

Bible Point ▶

God is always with us.

Bible Verse

“The Lord is always with me” (Acts 2:25a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that Moses grew up in the palace,
 - hear how God was with Moses as he grew,
 - talk about growing up, and
 - understand that God will be with them as they grow.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Moses grows up.

**Exodus
2:10**



By taking Moses back to the Egyptian princess, his mother was giving him the opportunity to grow up with all the benefits of Egyptian culture, food, and education. It was also the opportunity to secure personal wealth and status rather than experiencing the poverty facing most Hebrew slaves. Moses lived with his Egyptian family until the age of 40 (Acts 7:23).

An Egyptian education would certainly have contained elements that ran contradictory to the faith of his fellow Hebrews. Yet Moses' willingness to risk his own well-being to deliver a fellow Israelite from the cruelty of an Egyptian slave master showed where his loyalties lay.

Despite Moses' early upbringing, which took him away from his culture and faith practices, God was always with him. And under the direction of God, Moses, raised by an Egyptian princess, would lead the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea to life in the Promised Land.

Prayer

- Read Daniel 1:4, 8; 3:12.
- During your upbringing and formal education, can you think of times when your faith was challenged? How did you respond?
- Pray: God, I want to be devoted to you, not drawn astray by the wisdom of the culture. Help the children I teach learn to experience your presence as they grow up. In Jesus' name, amen.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	Basket name tags made in Lesson 1	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: A Proud Palace —Build a palace of blocks, and learn that Moses grew up in a palace.	Wooden blocks	
	Option 2: Crown Cookies —Make cookies that look like crowns, and learn that Moses grew up as a prince.	Round cookies, fruit-flavored cereal, cream cheese, paper plates, spoon, wet wipes, marker	
	Option 3: A Special School —Pretend they're in school, and talk about what it would be like to go to school in a palace.	Pencils, paper, modeling dough, picture books	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Take turns wearing a crown, and learn that Moses grew up as a prince in a palace.	CD player	 
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	   
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Travel around the room and learn that Moses grew up in a palace.	Bible, CD player, doll, bucket of water, block palace from Option 1	   
	Do the Bible Story —Play a game to learn more about how God was always with Moses.		
Closing 	Baby Sitter Blues —Teach Whiskers that God is always with him.		
	God Is! —Cheer for God, enjoy treats, and thank God for always being with us.	Crown cookies from Option 2, napkins, wet wipes	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: basket name tags made in Lesson 1

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "When does God watch over your family?" or "What fun things did you do with your family?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► God is always with us.**
- Hand out the basket name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help the children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class the first week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout on page 22. You can find the directions for making the name tags on page 13.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward the point of today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What do you want to do when you grow up?" or "What will it be like when you go to school?"

■ Option 1: A Proud Palace

SUPPLIES: wooden blocks

Set out wooden blocks, and allow children to work together to build a palace. You may want to provide cardboard tubes, shoe boxes, or colorful pieces of cloth for children to add to their palace. As children work, explain that Moses grew up in a palace just like a prince.



If you don't choose Option 1, make a simple block palace ahead of time. Children will visit the palace during "Hear and Tell the Bible Story."

■ Option 2: Crown Cookies

SUPPLIES: round cookies, fruit-flavored cereal, cream cheese, paper plates, spoon, wet wipes, marker

Have the children clean their hands with the wet wipes before and after this activity. Give each child a round cookie and a spoonful of cream cheese on a paper plate. Ask each child to count out six pieces of fruit-flavored cereal. Show children how to dip their cereal into the cream cheese and stick the cereal along the outer edge of the cookies to make jeweled crowns. (Have the children or a helper make extra crown cookies for those who don't choose this option. You'll need a cookie for each child during the closing activity.) As children work, remind them that baby Moses grew up in



a palace as a prince. As you gather up the cookies, write each child's name on his or her plate. Set the cookies aside for the "God Is!" activity.

■ **Option 3: A Special School**

SUPPLIES: pencils, paper, modeling dough, picture books

Set out pencils, paper, modeling dough, and picture books. Encourage children to pretend they're in school. Children may draw, "read" picture books to each other, or help each other write letters or numbers. Show children how to pat out a handful of modeling dough and use pencils to write letters in the dough. Explain that when Moses learned to read and write in the palace, he might have written his lessons on clay slabs.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ **Pick-Up Time**

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ **Setting the Stage**

SUPPLIES: CD player



Tell the children you'll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Built a palace; made crown cookies; played school.)

Say: **Some of you worked together to build a palace, some of you decorated cookies, and some of you pretended you were in school. You were**

all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're learning that ► God is always with us. Let's play a game to help us learn more about today's Bible story.



Form a circle, and hold up the *paper crown*. Say: **In this game, we'll take turns wearing the *paper crown*. When I start the music, we'll gently pass the crown around the circle. Keep passing the crown until you hear the music stop. When the music stops, the person holding the crown may put it on and take a bow while the rest of us clap. Then I'll start the music again. Ready? Pass the crown!**

Play the "Upbeat Music" segment on the *CD* (track 9). Pause the *CD* every few seconds so each child has a turn putting on the crown and receiving a round of applause. Then set aside the *paper crown*, and ask:

- **What was it like to wear the crown?** (Fun; great; I liked it.)
- **Who wore a crown in the Bible story we've been learning?** (The princess; the lady who found Moses.)

Say: **Today we'll hear about what happened to Moses as he grew up. We'll find out that God was with Moses all the time and that ► God is always with us, too.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3 & 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the *CD* (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 I'm so glad for God's book today.
 I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
 Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *basket stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their

teacher tips

Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you are finished using them so the items can be used in future lessons.

hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, bucket of water, doll, CD player, block palace from Option 1



Before this activity, place the *springfill*, the *paper crown*, a bucket of water, and a doll in different corners of the room.

Bring out the *Learning Mat: Baby Moses*. Have children gather around you. Open your Bible to **Exodus 1:22–2:10**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story. Let's sing a song to**

remember what happened to baby Moses. As we sing, point to the pictures on the Learning Mat that show what we're singing about.

Lead children in singing "Baby Moses" with the *CD* (track 8) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians." Encourage children to point to the different pictures on the *Learning Mat* as they sing.



SING

**Mother put Moses in the basket.
Mother put Moses in the basket.
Mother put Moses in the basket
And put it in the water.**

**Moses floated down the Nile.
Moses floated down the Nile.
Moses floated down the Nile
In his basket boat.**

teacher tips

Be sure to adequately supervise the children while they are near the water.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



The princess pulled the basket out.
 The princess pulled the basket out.
 The princess pulled the basket out.
 And there was little Moses.

When the song ends, turn off the *CD* and say: **Moses took a trip down the river. As we listen to our Bible story, let's take a trip around our classroom and find things that might be in our story. We'll start over here.**

Lead children to the doll. Let children take turns holding the doll as you say: **A long time ago a mean king named Pharaoh made a terrible rule. He said that God's people couldn't keep their baby boys! That made the people sad. One woman didn't want to obey the king's wicked rule, so she hid her beautiful baby boy. Before long, the baby was too big to hide. So the woman made a little basket just the right size for her baby. Then she put her tiny son inside the basket.**

Carry the doll as you lead the children to the bucket of water. Let children take turns dipping their fingers in the water. Say: **The woman took her baby to a river and gently set the basket boat in the shallow water near the shore. Then she told her daughter, Miriam, to hide in the tall grass and watch to see what happened to the baby. The basket slowly floated along.**

Lead children to the *paper crown*. Put it on as you continue: **Soon someone came near the river. It was Pharaoh's very own daughter and her servants! They'd come to take a bath in the Nile. The princess saw the little basket boat floating in the water and wanted to know what was inside. So she sent her servant to bring her the basket. When the princess saw the little baby boy crying in the basket, she felt sorry for him. She knew that the baby would need a mother to take care of him.**

Lead children to the *springfill*. Allow children to take turns rustling the *springfill* in their hands. Say: **Suddenly the tall grass rustled and Miriam stepped out. "Do you want me to find someone to watch over the baby?" she asked. The princess said yes, so Miriam ran as fast as her feet would carry her to find her mother. The princess paid the baby's mother to take care of him until he was old enough to come live in the palace. So Moses' mother took him home, safe and sound.**

Lead children to the block palace from Option 1. Gather near the palace, and say: **A few years later, when Moses was a small boy, he went to live in a great big palace. As the adopted son of the princess, he was treated just like a prince! Special teachers helped Moses learn to read and write. Even though Moses missed his family, he knew that God was always with him.**

Ask: • **Who found Moses in the water?** (The king's daughter; the princess.)

• **What did the princess do when she found him?** (Found someone to take care of him; she felt sorry for him; decided to keep him.)

• **How was God with Moses?** (He kept him safe in the basket; God let him go back to his mommy; God kept Moses safe in the palace.)

Say: **God was with Moses everywhere—in the basket, in his mother's house, and even in the palace when Moses was far from his family. ► God is always with us, too. As you grow bigger, remember that God will be with you wherever you go.**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Before this activity, inflate the *smiley face mini-beach ball* from the Learning Lab. Gather children in a circle in the center of the room.

Say: **God was with Moses when he was a baby in the river. God was with Moses when he was a little boy in his mother's house. God was with Moses when he was a big boy in the palace. God was always with Moses, and we know that ► God is always with us, too! We're going to play a game now to help us remember that ► God is always with us.** Show children the *smiley face mini-beach ball*. **I want each of you to close your eyes. Then I'm going to hide this *smiley face mini-beach ball*. When I tell you, open your eyes and try to find the ball. Ready? Close your eyes now!**

Once all the children have closed their eyes, hide the ball someplace in your room. Then tell the children to open their eyes and search for the ball. You may want to give them “warm” and “cold” clues to help them in their search. Once children find the ball, let them play again—this time, allowing a child to hide the ball. Play as many games as time allows. Each time, let a different child hide the ball.

Then gather children back in your circle. Hold up the *smiley face mini-beach ball*.

Say: **In our game, we couldn't always see the smiley-face ball, but we always knew the ball was here somewhere in the room. That's just like God! Even though we can't see God, we know ► God is always with us!**

Ask: • **How do you know that God is always with you?** (Because the Bible tells me that he is; because I know God is taking care of me; because I can talk to him and I know he's listening.)

• **How does it make you feel to know that God is always with you?** (It makes me happy; I know I don't have to worry; I feel safe.)

Say: **Let's say our Bible verse together. ► “The Lord is always with me” (Acts 2:25a). We know that ► God is always with us, and we can smile really big, just like this ball, because we can trust God to be with us and care for us! Let's share this great news with Whiskers!**

BIBLE POINT ►

BIBLE POINT ►

BIBLE VERSE ►

Closing

■ Baby Sitter Blues

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.





Whiskers: *(Whispering)* Shh! Be quiet! I'm hiding!

Teacher: *(Whispering)* Are you playing Hide-and-Seek?

Whiskers: *(Whispering)* No, I'm hiding from my mommy and daddy.

Teacher: Whiskers! If your parents can't find you, they might get worried.

Whiskers: And if they're worried, maybe they won't go on their weekend trip. *(Sighing)* Then I wouldn't have to stay with our next-door neighbor Mrs. Mouskowitz.

Teacher: I thought you liked Mrs. Mouskowitz. Isn't she the one who bakes those yummy cheese cookies?

Whiskers: *(Sighing)* Yes...and she has all kinds of fun games at her house, and a tree fort in the backyard, and a grandson who's just my age. It might be fun and all...but I don't want to be away from my parents for two whole days.

Teacher: Whiskers, today we learned about another boy who had to be away from his family. Except this boy lived away from his family for many, many years. Children, can you tell Whiskers where Moses lived? *(Allow children to tell Whiskers that Moses grew up in a palace as the adopted son of a princess.)*

Whiskers: Moses must have missed his mom and dad a lot.

Teacher: Yes, but Moses knew that God was always with him. And God will be with you, too. ► God is always with us—even when our families aren't!

Whiskers: Well, if God's going to be with me at Mrs. Mouskowitz's house, I don't mind going! In fact, I think it'll be fun. I'd better go pack my little suitcase so I'll be ready in time. Thanks, everyone. See you next week!

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Say: **Jesus is with you, too, no matter where you live and no matter where you go. He is with you at home, at preschool, and even at the store.**

Ask: • **Where else do you think Jesus is with you?** (Jesus is with me at Grandma's house; Jesus is with me in church.)

• **When is Jesus with you?** (Jesus is with me when I sleep; Jesus is with me every day.)

Say: **Jesus is with us all the time. Jesus is with us now. Let's thank Jesus for always being with us.**

Pray: **Thank you, Jesus, for loving us. Thank you for always being here with us. We love you, Jesus. In your name, amen.**



■ *God Is!*

SUPPLIES: napkins, crown cookies made in Option 2, wet wipes

Have the children clean their hands with the wet wipes. Distribute napkins and the crown cookies made during Option 2. Say: **I'm happy to know that ►God is always with us. In fact, before we eat, let's give God a great big cheer! I'll ask a question and you clap and cheer, "God is! God is!" Ready?**

Who is with us all the time?

God is! God is!

Who's nearby in rain or shine?

God is! God is!

Who is our forever friend?

God is! God is!

Who is with us till the end?

God is! God is!

Yea, God!

After children have eaten their cookies, pray: **Dear God, thank you for being with us all the time, everywhere we go. Help us remember that you're our forever friend. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Bible Verse Review



track 5

Lead children in singing “God Is With Me” (Acts 2:25a) to the tune of “Frère Jacques” with the CD (track 5). Encourage children to do the motions as they sing.



SING

God is with me. (Point upward; then point at self.)

God is with me (point upward; then point at self)

All the time (turn around in place),

Rain or shine. (Wiggle fingers; then hold arms in an overhead circle.)

God is always with me. (Point upward; then point at self.)

God is always with me (point upward; then point at self),

And I’m fine (take a bow),

And I’m fine. (Take a bow.)

(Repeat.)

Make to Take: Shiny Crowns

Give each child a 12x12-inch sheet of aluminum foil. Show children how to crumple and twist the foil into a ring to create a crown. Children may wear their crowns as they pretend to be kings, queens, princes, and princesses. Remind children that God was with Moses as he grew up in a palace as the adopted son of a princess.

Treat to Eat: A Tasty Place to Live

Set out sliced grapes, paper plates, thick icing, and graham cracker squares. Have the children clean their hands with wet wipes. Give each child two graham cracker squares and a spoon of icing on a paper plate. Show the children how to dip the end of each cracker in the icing and lean the crackers against one another so they stand up and form the walls of a “palace.” Then show the children how to put the grape “people” inside. As children enjoy their treats, explain that just as God was with Moses in the king’s palace, ► God is always with us.



Story Picture: Moses Grows Up in the Palace

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons and chalk. Have children color the figures in their handouts and then use chalk to “write messages” on the tablets. Tell children that ► God is always with us, just as he was with Moses.

Today i learned...

God is always with us.

Help me learn this:

"The Lord is always with me" (Acts 2:25a).

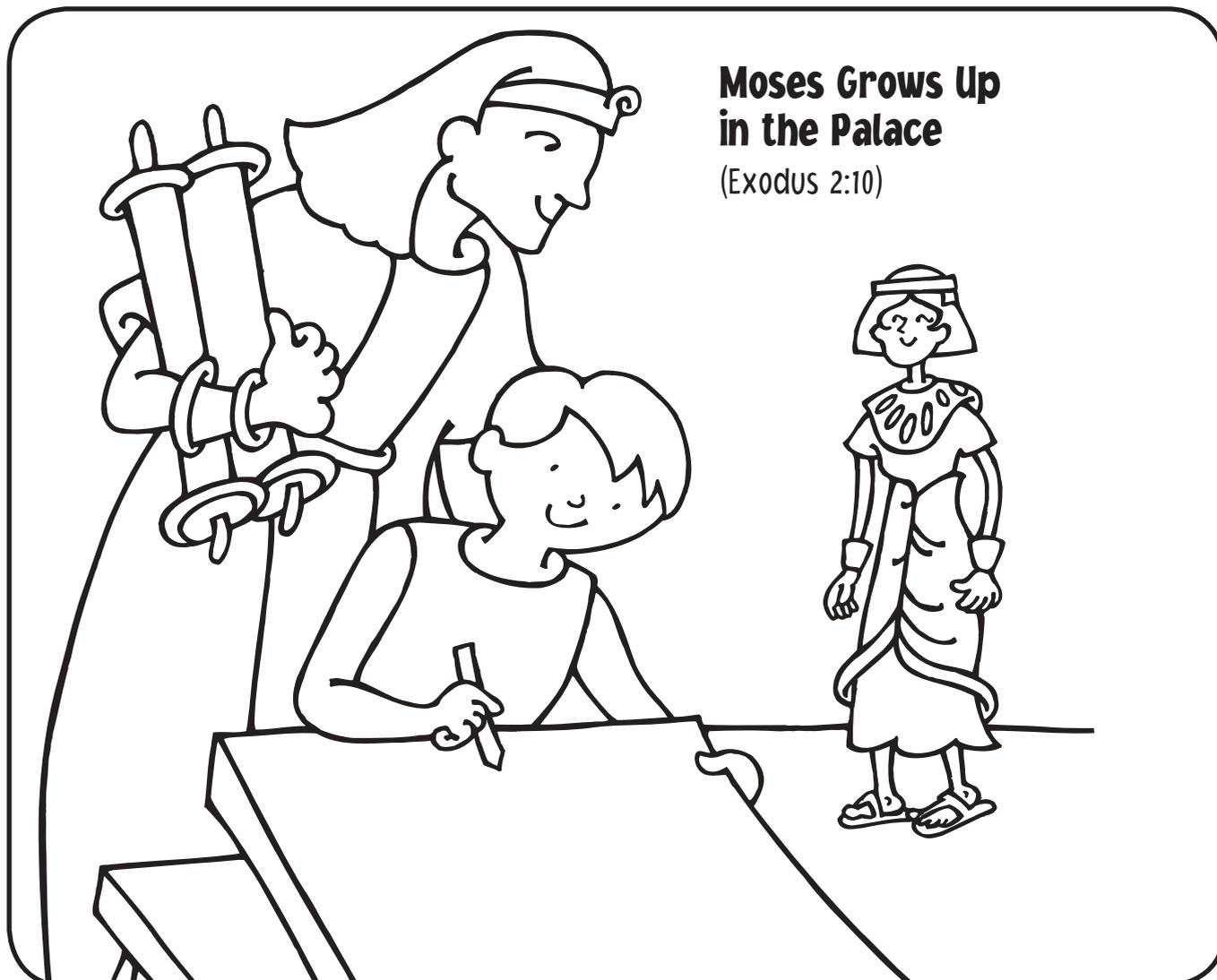
Ask me:

- Where did Moses grow up?
- When is God with you?
- How do we know that God is always with our family?

Family Fun

- Make a growth chart for each child in your family. Post the charts on the inside of a closet door and allow children to mark their growth every six months or so. Talk about the exciting things that happen as we grow up.

Lesson 4
Today your child learned that **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.** Children heard how God was with Moses as Moses grew up in the palace. The children learned that God is with them even when they're apart from their families.



Moses Grows Up in the Palace

(Exodus 2:10)