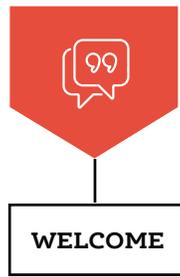
- a soft playground ball

Build fences for animals

- animal figures, including sheep

Weave paper

- self-adhesive labels with the key passage phrase printed



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversation as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

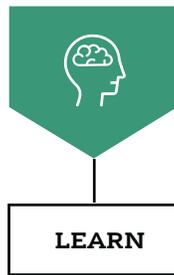
EXAMINE A BASKET

Secure the big picture question poster to the outside of a box. Place the Bible story picture poster, a small basket, and a Bible open to Exodus 1 in the box. Greet each preschooler as he enters the room. Show him the box and read the big picture question, pointing to the poster. Invite him to look in the box to discover items that remind us of God's promises. Allow him to examine the items. Keep this box to be used in the following sessions of this unit.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are at church today. The Bible tells us that ‘God keeps His promises.’ God promised to take care of His people. You found the basket in this box. The basket reminds me of the story of Moses that we will hear today. Moses was the leader of God’s people. God kept His promise. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 MOVE TO GROUP TIME

Encourage preschoolers to help you bring the box from the “Examine a basket” activity to group time. Work together to slide the box across the floor to the group time area. Open the box and rediscover its contents. Talk about different ways a basket can be used. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story.

SAY “ Thank you for helping me bring the box to our group. God keeps His promises. Let’s hear a Bible story about a promise God made to take care of His people. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Exodus 1 and tell the following Bible story.

GOD CALLED MOSES

SAY “ Joseph’s family lived in Egypt. They were called Israelites because they came from Joseph’s father Jacob, who was also called Israel.

A new king took over Egypt. This king did not like the Israelites. So the king made the Israelites work very hard. He tried to stop their families from getting bigger.

Around this time, an Israelite woman had a baby boy. She put him in a basket by the side of the river. Soon, the princess of Egypt went to the river. She found the baby, and she wanted the baby to be her son. The princess named the baby Moses.

When Moses grew up, he left Egypt and worked as a shepherd, taking care of sheep.

One day, Moses saw a bush on fire, but it wasn’t burning up! God called from the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

“Here I am,” Moses said. God told Moses to take off his sandals.

God said, “I want you to lead My people out of Egypt.”

God said that Moses’ job would not be easy. The king in Egypt would say no, but God promised that the king would one day let God’s people go. So Moses went back to Egypt. ”

Christ Connection: God chose Moses to save God’s people from the king of Egypt. God planned and sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Encourage each preschooler to tell you something about Moses' life. Some answers may include: he was a baby, his mother placed him in a basket, he was a shepherd, God talked to him through a bush that was burning, and he was the leader of God's people. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Assist preschoolers as needed.

SAY “ God took care of Moses. He called Moses to be the leader of His people. God promised that the king would let Moses take His people out of Egypt. God kept His promise. God chose Moses to save God's people from the king of Egypt. God planned and sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Frere Jacques.”

“God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.
God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.”

5 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

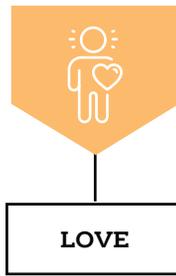
Place the key passage phrase marker in the Bible at Numbers 23:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to shout the phrase with you.

SAY “ God promised to take care of His people. He promised that the king would one day let His people go. God kept His promise. ”

6 PRAY

Pray. Thank God for keeping His promises. Thank Him for taking care of Moses and His people. Thank Him for taking care of us today.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 CARE FOR BABIES



Place blankets, baskets, and other baby care items near baby dolls. Invite preschoolers to care for baby dolls. Demonstrate how to wrap a doll in a blanket, feed him, rock him, and sing to him. Talk about other ways the preschoolers can care for the dolls.

SAY “ You cared for the baby dolls. Moses’ mother cared for him. She placed him in a basket by the side of the river. The princess of Egypt found Moses and wanted him to be her son. She named him Moses and cared for him. God protected Moses. ”

2 EXPLORE WATER

Cover a table with a towel. Fill a container $\frac{1}{4}$ full of water. Place nonbreakable cups, pitchers, and other items on the table for preschoolers to use. Help children put smocks on over their clothes. Encourage them to explore the water, pouring it between containers. Suggest they place the containers in the water to see which ones will float or sink.

SAY “ Moses’ mother placed him in a basket by the side of the river when he was a baby. The princess of Egypt found him when she went to the river. Moses would grow up to be the leader of God’s people. God chose Moses to save God’s people from the king of Egypt. God planned and sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin. ”

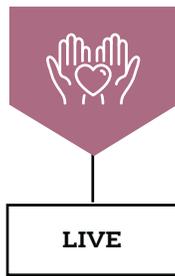
3 MATCH SHOES

Place several pairs of shoes in a laundry basket or other large container. Provide a variety of sizes and styles of shoes such as sneakers, dress shoes, water shoes, and sandals in both children and adult sizes. Display the Bible story picture poster nearby. Encourage children to match the shoes. For an extended activity, lead preschoolers to sort the shoes by size. As they work, direct their attention to the Bible story picture poster, and talk about if the shoes they matched are similar or different than Moses’ sandals in the Bible story picture poster.

SAY “ God called to Moses from the burning bush. He wanted Moses to be the leader of His people. We read in the Bible that Moses removed his shoes when he came to the bush where God was speaking. What would you have said to God if you were Moses? ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 CREATE A PICTURE WITH RED, ORANGE, AND YELLOW PAINT

Lay paint, smocks, paintbrushes, and paper on a table. Pour each color of paint into a container. Assist preschoolers with putting smocks over their clothes. Give each child a piece of construction paper and ask where they would like for you to write the key passage phrase on their papers. As you print the phrase, say the words. Encourage preschoolers to use paint to create pictures on their papers. For an alternate activity, encourage preschoolers to use red, orange, and yellow markers to create their pictures.

SAY “ You are painting a beautiful picture. The colors red, orange, and yellow remind me of the bush from our Bible story. God talked to Moses in a bush that was on fire, but not burning up. He wanted Moses to be the leader of His people. God told Moses it would not be easy, but the king of Egypt would let God’s people go. ”

2 MAKE ADHESIVE BANDAGE ART



Print the “McDonald Family Photo” printable. Place the printable, construction paper, and adhesive bandages on a table. Use a marker to print *Pray for the McDonald family* on a piece of construction paper for each child. Show the “McDonald Family Photo” to the children. Give each child a few adhesive bandages and a piece of construction paper. Guide them to remove the backings and stick the bandages to their papers. Suggest children ask their parents to help them put their prayer reminders in a prominent place, like on a bedroom wall or refrigerator door, to remind them to pray for the McDonald family in Tanzania.

SAY “ Nurses and doctors use bandages like these on your paper. Heather and Eric McDonald went to a country called Tanzania to help people. Heather is a nurse, and Eric is a doctor. Heather and Eric can help people feel better when they are sick, and they can tell people about Jesus. When you see your picture you created, you can remember to pray for the McDonald family. ”

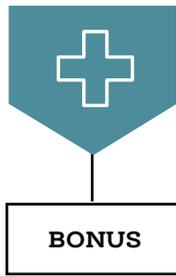
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ God chose Moses to save God’s people from the king of Egypt. God planned and sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 TIPTOE TO GROUP TIME

As children move to group time, encourage them to whisper and tiptoe quietly. Bring and show a baby doll used in the “Care for babies” activity in the earlier hour to the children. Remind preschoolers that Moses was a baby. When he grew up, God called him to be the leader of His people.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Exodus 1. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

GOD CALLED MOSES

- The new king in Egypt did not like the Israelites. He tried to stop their families from getting bigger.
- An Israelite woman had a baby boy and put him in a basket by the side of the river.
- A princess found the baby and wanted him to be her son. She named the baby Moses.
- When Moses grew up, he left Egypt and worked as a shepherd, taking care of sheep.
- One day, Moses saw a bush on fire, but it wasn't burning up! God called from the bush, “Moses! Moses! I want you to lead My people out of Egypt.”
- God said that Moses' job would not be easy. The king in Egypt would say no, but God promised that the king would one day let God's people go. So Moses went back to Egypt.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Frere Jacques.”

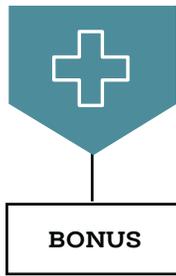
“God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.
God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.”

4 WHISPER THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker in the Bible at Numbers 23:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to whisper the phrase with you.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for taking care of Moses and always keeping His promises.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 ROLL A BALL

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle on the floor. Say the key passage phrase to the children. Roll a ball to a child. When a child catches the ball, lead preschoolers to say the key passage phrase as a group. Encourage the child with the ball to roll it to another child. Lead the children to repeat the phrase again. Continue until every child has a turn to roll and catch the ball.

SAY “ God always keeps His promises. We can believe Him. He does what He says He will do. God told Moses that He wanted Moses to lead God’s people out of Egypt. God promised Moses that the king of Egypt would one day let His people go. It was not easy for Moses and the people, but God kept His promise. ”

7 BUILD FENCES FOR ANIMALS

Provide a variety of farm animals and blocks for preschoolers to play with, making sure to include several sheep. Suggest preschoolers use blocks to build fences for the animals. Suggest preschoolers talk about animals they have seen. Ask what they know about sheep and if they have ever met anyone who takes care of sheep.

SAY “ When Moses grew up, he was a shepherd. He took care of sheep. In the Bible, we read Moses was taking care of sheep when he heard God calling him from the bush. Moses then became the leader of God’s people. God chose Moses to save God’s people from the king of Egypt. God planned and sent Jesus to earth to save people from sin. ”

8 WEAVE PAPER

Print the key passage phrase on self-adhesive labels. Cut 1-by-12-inch strips of colored construction paper for children to use while weaving. Prepare weaving mats by folding construction paper in half lengthwise and cutting lines at one-and-a-half-inch intervals on the folded side of the paper to within one inch of the edges of the papers. Give each preschooler a weaving mat and show how to weave paper strips under and over the cut strips on the mats. Guide children to apply glue or tape to hold each paper strip end in place. When they have finished weaving, give preschoolers a self-adhesive label with the key passage phrase to attach to their mats.

SAY “ The weaving that you have done reminds me of the basket that Moses’ mother placed him in. Our key passage phrase says, ‘God keeps His promises.’ God promised to take care of His people. God kept His promise. God took care of Moses. God takes care of us too. Can you think of ways God cares for you? ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.