



7

God Calls Moses

Key Themes

- God is sovereign over all things.
- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- Exodus 2:1–3:15, 4:1, 4:10, 4:13

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify examples of God's sovereignty in saving Moses.
- Name the attributes of God revealed in the biblical account of God's calling Moses.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Children will color the Slavery in Egypt coloring sheet.



Studying God's Word

page 5

Moses was born at the time of Israel's bondage in Egypt. After being raised in Pharaoh's household, Moses fled Egypt, fearing for his life. While living in Midian, Moses was called by God to free His chosen people. Despite his shortcomings, Moses was used by God to accomplish His plans.



Activity 1: Exodus 20 Crossword Puzzle

page 9

Children will solve a crossword puzzle relating to the memory verses.



Activity 2: Wheel of Sovereignty

page 11

Children will make the Wheel of Sovereignty, which illustrates God's sovereignty to fulfill His will in the life of Moses.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Slavery in Egypt coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Slavery in Egypt coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons or markers



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print and cut the Character Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Character illustrations of baby Moses, adult Moses, Amenemhet III, and Pharaoh's daughter
- Lesson Board Work outline



EXODUS 20 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Print one Exodus 20 Crossword Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Exodus 20 Crossword Puzzle for each student
- Pencils



WHEEL OF SOVEREIGNTY

- Print one Wheel of Sovereignty pattern from the Resource DVD-ROM onto cardstock for each student.
- You may cut out the pattern before class to save time.

- Wheel of Sovereignty pattern for each student
- Scissors
- Craft stick for each child
- Brass brads or fasteners
- Tape



Memory Verse

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them.”

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

As you prepare to teach this week, let God's Word prepare your heart and your mind as you read Exodus 1–4.

"There arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:6–8). And so begins this exciting account of God's people, the Israelites, finally making their way out of Egypt after hundreds of years of slavery and bondage. As the Israelites continued to be fruitful and multiply, the new Pharaoh became increasingly jealous and intimidated by them. He enslaved them and purposed to make their lives miserable with hard work—in the hopes he could reduce their growing population (Exodus 1:11–14).

But in spite of the terrible treatment, they continued to grow in numbers—their families were getting larger, not smaller as Pharaoh had hoped. In an even more desperate move to decrease their numbers, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male children born to the Israelites. But this did not work either because the midwives feared God (Exodus 1:15–21). In one last attempt to reduce the number of Israelites, Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrew male babies should be cast into the river and be killed (Exodus 1:22).

Into this political climate, Moses was born. A male Hebrew baby—destined for destruction yet preserved by a sovereign God to fulfill a promise of deliverance made hundreds of years earlier. His mother tried desperately to hide him and when she could no longer do so, she placed him in an "ark" on the river where he was providentially discovered by Pharaoh's daughter and brought into his court to live as royalty (Exodus 2:1–10).

Moses was raised in Pharaoh's court until he was 40 years old (Acts 7:23). But Moses had not forgotten his people. When he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren, he took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian. This required that Moses flee from Egypt for his life. He settled in Midian where he met Reuel, later called Jethro, and took one of his daughters, Zipporah, as his wife (Exodus 2:11–21).

It was in Midian that God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and called him to lead His people from Egypt. In this encounter, God allows us a glimpse into His character and attributes. God is holy (Exodus 3:5); God is faithful (Exodus 3:6); God is omniscient (Exodus 3:7); God is sovereign (Exodus 3:8); God is merciful (Exodus 3:9); God is omnipresent (Exodus 3:12); God is

eternal (Exodus 3:14). Moses witnessed these truths of God and more during his meeting with God.

Yet Moses was still reluctant to obey (Exodus 4:10–13). The reluctance kindled the anger of the Lord, and Aaron was commissioned to serve as spokesperson and declare the words of God as given to Moses (Exodus 4:14–16).

This account of Moses allows us to delight in the faithfulness and sovereignty of God to fulfill His perfect plans through history. And He accomplishes His purposes through imperfect people in spite of their objections and shortcomings.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt is often disputed by skeptics, saying that there is no evidence for so many slaves in Egypt, or a mass exodus of more than 2 million people. This lack of evidence is based on the standard chronology of Egyptian history, which dates the time of Moses and the Exodus to around 1250 BC. However, the biblical timeline indicates that Moses left Egypt about 1491 BC, nearly 200 years earlier! This discrepancy alone would account for the lack of evidence—as archaeologists and researchers have dismissed newer evidence saying it couldn't have been remnants of the Hebrews in Egypt because the dates are wrong.

The timeline discrepancy is in part a result of miscounting the reigning years of the Egyptian kings. The kings of Egypt often overlapped in their reigns—much like the kings of Israel and Judah did later (1 Kings). These overlaps have not been taken into consideration with the traditional Egyptian timeline.

Exciting developments by archaeologist David Rohl and others are correcting this error. Mr. Rohl has researched and produced a new timeline that considers the Egyptian kings who did in fact overlap in their reigns—this, of course, affects the entire Egyptian timeline. Based on this updated research, the biblical dates for the Exodus now conform to the Egyptian dates.

And more than that, new evidence is now confirming the biblical account. In fact, excavations that began in 1966 from Tell ed-Daba in the Egyptian eastern delta indicate that a large Semitic-speaking population, most likely the Hebrews of the Exodus, lived there during the 13th Dynasty. This is perfectly in line with the understanding that Moses was born during the reign of Amenemhet III, last Pharaoh of the 12th Dynasty, who reigned for 46 years. This Pharaoh had

no sons to inherit his throne, which could explain why he would accept Moses as the future heir.

As God allows for more discoveries to be made, we must keep in mind that our authority is the Bible. His Word is final. We do not base what we believe on what has been “proven” by men but on what has been “spoken” by the holy, sovereign, infallible, and inerrant Creator of the universe.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After Joseph died, the new king over Egypt was jealous of the Israelites and enslaved them to hard labor (Exodus 1:8–14). This was no surprise to God. Scripture records that it was more than 400 years earlier when God told Abram that his descendants would one day be strangers in a land where they would serve and be afflicted (Genesis 15:13). God also revealed to Abram that the Israelites would come out of that oppression with great possessions (Genesis 15:14)—which is exactly what happened when the Israelites finally left Egypt (Exodus 12:35–36).

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob (Exodus 3:6)—He was declaring to Moses that He was the same God, fulfilling the same covenant to give His people the Promised Land. The promises made to Abram so many years ago were about to be fulfilled as Moses led God’s people to the Promised Land.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign Lord, thank you for bringing me to a saving knowledge of your Word and your gospel. Thank you for each child you have placed in my class. As we study your Word, open my eyes and the eyes of these precious children to trust the faithfulness of your sovereignty in all circumstances. Give us confidence that you can use us, in spite of our weaknesses, to fulfill your perfect plan. Give all of us the courage and wisdom, dear Lord, to willingly obey you and follow you wherever you may lead.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will color the Slavery in Egypt coloring sheet



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

The new king in Egypt did not know Joseph. He did not like the Israelites and the fact that there were so many of them. He finally ordered that all baby boys born to the Israelites should be killed! Today we are going to hear about God's plan to save not only one very special baby boy but all the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt.

Let's read Exodus 2:1–10. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

Exodus 2:1–10

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

Remember, when we are studying God's Word it is important to ask the right kind of questions about what we are studying. One of those questions is, "Who are the characters?" The Bible is the record of God working in history, so He is the main character. Let's see what this passage tells us about our main character.

There are a lot of amazing circumstances here that we know only God could have put in place. Let's look at some of them.

- ? What is the attribute of God that tells us that He is in control of every detail? *Sovereign.*

SOVEREIGN
(Refer to Attributes poster.)

► Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.

That's right. And this account of Moses in Egypt shows us how God does work in special ways to do His will. As you go through the following points you will make a list on the board of the ways God showed His sovereignty in saving Moses. Write the heading on the board, "God is sovereign."

First of all, God helped Moses's mother to keep him safe for the first three months. After all, the Egyptians were killing all the little boys born to the Israelites during this time. God gave her wisdom and courage and used her to accomplish His plan. Write on the board, "God keeps baby Moses safe."

- ? Someone read Exodus 2:3 again. What did Moses's mother do? *She placed him in a basket and put him in the reeds along the riverbank.*
- ? Great. Now read Exodus 2:4. Who was watching at the river to see what would happen? *Moses's sister. Write on the board, "Moses's sister at river."*
- ? And in the next verse, Exodus 2:5, who went to the river at just the right time to find Moses? *Pharaoh's daughter. Write on the board, "Pharaoh's daughter at river."*
- ? Pharaoh's daughter found Moses, but he was still too young for her to take care of. Who did God arrange to take care of Moses while he was so little? The answer is in Exodus 2:8–9. *His very own mother! Write on the board, "Moses returned to his mom."*

That's right. God arranged everything so Moses would know his family and know that he was a Hebrew, an Israelite—one of God's people. Write on the board, "Moses knows he is a Hebrew, an Israelite."

- ? Let's look at Exodus 2:10. What did Pharaoh's daughter finally decide to do with Moses? *She adopted him—he became her son. Write on the board, "Moses adopted."*

Discover the Truth

Wow! We serve an amazing God! This whole account of Moses shows us how God is always in control—even when it comes to the smallest detail. God truly is sovereign. He does all that He pleases.

God definitely showed His sovereignty by making all these things happen perfectly so that Moses was protected. God was going to use Moses in a big way one day, and He was preparing him for that!

We know that Moses was real and that these things happened because God's Word tells us about him. Some people don't believe any of this! They think it's all made up. But God has allowed men—archaeologists—to discover things that confirm what God's Word says.

- ? Does anyone know what an archaeologist is? *Allow for answers. Write the word on the board as the children give answers.*

An archaeologist is someone who studies things that happened in the past. Most of the time these people dig stuff up out of the ground. The things they dig up can tell them a lot about how the people lived then.

Archaeologist:
someone who
studies things
that happened
in the past

This is what some archaeologists have found out. Moses was born in 1571 BC. Let's place this cutout of baby Moses there on the timeline. *Place cutout of Moses in a basket on the Seven C's Timeline near 1571 BC.*

The pharaoh over Egypt at the time of Moses was Amenemhet III. Archaeologists and historians have discovered that Pharaoh Amenemhet III didn't have any sons. For a pharaoh, having sons was important so he would have someone to be pharaoh after him when he died. *Place the cutout of Amenemhet III by baby Moses on the timeline. Write his name on the board so they can see how it is spelled.*

The historians tell us that Pharaoh Amenemhet III did have a daughter. It is believed that she was the princess who rescued Moses from the Nile and brought him into the palace to be her son. It just could be that Pharaoh was thrilled to get this son—even though Moses was a Hebrew found in the river. *Place the cutout of Pharaoh's daughter by baby Moses on the timeline.*

We can see from the Bible and from history that God uses men and women, rulers, and even slaves to accomplish His plans. He is sovereign over every detail and He was sovereign in keeping Moses safe as a child. Now, let's see how God wanted to use Moses when he became a man.



READ THE WORD

We have a lot more to do today. I want you to turn to Exodus 2 and I'll tell you what happened to Moses next. *You will be telling the students the history of Moses from Exodus 2:11 to 3:12.*

Exodus 2:11–3:12

Moses lived in Pharaoh's palace for 40 years. One day Moses wanted to find out what was happening to his fellow Hebrews. What he saw was an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. Moses was so upset at the mistreatment of his people—the Hebrews—that he struck the Egyptian and killed him! Then Moses hid the Egyptian in the sand. When Pharaoh heard what Moses had done, he threatened to kill Moses. But no one, not even Pharaoh, could stop God's plans, because God is sovereign.

When Moses heard that Pharaoh wanted to kill him, he ran away to the land of Midian. Moses was 40 years old when he fled to Midian. Let's put this cutout of Moses along our timeline. *Place the cutout of Moses as an adult near 1531 BC.*

God was still watching over Moses. When Moses arrived in Midian, he helped a young woman who was drawing water. Her father, Reuel, took Moses in; he eventually married the woman and had children of his own. While living in Midian, Moses became a shepherd. One day while watching the sheep, Moses saw an amazing sight—a bush on fire that did not burn up!

OMNIPOTENT HOLY

(Refer to Attributes poster)

But what was even more amazing about this burning bush that didn't burn up was that Moses heard someone call from the bush—it was the Lord! It was the great I AM. It was the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. It was so amazing that Moses had to hide his face because he was afraid to look at God! God was revealing to Moses His omnipotence and holiness. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster. Briefly review these attributes.*

God was telling Moses it was time for him to go back to Egypt. It was time for Moses to save God's people from slavery.

But Moses wasn't sure about all of this. And as he questioned God, he learned more about Him. The Bible uses several different names for God in Exodus 3:13–15.

Exodus 3:13–15

Turn there and follow along while I read. Listen for the different names of God. *Read Exodus 3:13–15 aloud to the children emphasizing the names God uses to describe Himself.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What are the names God uses for Himself in this passage? Look in your Bibles and we'll list them on the board. *Make another list on the board. Write the heading "Names of God" above, then list the following as the children find the names: I AM; Lord God; God of Abraham; God of Isaac; God of Jacob.*
- ? What does God say about His name at the end of verse 15? *It is His name forever; it is His memorial name, His name to all generations. Write on the board, "His name forever."*

Discover the Truth

Look at our Attributes of God poster again.

- ? What attribute would "forever" and "to all generations" refer to? *Eternal.*

The names God revealed to Moses show that God always was and always will be. He is eternal and He is immutable—He never changes. He was the same to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. He is still the same to us. *Have the children read the definitions of eternal and immutable from the Attributes of God poster.*

God wanted Moses and the Hebrew people to know who He was—that He was omnipotent, holy, eternal, and immutable. While living in Egypt, the Hebrews were surrounded by people who believed there were many gods. The Egyptians made statues of gods—called idols. God did not want the Hebrew people to be like the Egyptians and think that a statue could represent Him.

Our new memory verse will help us to remember exactly how God feels about idols, and what He expects from everyone who worships Him.

Display the new Memory Verse poster, Exodus 20:1–5a. Have a student read the passage.

Exodus 20:1–5a

ETERNAL IMMUTABLE

(Refer to Attributes poster)

- ? **Will someone else read the poster for me?** *Have another student read the passage, or have all the children read it. You may want to have girls read it, then boys. Have contests—who can read it quickest, slowest, loudest, quietest, etc.*
- ? **What did God say He did in verse 2 of this passage?** *He brought the Hebrews out of Egypt, delivered them from slavery.*
- ? **What warning is God giving us in verses 3–5?** *We are not to worship any other gods—no carved image, nothing in heaven, in the earth, or in the sea. We are not to bow down or serve any other god but the one true God.*

Only God deserves our worship. He is so wonderful; nothing in creation and no carved image can represent all that He is.

Let's practice saying our memory verse again. *Practice saying the memory verse together.*

Very good. Now we are going to do a crossword puzzle to help you remember your verse. And don't forget to practice. I would love for all of you to know it by next week.



Exodus 20 Crossword Puzzle

MATERIALS

- Exodus 20 Crossword Puzzle for each student
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the crossword puzzles. Give the students time to work on them. You may want to put children in teams to do this, time them, see who finishes first, etc.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

There is only one true God. He is the great I AM. His many attributes make Him worthy of our worship. He clearly tells us that we are to have no other gods before Him. No other so-called god has attributes like our God. Today, we've seen that He is holy, sovereign, eternal, omnipotent, and immutable—all in just a little bit of Scripture. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster and review what these attributes say about God.*



READ THE WORD

God spoke to Moses from the burning bush to reveal His attributes. He also had a special task for Moses to do. God had protected Moses as a baby back in Egypt. God had watched over Moses for 40 years while he lived in the land of Midian. God had chosen Moses for this task. Let's look to see what God called Moses to do.

Turn to Exodus 3:10 in your Bibles. *Have someone read the verse aloud.*

Exodus 3:10

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? What did God want Moses to do? *Go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt.*

What exciting news for Moses! God was going to free the Israelites, and Moses was chosen to lead them out of Egypt.

? Was Moses excited? *Allow for answers.*

We would expect him to be. After all, when Moses was in Egypt he had been very upset at the mistreatment of the Hebrew people. Now God was calling him to help them.

Exodus 3:11–12

Let's look at how Moses responded to God's call to help deliver the Hebrews. *Have one of the students read Exodus 3:11–12.*

? Was Moses excited and ready to go back to Egypt? *No.*

? Why do you think Moses didn't want to go back to Egypt? *Allow the children to share their thoughts.*

? Look at verse 11 again. What was Moses really telling God? *He didn't think he could do it; he didn't want to do it; he was telling God, "No."*

Moses didn't think he could do the task. He knew from his time back in Egypt that he couldn't do the job on his own. God knew that, too. That's why God made a promise to Moses. The promise is in Exodus 3:12. Look at the verse again and find the promise.

? What did God promise Moses? *God promised to be with Moses.*

God's plan didn't depend on what Moses could do, but on God. God is sovereign, omnipotent, and eternal. He is able to fulfill all He says He will do.

Even after hearing God's promise, Moses still didn't want to obey. Instead of going, Moses gave God more excuses.

Exodus 4:1

? Look at Exodus 4:1. What excuse did Moses give here? *They won't believe me.*

But God promised they would believe him. So Moses gave God another excuse. You will find it in Exodus 4:10.

Exodus 4:10

? What was the excuse? *I'm not eloquent; I'm slow of speech (not a good speaker).*

Then Moses asked God to do something. *Have one of the students read Exodus 4:13.*

Exodus 4:13

? What did Moses ask God to do in Exodus 4:13? *To send someone else.*

God did not like hearing excuses from Moses. God expected Moses to obey and not give excuses. God was angry with Moses for not obeying. But God was still kind to Moses. God told Moses that Aaron, his brother, was on his way to see him. God said Moses was to go back to Egypt but that Aaron would help him by speaking for him.

Discover the Truth

- ? When God chose Moses to lead the Israelites, did God know what Moses's abilities and inabilities were? *Yes.*
- ? Did that keep God from choosing Moses? *No.*
- ? Did the excuses Moses gave change God's mind about sending him? *No.*

God had a plan for delivering the Hebrews. God's plan included Moses. God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans. Even though people are not perfect and make mistakes, even though they sometimes struggle before they believe God's call and promises, God still chooses to use them. In this case, Moses finally believed God and obeyed Him by returning with his brother Aaron to Egypt. Moses was 80 years old when he returned to Egypt. *Move the cutout of Moses as an adult to the Exodus on the timeline near 1491 BC.*



Wheel of Sovereignty

MATERIALS

- Wheel of Sovereignty pattern for each student
- Scissors
- Craft sticks
- Brads
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut out the circles. Use the brad to poke holes through the dots in both circles. Place the God Is Sovereign circle on top of the illustrated circle, lining up the punched holes. Attach the circles together using the brad. With masking tape, attach a craft stick to the back of the God Is Sovereign piece, opposite the notched "window."

We have talked a lot about how God worked in Moses's life to fulfill His perfect plan. We

are going to make a Wheel of Sovereignty that will show some of those events in Moses's life where God sovereignly acted in situations so His will would be done.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The events of Moses's life could only have happened by God arranging the circumstances. Let's use the Wheel of Sovereignty to review how God worked in Moses's life. Have the children move the wheel and tell how each event pictured shows God's sovereignty in Moses's life. God preserved Moses's life through his mother, God brought Pharaoh's daughter to the river at just the right time, God sent Moses to Midian, God spoke to Moses in the burning bush, God sent Moses back to Egypt.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

We learned today that God sovereignly saved baby Moses and planned to use him in a big way when he was grown.

- ? **What did God do to save Moses when he was a child?** *Have the children read from the list you put on the board earlier or review the Wheel of Sovereignty you completed.*
- ? **What attributes did God reveal through this account?** *Eternal, holy, immutable, sovereign. Refer to the Attributes of God poster.*

God had a plan to deliver His people from their bondage in Egypt. That plan included Moses. Though he was at first reluctant to obey God's call, Moses eventually believed God's promises, obeyed God, and returned to Egypt.

Because He is sovereign, God is able to use all kinds of people to fulfill what He has promised to do.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The fact that God is sovereign over every circumstance in our lives is really good news! But we will experience things that are really sad and don't make any sense to us.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

Maybe you know someone whose parents got divorced, or someone who's very sick. Maybe someone you loved died. Maybe you have to move, but you don't want to. Life is full of very difficult things. But guess what?

God is in control. And He is able to see things that we can't see at all. In fact, when something really bad is happening, it is very comforting to know that God is in control. God is much wiser than we are. He knows what is best, and we have to trust that and believe it. It wasn't easy for Moses, was it? Yet God knew what was best all along. God always knows what is best.



MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them."



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that just as He was sovereign in Moses's life, we can trust that He is sovereign in our lives as well.
- Ask God to show us ways that He wants to use us to accomplish His purposes this week.