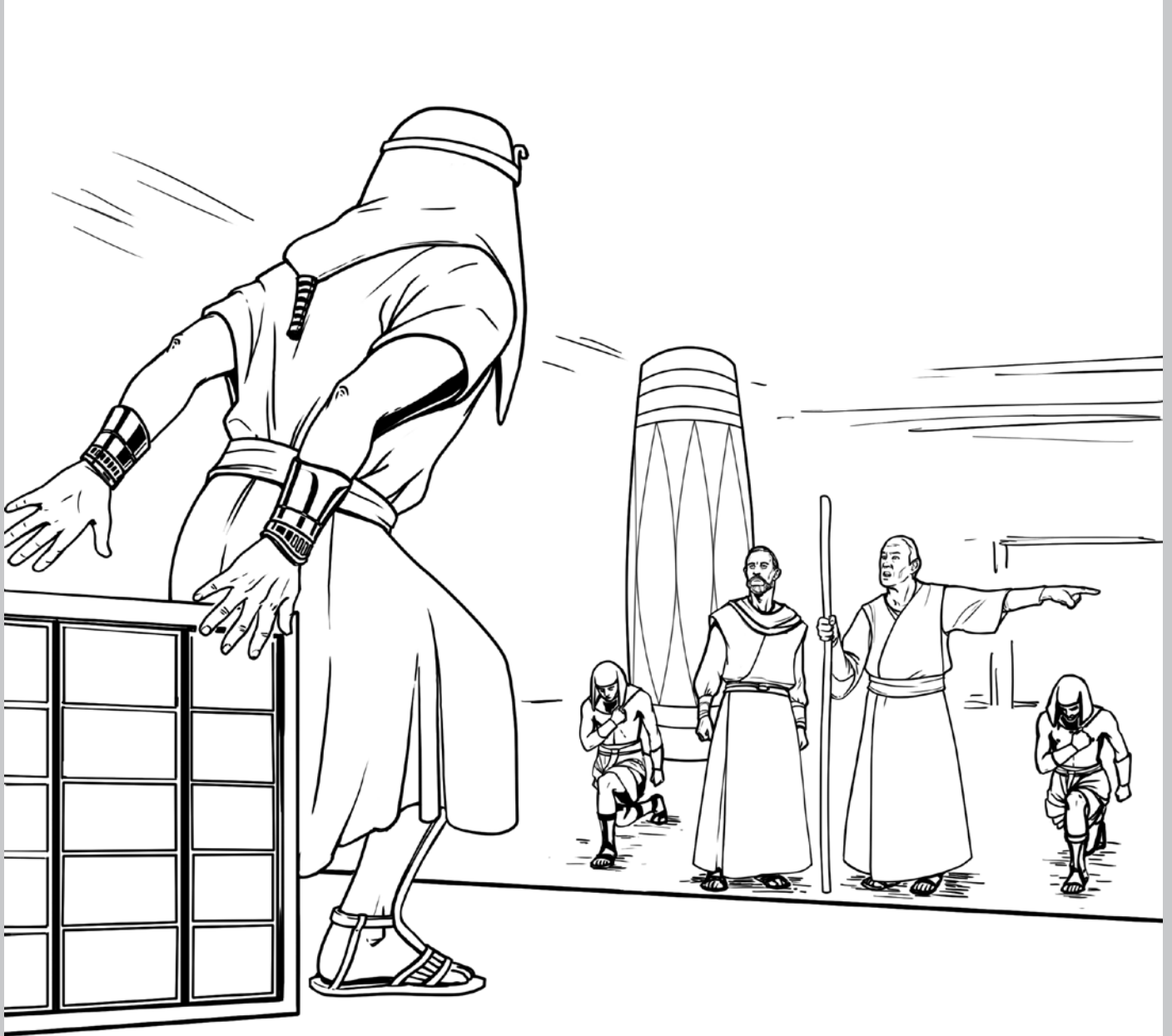




LEVEL 3
3·7
LESSON 1

Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Moses—Life of Moses

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About 3,500 years ago, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. After Joseph died, a new pharaoh came to the throne. He worried that the Israelites were having too many children and were becoming too numerous. So he devised a terribly wicked solution: Murder every baby boy born to an Israelite slave by throwing him into the Nile River to drown.

Years ago, the Israelites had forgotten the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They now only knew the pagan gods of the Egyptians. But the merciful God still heard the cry of His people.

A PLAN FOR DELIVERANCE

Among the slave huts of the Israelites was a woman named Jochebed who gave birth to a baby boy. She and her husband feared the pharaoh, but they bravely disobeyed his devilish command. Instead of drowning their baby, they hid him. As the boy grew, however, it became harder to keep him hidden. After three months, they developed a plan to spare his life.

Jochebed placed her son in a basket and, along with the baby's

older sister, Miriam, carried him to the river. She placed the basket in the waters. Miriam ran along the river's edge to watch the basket as the water's current carried it downstream.

Eventually, the basket arrived at the place where the pharaoh's daughter had gone to bathe. The princess noticed the basket floating among the reeds. As she opened the basket, she was startled to discover an Israelite baby inside. She knew pharaoh had ordered all male Israelite babies to be killed, but as the infant started to cry, she had compassion and decided to protect him.

The princess named the baby *Moses*, which means "to draw out," since she had drawn him out of the river. God had protected the person He would later use to *draw out* the Israelites and deliver them from Egypt.

MOSES LEAVES EGYPT

Moses grew up with princely privileges and was personally instructed by some of the best Egyptian tutors. He learned Egyptian customs, history

and culture. Yet despite his upbringing as an Egyptian prince, Moses and the others knew he was actually an Israelite. When he watched how the Israelite slaves were oppressed, he became upset.

One day, Moses came across an Egyptian taskmaster beating a helpless Israelite slave. Furious, Moses ran over and killed the Egyptian. Realizing the terrible crime he had committed, he quickly buried the man's body.

The next day, Moses was walking among the Israelites. He discovered that some of them knew what he had done. Then the pharaoh also learned of his deed. He ordered Moses to be killed. Moses fled to the desert east of Egypt.

While in the desert, Moses encountered a family that took him in. The father of this family, Jethro, was a prominent leader in the land of Midian. In return for housing and food, Moses helped shepherd Jethro's flocks. Eventually, he married one of Jethro's daughters.

GOD CALLS MOSES

One day, about 40 years after fleeing Egypt, Moses was tending the flock. As they passed by the foothills of a mountain, he noticed a bush on fire. He stared at it for some time before realizing something strange: It was not being consumed in the flames. When he moved closer to inspect the bush, a voice cried out, "Moses!

Moses!" Puzzled and hesitant, Moses answered, "Yes—I am here."

The voice commanded Moses to remove his sandals because he was on holy ground, then said: "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Moses hid his face, afraid to look upon God.

"I have seen what the Egyptians have done to my people. And I will send you to deliver my people out of the land of Egypt and lead them to a land of freedom and prosperity."

Moses was stunned. Would the Israelites believe he had been sent by God? And even if they did, how could he make the pharaoh release them?



The baby Moses floats in a basket.



Moses grows up as a prince in Egypt.



Moses stands before the burning bush.

Moses tried to give excuses why he couldn't complete such a mission.

God had to strengthen Moses's faith.

GOD'S GREAT POWER

God told Moses to take the wooden staff he used for herding the sheep and throw it to the ground. When Moses did so, it became a snake, causing Moses to leap back. God told Moses to pick it up by the tail. When he did so, it transformed back into a staff.

"Put your hand in your coat," God said. When Moses removed his hand,

it was covered with a terrible disease of leprosy. "Put your hand back in your coat," God said. Moses obeyed, and his hand returned to normal.

But Moses still felt ill prepared for the huge task God had given him. He told God that he couldn't speak well enough. God told Moses that his brother, Aaron, would speak for him. Moses finally stopped making excuses and left for Egypt.

Meanwhile, God had also instructed Aaron to go out and meet Moses in the wilderness. He did so, finally reuniting with his brother after so many years. Moses told him



The Israelites endure heavy labor in slavery.

what had happened, and they began the journey back to the land of their birth—the land where their people remained slaves.

MOSES MEETS PHARAOH

The time had come for Moses and Aaron to go before Pharaoh. They entered Pharaoh’s court. Standing before Pharaoh, Aaron said, “We represent the God of Israel. He has commanded that you release His people, so we may go to the desert to worship Him.”

“Who is this God that tells me what to do?” Pharaoh demanded. “I do not know such a God, and I will not release the Israelites!”

Aaron said the Israelites would only be gone three days. But Pharaoh ordered his guards to forcibly remove the two men from his court. He then commanded the taskmasters to stop providing the Israelite slaves with straw to make their bricks. They now had to gather the straw and make the same number of bricks as before.

When word spread of why Pharaoh had made their work more grievous, the people grew very angry at Moses. But everything was unfolding as God intended.

God sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh’s court. The mighty king allowed them to come before him again, but demanded that they perform a miracle to prove the existence of their God. Moses told

Aaron to cast down his rod. He did so, and it immediately transformed into a wriggling snake, startling Pharaoh and the others in attendance. Pharaoh called for his magicians. He wanted to know if this was a form of trickery or an actual miracle of God. The magicians called on the power of demons to make it appear as though their rods became snakes as well. But the snake that had come from Aaron’s rod slithered toward the other snakes and swallowed all of them! The crowd gasped, and Pharaoh’s eyes narrowed.

“We gave you the proof you demanded,” Aaron said. “Now will you let God’s people go?”

“No. Your people will never leave,” the king responded coldly.

#1: PLAGUE OF BLOOD

God told Moses to meet Pharaoh the next morning on the bank of the river, where he bathed.

The next day, as they stood on the bank of the river, Aaron lifted his rod and said, “I speak on behalf of the God of Israel: Let my people go! For I will smite the river with my rod and the water will turn to blood.”

When Aaron struck the water, a red color began spreading in the river. Startled, the king and his servants got out of the river. For seven days, the people of Egypt suffered as the all fresh water had turned to blood. People had to dig in the sand to find water to drink.



Aaron puts his staff in the Nile River, and the water begins turning to blood.



Yet Pharaoh still refused to allow the Israelites to leave. On the eighth day, the river and all the fresh water became clear again. Pharaoh did not learn the lesson. He refused to recognize the greatness of the God of the Israelites.

#2: PLAGUE OF FROGS

God told Moses and Aaron to once again go before Pharaoh and ask him to free the Israelites.

“If you refuse, Pharaoh, your nation will be overwhelmed with frogs,” they told the king. “They will come out of the Nile and millions will be in your houses, even your beds.” Pharaoh scoffed and refused.

The next morning, the king woke up to something moving at his feet. When he pulled the blankets back, he saw frogs of all sizes in his bed. When he jumped out of his bed, even more covered the floor. Servants in the palace had trouble preparing food because frogs had gotten into pots, pans, sacks of meal, bowls of fruits, dishes of food—everywhere!

Egyptians killed as many frogs as they could. This left stinking dead frogs’ bodies all over the place, and it seemed the more they killed, the more frogs leaped out of the river. Pharaoh quickly realized the only solution to this plague was the God who caused it. He called Moses and Aaron and said he would allow the Israelites to leave.

By the next morning, the plague has ceased. The nation was covered

in dead frogs, which now had to be cleaned up. But once he got what he wanted and things returned to normal, Pharaoh refused to keep his promise.

#3: PLAGUE OF LICE

God told Moses and Aaron to smite the dust of Egypt with Aaron's rod. The dust became lice. The Egyptians were still cleaning up the mounds of dead frogs when this third plague began. These tiny, biting insects and made them miserable.

But Pharaoh stubbornly continued to rebel against God.

#4: PLAGUE OF FLIES

God sent Moses to Pharaoh again. He said that if he did not free the Israelites, God would send a fourth plague: Swarms of biting flies would cover Egypt. Pharaoh refused to obey, and the swarms came. They flew into his house, into his servants' houses, into the houses of every Egyptian.

Eventually, Pharaoh could not take it anymore. He promised to let the Israelites go. But again, as soon as the plague ended, he changed his mind and refused to free the Israelites.

#5: PLAGUE OF PESTILENCE

God then sent a fifth plague on Egypt. The cows, horses, donkeys, camels and sheep of the Egyptians got sick, and most of them died. But the animals of the Israelites stayed healthy. But Pharaoh still refused to free the Israelites.

#6: PLAGUE OF BOILS

God told Moses and Aaron to take ashes from a brick furnace and sprinkle them into the air. They did so, and the sixth plague began: Egyptians developed festering boils all over their bodies. Due to these painful blisters, Pharaoh's magicians could not even stand up to speak before Pharaoh and Moses. Yet Pharaoh refused to obey God's command.

#7: PLAGUE OF HAIL

God sent Moses back to the royal court once more. "Thus says the Lord God of the Israelites: 'Let my people go,'" Moses declared. "If you exalt yourself against my people and refuse to let them go, I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail. Every man or animal that remains out in the open fields will die." This was the seventh plague. Pharaoh refused, but some of the Egyptians heeded Moses's warning and sheltered their remaining animals.

Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven, and it began to thunder. Huge chunks of ice plunged down from the sky, along with fire and lightning. The hail broke trees, crushed crops and killed anyone who was outdoors.

Pharaoh called for Moses. "I have sinned," he said. "Ask God to stop this thunder and hail, and I will let you go." Moses answered, "I will spread my hands to God; and it will stop. But I

know that you and your servants will not truly fear God.”

Moses was right. When the destructive hail stopped, Pharaoh sinned more and hardened his heart.

#8: PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh yet again and said, “Thus says the God of Israel, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, or tomorrow I will send locusts. They shall cover the land till you cannot see the ground and shall eat every plant that was not destroyed by the hail.”

Pharaoh’s servants begged him to listen to Moses and Aaron and at least let the Israelite men go into the desert to worship God. Pharaoh agreed to this plan, knowing that the men would come back to be with their wives and children. He summoned Moses and told him that only the men could leave. This was not good enough, so Moses stretched out his rod, and the eighth plague began.

God sent a strong wind from the east, which blew in swarms of locusts. They covered the land of Egypt. There were so many of them that they covered the ground, eating every green plant that the hail had left.

“I have sinned against God and you,” Pharaoh told Moses. “Please forgive me and pray that God may save me and my kingdom.” Moses

prayed, and God sent a west wind to blow the locusts away until there was not one left.

But again, the king went back on his word in rebellion and refused to let the Israelites go.

#9: PLAGUE OF DARKNESS

Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky to summon the ninth plague. An ominous, thick darkness covered Egypt for three days, so thick the Egyptians could feel it. No one could see each other even if they lit a candle, so they remained in their homes. Yet there was light where the Israelites lived. The Egyptians grew very afraid.

Pharaoh called for Moses and told him the Israelite men could take their families into the desert to worship God, but they had to leave their animals behind. This way they would have to come back to Egypt for meat and milk or else starve in the desert. But Moses told Pharaoh they would not leave without their animals. Pharaoh became furious. “Get away from me!” he shouted. “If you ever see my face again, you will die.”

God then told Moses that a 10th plague was coming. It would be so terrible that Pharaoh would finally let the Israelites go!

Plagues on Egypt Word Search

K J X P Y A I V I L O X E O D
F R O G S J V G C K U G C J H
M Y Z C X N K H W C L I C E Z
Y A B W K B W D R M T B O H K
G K N A L U B O I L S I F D W
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U L F O H F E C D V I B T D Z
T J J D A P E S T I L E N C E

BOILS

DARKNESS

FLIES

FROGS

HAIL

LICE

LOCUSTS

PESTILENCE

WATER TO BLOOD