

# Open Bible Stories — God Calls Moses

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## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of God calling Moses teaches us how God raised up a deliverer to rescue his people from slavery/oppression.

### Core Belief Verse

*"And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household." — Acts 7:9-11*

### God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

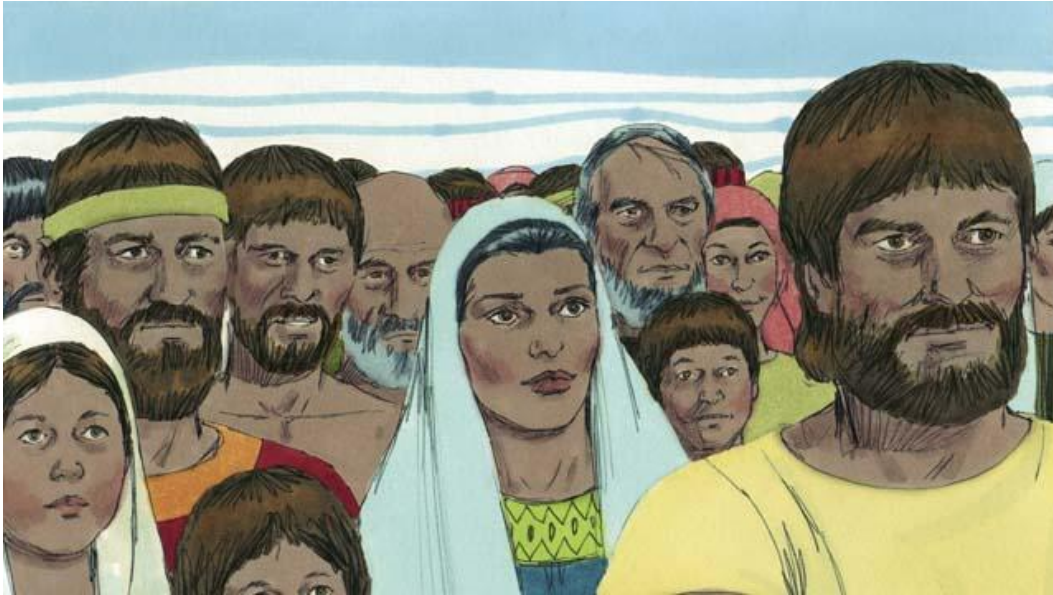
God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

## The Story: God Calls Moses

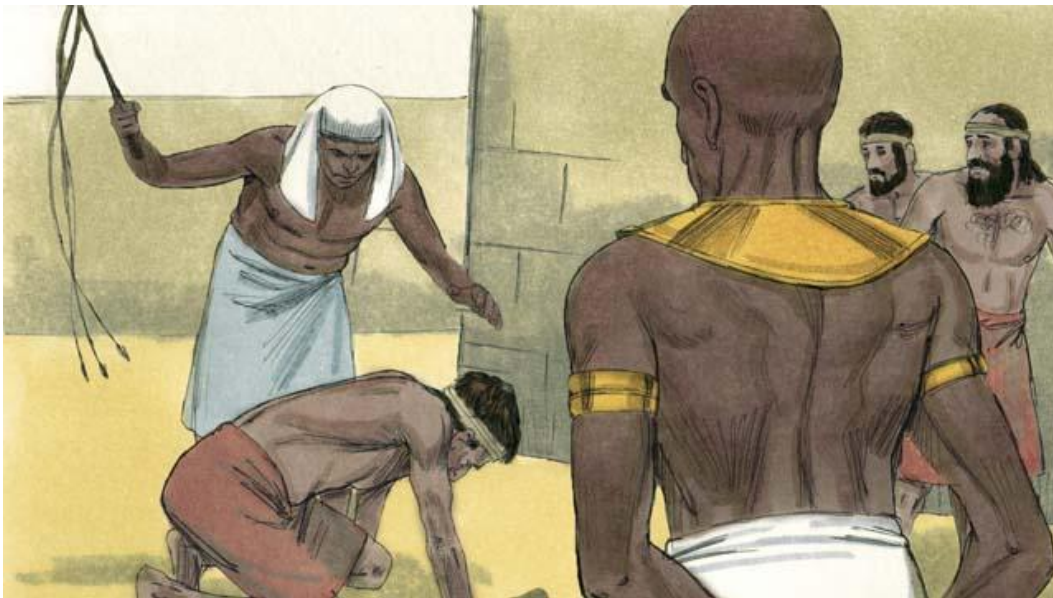
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09-01



After Joseph died, all of his relatives stayed in Egypt. They and their descendants continued to live there for many years and had many children. They were called the Israelites.

09-02



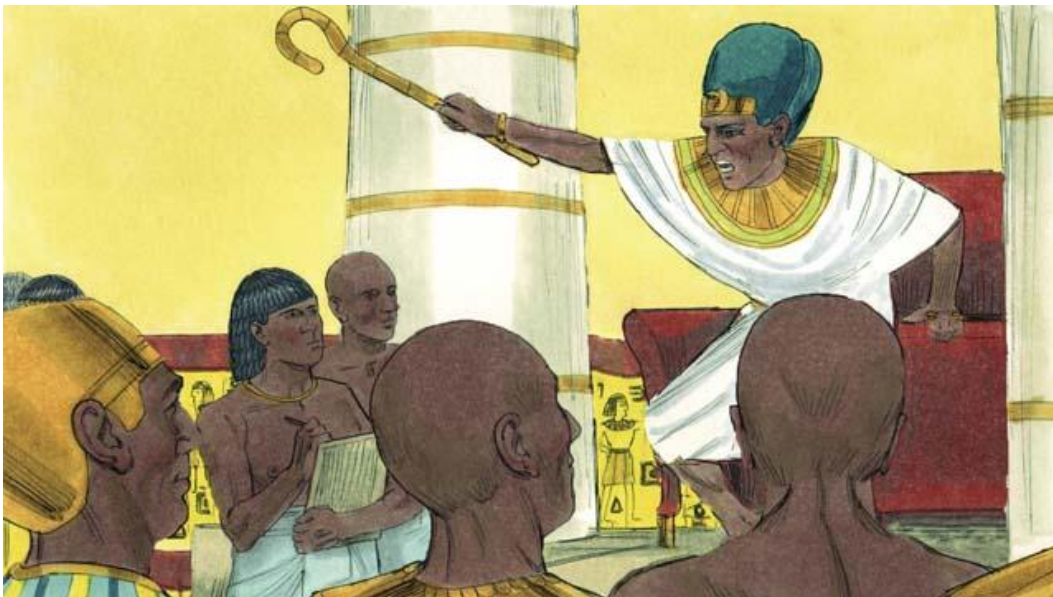
After hundreds of years, the number of Israelites had become very large. The Egyptians were no longer grateful that Joseph had done so much to help them. They became afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. So the Pharaoh who was ruling Egypt at that time made the Israelites slaves to the Egyptians.

09-03



The Egyptians forced the Israelites to build many buildings and even whole cities. The hard work made their lives miserable, but God blessed them, and they had even more children.

09-04



Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were having many babies, so he ordered his people to kill all Israelite baby boys by throwing them into the Nile River.

09-05



A certain Israelite woman gave birth to a baby boy. She hid the baby for as long as she could.

09-06



When the boy's mother could no longer hide him, she put him in a floating basket among the reeds along the edge of the Nile River in order to save him from being killed. His older sister watched to see what would happen to him.

09-07



A daughter of Pharaoh saw the basket and looked inside. When she saw the baby, she took him as her own son. She hired an Israelite woman to nurse him without realizing the woman was the baby's own mother. When the child was old enough that he no longer needed his mother's milk, his mother returned him to Pharaoh's daughter, who named him Moses.

09-08



One day, when Moses had grown up, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave. Moses tried to save his fellow Israelite.

09-09



When Moses thought nobody would see, he killed the Egyptian and buried his body. But someone saw what Moses had done.

09-10



Pharaoh learned what Moses had done. He tried to kill him, but Moses fled from Egypt into the wilderness. Pharaoh's soldiers could not find him there.

09-11



Moses became a shepherd in the wilderness far away from Egypt. He married a woman from that place and had two sons.

09-12



Moses was taking care of his father-in-law's flock of sheep. One day he saw a bush on fire, burning without being destroyed. He went close to the bush to look at it. When he was very close, God spoke to him and said, "Moses, take off your shoes. You are standing on holy ground."

09-13



Then God said, "I have seen the suffering of my people. I will send you to Pharaoh so that you can bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt. I will give them the land of Canaan, the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

09-14



Moses asked, "What if the people want to know who sent me, what should I say?" God said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am Yahweh, the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' This is my name forever."

09-15



Moses was afraid and did not want to go to Pharaoh because he thought he could not speak well, so God sent Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him.

*A Bible story from: Exodus 1–4*

## Two Ways — Understanding the Difference between the Flesh and the Spirit

- **Key Idea:** Distinguishing ungodly vices and godly virtues
- **Key Passage:** Galatians 5:19-26
- **Main Session:** OBS 9 (God Calls Moses)

**Recite the Core Belief Verse** (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*"It was by faith that Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child. They were not afraid of the king's command. It was by faith that Moses, after he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Instead, he chose to suffer with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a while. Hebrews 11:23"*

### **Name Temptations** (5–10 minutes)

It is not easy to be a Christian. God calls us to trust him and obey him in all areas of life. Sometimes, Christians are tempted to do things that disobey God's commands. Think about what some of these temptations are and how they might disrupt Christian community. Some of the temptations Christians face are... These temptations disrupt Christian community in these ways...

### **Read the Passage** (5 minutes)

Even though all Christians sometimes disobey God, true Christians no longer live a life characterized by sin. This means that Christians no longer live to please their sinful nature, but they walk by the Holy Spirit. When Christians follow the Holy Spirit, they can enjoy relationships with other believers in joy and peace. In order to understand what it means to walk by the Spirit, read the passage below.

*"19 Now the works of the sinful nature are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, depravity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, rivalry, dissension, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, drunken celebrations, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. — Galatians 5:19-26"*

### **Explore the Idea** (10–15 minutes)

People who believe in Jesus belong to Jesus. They no longer live to please sinful desires but to please God. Use the following questions to explore what it means to live the Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. What kinds of things do people do when they live to please their sinful nature?
2. How do people live when they follow the Holy Spirit?

3. How do the works of the sinful nature destroy relationships with other people? How does the fruit of the Holy Spirit develop Christian community?
4. How do these two (opposing) lists help you care for the community of believers?

**Personal Prayer** (5 minutes) (optional)

Think about how this passage teaches us to live. Pick one behavior/attitude from the works of the sinful nature and one behavior/attitude from the fruit of the Spirit. Ask God to keep you from that particular work of the sinful nature and ask him to help you live God help me not to live by the sinful nature in this way... God help me to live by the Spirit in this way...

**Pray to God** (5 minutes)

Divide the community into groups of 2–3. Use the above passage to pray over each other. Ask God to guard each member against the works of the sinful nature. Pray that God would help each member to experience the fruit of the Spirit.

**Sing to God** (3–5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

## Movement 1: Understand the Story

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*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### Observation Questions

09-01

What happened after Joseph died?

After Joseph died, his relatives continued to live in Egypt. They lived there for many years and had many children and grandchildren.

What were the descendants of Jacob called?

The descendants of Jacob were called Israelites.

09-02

How many years were the Israelites in Egypt?

The Israelites were in Egypt for hundreds of years. They had become very large in number.

Why were the Egyptians afraid of the Israelites?

The Egyptians were afraid because there were so many Israelites. The Egyptians were no longer grateful for all that Joseph had done for them.

What did Pharaoh do to the Israelites because he was afraid of them?

Pharaoh made them slaves to the Egyptians.

*09-03*

What kind of work did the Egyptians force the Israelites to do?

The Egyptians forced the Israelites to build many buildings and cities.

What was life like for the Israelites?

The work was hard and life was miserable. However, God blessed the Israelites and they bore many children.

*09-04*

How did Pharaoh try to keep the Israelites from increasing in number?

Pharaoh ordered all Israelite baby boys to be thrown into the Nile River.

*09-05*

What did the certain Israelite woman do to her baby boy?

After she gave birth to her baby boy, she hid him for as long as she could.

*09-06*

What did the woman do after she could no longer hide her baby?

The woman put him in a floating basket and placed the basket in the Nile River.

Who was watching the basket to see what would happen?

The older sister of the baby boy watched to see what would happen.

*09-07*

What happened to the baby boy in the basket in the river?

A daughter of Pharaoh saw him and took him as her own son.

Who took care of the baby boy?

Pharaoh's daughter hired a nurse to care for the baby. The nurse was the child's own mother.

When did the mother stop taking care of the child?

When the child was weaned and no longer needed his mother's milk, the child was returned to Pharaoh's daughter.

What did Pharaoh's daughter name the baby boy?

Pharaoh's daughter named the baby boy Moses.

*09-08*

When Moses had grown up, what did he do when he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave?

Moses was an Israelite. When Moses saw the Egyptian beating an Israelite slave, Moses tried to save his fellow Israelite.

*09-09*

What did Moses do in order to save a fellow Israelite?

Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating him, and buried the Egyptian's body.

*09-10*

Why did Moses have to flee from Egypt?

When Pharaoh found out that Moses killed the Egyptian, Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses.

Where did Moses go to escape from Pharaoh?

Moses went to the wilderness.

*09-11*

What did Moses do in the wilderness?

Moses became a shepherd. Moses lived far away from Egypt.

When did Moses have a family?

Moses eventually married a woman from that place and had two sons.

*09-12*

What unusual thing did Moses see while taking care of his sheep in the wilderness?

Moses saw a bush that was on fire, but it did not burn up.

What did God tell Moses as he approached the burning bush?

God said, "Moses, take off your shoes. You are standing on holy ground."

*09-13*

How do we know God cared about the Israelites in Egypt?

God said to Moses, "I have seen the suffering of my people."

What did God send Moses to do for the Israelites?

God told him to go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt.

What land did God say he would give to the Israelites?

God would give the Israelites the land of Canaan, the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*09-14*

Who sent Moses to the Israelites?

God sent Moses to the Israelites. He is I AM Who I AM.

What name did God say would be his forever?

God said his name would be Yahweh.

*09-15*

How did Moses feel about going to Pharaoh?

Moses was afraid and did not want to go because he thought he could not speak well.

Who did God send to help Moses?

God sent Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him.

## **Movement 2: Theological Questions**

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### **What Does This Story Teach Us?**

1. What are some of the causes of suffering and hardship? How does the story of Moses teach us about suffering and hardship in the world?
2. What should we believe about God? How does this story help us understand who God is and what it looks like to relate to God?
3. How does God work to bring about the rescue of his people? How did God work in this story to protect and rescue his people?

## **Movement 3: Live It Out**

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### **Personal Implications & Applications From The Story**

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

1. In what ways have you suffered hardship or pain? How can you relate to the hard lives of the Israelites?
2. How can you see God working in the details of your life? How has God protected you or rescued you from misery?
3. What did you learn about God from this story that encouraged you in your faith?

4. Think about this week. Where does "God Calls Moses" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of God calling Moses teaches us how God raised up a deliverer to rescue his people from slavery/oppression.

## **Movement 4: Retell the Story**

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*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "God Calls Moses" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### **Church Ministry**

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

## **Movement 5: Share It**

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*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "God Calls Moses" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?

3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

### **Mission Engagement**

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.