



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, 4:13–14, 20:1–5

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify examples of God's sovereignty in saving Moses.
- Name the attributes of God we see in the account where God called Moses.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Children will color the God Calls Moses 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 Coloring Sheet

page 8

Children will use specific colors to fill in portions of the memory verse that answer the questions you ask.



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 God Calls Moses coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- God Calls Moses coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons or markers



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Board Work outline



EXODUS 20 COLORING SHEET

- Print one Exodus 20 coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the questions and answer key sheet for your own use.

- Exodus 20 coloring sheet for each student
- Exodus 20 coloring sheet questions and answer key
- Markers or crayons



WHEEL OF SOVEREIGNTY

- Print and cut out the Wheel of Sovereignty assembly pieces from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student—preferably on cardstock.

- Wheel of Sovereignty pages for each student
- Brass brads or fasteners
- Craft stick for each student
- 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 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 (see 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 might 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 . . .

- Have them color the God Calls Moses 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. Follow along as I read and listen carefully so you will be ready to answer questions about the passage. *Help the students find the passage in their Bibles and follow along as you 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.

A lot of amazing things happened here that only God could have put in place. Let's look at some of them.

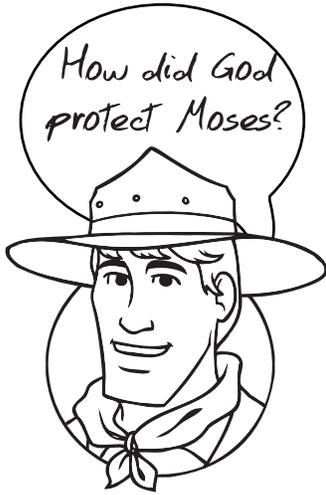
- ? What is the attribute of God that tells us that He is in control of every detail? *Sovereign.*

That's right. And this account of Moses in Egypt shows us clearly 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 in control of everything—Sovereign."*

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

SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes poster)



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, "Baby Moses is safe with his mother."*

- ? Listen to Exodus 2:3 again. *Read the verse aloud.* What did Moses's mother do? *She placed him in a basket and put him in the reeds along the riverbank.*
- ? Great. Now who can 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 watches at river."*
- ? Listen to Exodus 2:5. *Read the verse aloud.* Who went to the river at just the right time to find Moses? *Pharaoh's daughter. Write on the board, "Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses."*
- ? 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? *Read Exodus 2:7 again if the children can't answer. His very own mother! Write on the board, "Moses's mom takes care of him."*

That's right. God arranged everything so Moses would know his family, 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 listen to Exodus 2:10. *Read the verse to the children.* What did Pharaoh's daughter finally decide to do with Moses? *She adopted him—he became her son. Write on the board, "Moses is adopted by the pharaoh's daughter."*

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.



READ THE WORD

Exodus 2:11–3:12

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.*

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 how the Egyptians were treating 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—He is in control of everything.

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. *Refer to the Seven C’s Timeline—1531 BC.*

God was still watching over Moses. When Moses arrived in Midian, he helped some young women who were drawing water. Their father, Reuel, took Moses in, and eventually Moses married one of these women 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!

And 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.

The Bible uses several different names for God in 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.*

OMNIPOTENT
HOLY

(Refer to Attributes poster).

Exodus 3:13–15

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. Write on the board, “I AM; Lord God; God of Abraham; God of Isaac; God of Jacob.”*

In verse 15 God tells us something important about those names. He says that they are His names forever; they are His memorial names, His names to all generations. “Memorial name” means the name to remember Him by.

- Re-read the verses if necessary to allow the children to answer.

Discover the Truth

Look at our Attributes of God poster again.

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

God was telling Moses that He never changes. He always was and always will be. He is eternal and He is immutable. He was the same to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. He is still the same to us. God wanted Moses and the Hebrew people to know who He was—that He was omnipotent, holy,

ETERNAL
IMMUTABLE
(Refer to Attributes poster).

Exodus 20:1–5a

eternal, and immutable. *Read the definitions of eternal and immutable from the Attributes of God poster.*

God did not want His people worshipping any other gods or any idols. 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. Read the passage to the students a couple of times.*

Now read the poster with me by repeating the phrases after me. *Read the verse aloud in phrases, having the children repeat after you.*

? *Read verse 2 aloud to the children. What did God say He did in this passage? He brought the Hebrews out of Egypt, delivered them from slavery.*

? *Read verses 3–5 aloud to the children. What warning is God giving us here? 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.*

God alone deserves our worship. He is so wonderful; He has so many attributes that 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 by having the children repeat the phrases after you.*

Very good. Now we are going to do a coloring sheet 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 Coloring Sheet

MATERIALS

- Exodus 20 coloring sheet for each student
- Exodus 20 coloring sheet questions and answer key
- Markers or crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the coloring sheets. Have the children use markers or crayons to color the boxes the correct color as you read the coloring sheet questions.

After coloring the sheet, practice the verse again, reading from the coloring sheets.

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 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 and listen while I read. *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 how the Egyptians treated the Hebrew people. Now God was calling him to help them.

Let's look at what Moses did when God called him to help deliver the Hebrews. *Read Exodus 3:11.*

? 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.*

? Listen to verse 11 again. *Read the verse aloud.* 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. Listen as I read it. *Read the verse aloud.*

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

God's plan didn't depend on what Moses could do, but on what God could do. 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.

? Listen to Exodus 4:1. *Read the verse to the children.* What was Moses afraid of? *He thought they wouldn't believe him.*

But God promised they would believe him. So Moses gave God another excuse. It is in Exodus 4:10. *Read the verse to the children.*



Exodus 3:11-12

Exodus 4:1

Exodus 4:10

Exodus 4:13

Exodus 4:14

- ? What was the excuse? *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.*
- ? What did Moses ask God to do in Exodus 4:13? *To send someone else.*
- ? How did God feel about Moses now? And what did God do for Moses?
Read Exodus 4:14. God was angry at Moses. He sent Moses's brother, Aaron, to speak for him and help him.

That's right. God did not like hearing excuses from Moses, but He was willing to help him. He did that by sending Aaron along, who was a good speaker and would prove to be a big help to Moses.

Discover the Truth

- ? When God chose Moses to lead the Israelites, did God know what Moses could do well, what was hard for him, and what he could not do on his own? *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. *Refer to the Exodus on the Seven C's Timeline near 1491 BC.*





Wheel of Sovereignty

MATERIALS

- Wheel of Sovereignty pages for each student
- Brass brads or fasteners
- Craft stick for each student
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

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.

To save time, you may want to cut out the two circles on the worksheet for each student before class. Use the legs

of the brad to poke holes through the dots in both circles. Place the God Is Sovereign circle on top. Attach the circles together using the brad. Optional: With masking tape, attach a craft stick to the back of the God Is Sovereign circle, opposite the notched "window."

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The events of Moses's life could only have happened through God's power. 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 just as Moses floated by, God sent Moses to Midian, God spoke to Moses in the burning bush, and 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. Review each of the ways God actively worked in Moses's life.*

God explained who He is by saying, "I AM WHO I AM" and "The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." *Refer to board work.*

God revealed Himself to Moses as sovereign, holy, omnipotent, eternal, and immutable. He had a plan to deliver His people from their bondage in Egypt. And that plan included Moses. Nothing Moses or anyone else did could stop God's sovereign plan. *Refer to Attributes of God poster.*

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The fact that God is sovereign over every circumstance in our lives is really good news. There will be times when things get very difficult for you. You may have already experienced something that was really sad, and maybe it just didn't make sense.

Maybe you know someone whose parents got divorced. Maybe someone in your family is sick. Or maybe someone you loved very much died. Maybe you have to move and you just 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 isn't always easy. It wasn't easy for Moses, was it? Yet God knew what was best all along. God always knows what is best.



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



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 plans this week.