

# Lesson 5

Cross

Formed

Kids

Who did God give as a leader for Israel after the days of Joseph?

God called Moses to speak God's word and lead God's people away from Egypt to the land of promise.

*Read aloud: Exodus 3:1-12*

## **Recommended Illustration**

Have you ever needed to help your kids with a chore you asked them to carry out? Let's get real. Sometimes, the ONLY reason they're able to accomplish what you ask of them is because you give them all the tools they need. Sometimes, you do it yourself. And yet, aren't you proud of them when "they" do it? Such a weird thing to be a parent. I never thought I'd be proud of someone else for something I DID! ha

Well, it's similar with Moses. Yes, God chose Moses to be the leader of his people. But, in reality, all the cool things Moses did AS LEADER, were really things that God did. For me, this brings back the memory of my step-dad asking me to mow the lawn. I didn't mind mowing, but our lawn-mower was SO HARD to start. So as a way of teaching me a lesson, he would give my sister exact instructions and send her out to start it for me. She wasn't more competent at lawn-mower starting than I was. Nonetheless, since she had his special help, she was able to do what I couldn't.

Whenever God calls us to a task, it works this way. It's not about what we can accomplish. Rather, it's always about what God can accomplish if we allow him to work.

## Helpful Insights

When God's people were in trouble, God acted in faithfulness to His promises and provided them with a leader who would act as His representative to them and for them in word and deed. From the very beginning (Genesis 3), God has been at work to find a faithful human who would represent Him rightly. That's why at the beginning of Exodus there is an enormous catastrophe centered around ethnic cleansing. By this time, God's promise of a deliverer had centered itself on the offspring of Abraham, aka the nation of Israel. Since this promised deliverer was to come as a human being (the offspring of "the woman"), genealogies take on special importance in the Bible. Exodus begins with an atypical genealogy, more of a reminder of who these people are who are slaving away in Egypt. They are the people of God, His faithful ones, descended from Abraham. Thus, their being the victims of ethnic cleansing is not just another genocide, it is a would-be major crisis in the plan of God to redeem all creation.

Enter God. As the first act in an opera-scale drama of deliverance, God protects Moses from genocide, raises him to prominence in Egypt, prepares him for leadership, and calls him to be God's representative to God's people, and on behalf of God's people before Pharaoh. God always chooses to act through faithful people and the importance of this theme of scripture goes all the way back to Genesis 1 where humans are made as the image of God--created to represent Him well and remind creation that God is in fact God. Humans have abandoned this responsibility, but God's desire to work through faithful representatives never changes. This is what scripture means eventually when we learn that Christ is "the Image" of the invisible God. In Christ, God finally has a faithful human to carry out His purposes.

## The Point

As God's covenant people, God gives us many responsibilities. But none of these is ours alone to fulfill. In Christ, God has accomplished everything necessary to bring about his covenant promises. We are recipients first, helpers second.

