

DELIVERANCE

Bible Verses: Exodus 1–7; 10–17

Important Details: The StoryReader scripts are segments of Scripture taken directly from Zondervan’s *The Story: Teen Edition* (NIV). Each script takes approximately 10 minutes to be read aloud. These segments have been formatted into a *Readers’ Theater*. A Readers’ Theater is an activity in which a few participants are asked to read directly from a script, with the intent of telling a story in a lively manner. Readers are **not expected to memorize or improvise** from the script, but use voice inflection and some gestures appropriate to their characters’ actions and words in order to bring the story to life.

Characters:

- Narrators 1 and 2
- God
- Moses
- Pharaoh

Tweaks to the Text:

Ellipses = words omitted within a sentence for the sake of conciseness. NOTE: No need to slow your reading when you see an ellipsis.

Words in brackets = added words for context

Words in italics = summary sections from Zondervan’s *The Story: Teen Edition* Bible

NARRATOR 1: [After] Joseph and all his brothers...[had] died, the Israelites...became so numerous that the land was filled with them. Then a new king [called Pharaoh]...came to power in Egypt. [The Egyptians] put slave masters over [the Israelites] to oppress them with forced labor...The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out. [But] God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with [them].

NARRATOR 2: Now [an Israelite named] Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law...[when] the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush...God called to him,

GOD: “Moses!...Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground...I am the God of your [fathers]...I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt...So I have come down to rescue them...I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people...out of Egypt.”

MOSES: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh...? I have never been eloquent...I am slow of speech and tongue.”

GOD: “Who gave human beings their mouths?...Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

MOSES: “Please send someone else.”

NARRATOR: Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said,

GOD: "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite?...You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do...Take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

NARRATOR 1: Then Moses [went to meet Aaron and] told him everything the LORD had sent him to say. Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses.

NARRATOR 2: *Unfortunately, things didn't go so well with Moses and Aaron's first [meeting] with Pharaoh...[He only] made their slave labor even more difficult.* Then the LORD said to Moses,

GOD: "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go... Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt...and they will turn to blood.'"

NARRATOR 1: But Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said. *The next plague included millions of frogs, hopping into every kitchen, every street and every field in Egypt...Pharaoh agreed to let the Hebrews go if Moses would get rid of the frogs. Moses prayed and the frogs died...[But] Pharaoh again stubbornly refused to make good on his part of the deal. So Moses hit the dust with his staff, and gnats swarmed the land...Still Pharaoh would not budge. God continued to show his power as he prepared to rescue his people.*

NARRATOR 2: *The cycle continued through plagues that included swarms of flies, a disease that killed livestock, terrible boils that afflicted people and animals, thunderstorms with destructive hail, devouring locusts and a frightening time of darkness. After each devastating plague, Pharaoh assured Moses that he could leave with the people...But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.*

NARRATOR 1: Now the LORD had said to Moses,

GOD: "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here..."

NARRATOR 1: So Moses said [to Pharaoh],

MOSES: "This is what the LORD says: '...Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, [including] the firstborn son of Pharaoh...There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again...'"

NARRATOR 1: Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

GOD: "Tell the whole community of Israel that...each man is to take a lamb [and slaughter it.] Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on...the doorframes of [their] houses....On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt."

NARRATOR 2: The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt...During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron...

PHARAOH: "Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Take your flocks and herds...and go!"

NARRATOR 2: *God had remembered his enslaved people and rescued them. They packed their carts...and prepared for a long...journey.* By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.

NARRATOR 1: When [Pharaoh] was told that the people had fled...He took six hundred of the best chariots [and] he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly...and overtook them as they camped by the sea. As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites...were terrified and cried out to the LORD. Moses answered the people...

MOSES: "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today...The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

NARRATOR 1: Then the LORD said to Moses,

GOD: "Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground."

NARRATOR 2: Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea.

NARRATOR 1: Then...Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing...and the LORD swept them into the sea...Not one of them survived.

NARRATOR 2: *This unforgettable escape impressed upon the Israelites that God was indeed taking care of them...*[Then] the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.

GOD: "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."