

The Life of Moses

Moses' name is similar to the Hebrew term *moshe*, which means “to draw out.” This name helps to highlight the significance of many events in Moses' life. Just as a bucket is drawn out of the water, an Egyptian princess drew baby Moses out of the Nile River. When Pharaoh refused to set the Israelites free, Moses turned the water of the Nile River into blood. On the shores of the Red Sea, Moses held up his staff, walls of water arose, and the Israelites were “drawn out” of captivity.

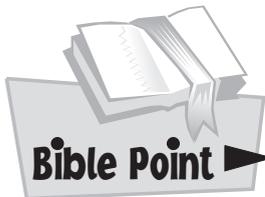
When the Israelites grumbled about the lack of water in the wilderness, Moses struck a rock and water poured forth. But the event that most clearly links Moses to our modern world took place amidst lightning and smoke atop Mount Sinai. There God spoke with Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments—timeless guidelines which teach us the ultimate importance of loving God with our whole heart and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

With those laws, God gave Moses the tools necessary to lead the Israelites into a life with God at the center.

Use these five lessons to teach children how God called Moses to serve him and then entrusted Moses with laws for God's people.

Five Lessons on the Life of Moses

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
5	God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.	63	Exodus 3:1-12
6	God loves us and can do anything.	75	Exodus 13:17–15:2
7	God loves us and gives us rules to keep us safe and happy.	89	Exodus 19:3–20:17
8	God loves us and wants us to love him.	101	Exodus 20:1-11
9	God loves us and wants us to love others.	113	Exodus 20:12-17



Bible Point ▶

God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.

Bible Verse

“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will ■ learn that God loves them,
 ■ hear how God called Moses at the burning bush,
 ■ discover ways they can help God, and
 ■ thank God for his love.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- God calls Moses to help his people.

Exodus
3:1-12



The mountain where God met Moses at the burning bush is the same mountain on which God would deliver the Ten Commandments to Moses years later.

God got Moses' attention with a burning bush that didn't burn up. Sometimes it takes drastic measures to get our attention! Moses investigated and listened when God spoke. God had heard his people's cries from Egypt and was ready to send the leader he had prepared to rescue them.

Though he still identified with the Hebrew people, Moses did not see himself as their savior. Yet God knew that Moses was the one he wanted to use to free his people. Moses' objection was met with a simple statement from God: “I will be with you.” The path God described to Moses was a difficult one. Moses would face opposition from his own people as well as from Pharaoh. To his many objections God responded with a reminder of who God is—“I AM”—the God of Moses' forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When Moses realized that his God had chosen him, he was willing to obey. And when he obeyed in faith, God used him mightily.

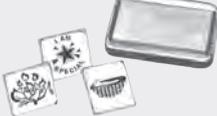
Prayer

- Read Exodus 3:1-12.
- When have you obeyed God as Moses did?
- Pray: Dear God, thank you for using ordinary people like Moses. Please help me to teach the children to obey and be your helpers. 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: Who's Calling? —Take turns hiding under a blanket and calling each other's names.	Old blanket or bedsheet	
	Option 2: A Big Bush —Create a make-believe bush with rustling tissue paper leaves.	Brown paper grocery sack; masking tape; red, yellow, orange, and green tissue paper	
	Option 3: Shimmery Shakers —Make colorful pompoms to wave during the Bible story.	Red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers; scissors; tape; washable markers; craft sticks	
	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 —Help each other take off their shoes; then sit by the "burning bush."	Paper bush made in Option 2	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear the story of Moses and learn how God talked to Moses.	Bible, shakers made in Option 3	
	Do the Bible Story —Play a game to learn how to be God's helpers.		
Closing 	Help for Whiskers —Teach Whiskers that we can be God's special helpers.	Paper towel or facial tissue, tape	
	Helpers for God —Recognize they can be God's special helpers, just like Moses.		

*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 "What can you tell me about the family Moses grew up in?" and "Tell me how God is always with you and your family."
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.**
- 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 "Do you enjoy being a helper?" and "When did you help someone?"

■ Option 1: Who's Calling?

SUPPLIES: old blanket or bedsheet

Before class, drape an old blanket or bedsheet over a table. Have children close their eyes as you quietly choose a child to hide under the blanket. Let the rest of the children take turns calling out the names of children in class. When the child under the blanket hears his or her name, have that child peek out and say, "Here I am!" Play until each child has hidden under the blanket. Tell children that today they'll hear a Bible story about a time God called Moses. Explain that God wanted Moses to be his special helper.

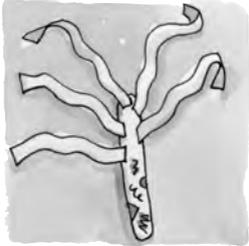
■ Option 2: A Big Bush

SUPPLIES: brown paper grocery sack; masking tape; red, yellow, orange, and green tissue paper or construction paper

Before class, crumple a brown paper grocery sack and twist it to resemble the trunk or stem of a bush. Then securely fasten it to a wall with masking tape.


teacher tips

If you don't choose to do Option 2 with your class, you'll want to make a "burning bush" to use during the "Setting the Stage" activity.



Set out red, yellow, orange, and green tissue or construction paper with tape. As children arrive, invite them to tear "leaves" to tape around the stem of the "bush." As children work to create their paper burning bush, explain that today they'll hear a Bible story about a time God talked to Moses from a bush—a bush that looked as if it was on fire but didn't burn up.

You'll use the bush in the "Setting the Stage" activity.

■ Option 3: Shimmery Shakers

SUPPLIES: red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers; scissors; tape; washable markers; craft sticks

Before class, cut 5-inch streamers from red, yellow, and orange crepe paper. Cut two or three strips of each color for every child in class. Set out the paper strips with tape, washable markers, and craft sticks. Have children tape several strips to the top half of their craft sticks and then decorate the lower part of the craft sticks with washable markers. As children work, encourage them to help each other. Point out that we can help one another and that **▶ *God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.***

Children will use these shakers during "Hear and Tell the Bible Story."

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: paper bush from Option 2

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 our class today?** (Played a name game; made a pretty bush; made shakers to wave around.)

Say: **Some of you helped call out names to find out who was hiding under the table. Some of you helped decorate a beautiful paper bush. And some of you helped one another make shimmery shakers. It's fun to help each other! ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers, too. Tell me about a time when you helped someone.** Let children tell their experiences.

Ask: • **How did you feel about being a helper?** (I felt good; it was nice to help.)

Say: **In our Bible story today, God asked Moses to take off his sandals because he was standing in a special place. Let's help each other take our shoes off and set them by the wall.**

After children have set their shoes aside, gather the class near the paper bush. Say: **It's fun being helpers, isn't it? Now let's get ready to look at our Bible Big Book and learn that ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.**



■ 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 *burning bush 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 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.**



If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

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.”



**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.**

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.

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



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, shakers from Option 3



Open the Bible to **Exodus 3:1-12**, and show the passage to your class. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Exodus. See if you can guess what the word *exodus* means.** Wave your hand and say, “Goodbye.” Then let children share their guesses. **The word *exodus* means leaving or going away. We’re going**

to hear a story about a time God’s people, the Israelites, got away from mean King Pharaoh. Put on the *paper crown* from the Learning Lab. **Pharaoh didn’t love God at all. He was mean and said that all God’s people had to be slaves and make bricks in the hot sun. Can you put on the crown and show me Pharaoh’s mean face?** Have children take turns putting on the crown and making mean faces.

God’s people prayed for help to get away from mean King Pharaoh. ► ***God loves us and wants us to be his helpers*, so God asked Moses to help the Israelites. Let’s listen to the story of how God called Moses to be his special helper. You can help tell the story! When you hear me say “bush,” shake your shakers.** Hand out the shakers from Option 3. If you chose not to do Option 3, have children rub their palms together to make a “swishing” noise.

Open the *Bible Big Book: Moses*, and hold it so children can see page 1. Read the story from the back cover and pause for children to shake the shimmery shakers each time you read the word *bush*.

After you finish the story on page 1, have children put their shoes back on. Put the *Bible Big Book* away, and gather up the children’s shakers.

Ask: • **What happened to the bush Moses saw?** (It looked as if it was on fire; it didn’t burn up.)

• **Who talked to Moses?** (God.)



• **What did God want Moses to do?** (Go to Egypt; help his people get away from the mean king.)

Say: **God asked Moses to be his special helper and lead the Israelites away from mean King Pharaoh. Moses obeyed God. Our Bible verse says, ►“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b). We can obey God, and we can be God’s helpers. Let’s play a game to learn more about being God’s helpers.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Before class, remove a *plastic cymbal* from the Learning Lab.

Say: **We just heard that Moses was God’s helper. We can be God’s helpers, too.**

Ask: • **Why do you think God wants us to be his helpers?** (Because he needs our help; because he wants our help; because God can use us.)

• **How can you help God?** (By loving others; by helping other people; by telling others about Jesus.)

Say: ► **God loves us and wants us to be his helpers. We can help God in lots of ways. We can help God by obeying him, by helping other people, by loving others, and by telling people about God. There are lots of ways that we can be God’s helpers. Let’s play a game right now to practice being good helpers.** Hold up the *plastic cymbal*. **All of you are going to close your eyes while I walk to someplace in the room. Then I’ll shake the cymbal. When you hear the cymbal, open your eyes and come to where I’m standing. Then I’ll ask you to help me in some way. Are you ready? Close your eyes.**

When children have closed their eyes, choose a location in the room and walk to it. Then shake the cymbal, and wait for the children to come to you. When the children reach you, think of a way they can help you. For example, maybe they could clean some toys, get you a glass of water, or give you a hug. Once they’ve helped you in that location, have children close their eyes and repeat the game in another spot. Play as long as time allows.

When you finish playing, gather the class together in a circle.

Say: **You’re all such good helpers! You helped me with all sorts of things. Thank you so much! God loves us, and God wants us to be his helpers, too!**

Ask: • **How did it feel to help me during the game?** (It was fun; I liked helping; I’m glad I could help.)

• **How do you think Moses felt when God asked for his help?** (Moses was scared; Moses was happy to help God; Moses was excited.)

• **What are some ways you can help out at home or at school?** (I can help my mom and dad do the dishes; I can clean up my toys; I can help the teacher hand out snacks.)

Say: **It’s fun to help each other and to help God. I’m glad that we can all be God’s helpers!**

◀ BIBLE VERSE



Even though your preschoolers are nonreaders, you may want to use this time to point out where the verse can be found in the Bible. This way the children can begin to develop an awareness of God’s Word. You may want to use the same Bible, such as Group’s *Hands-On Bible*®, each week.

◀ BIBLE POINT





Say: **Did you know that Jesus came to tell us all about God's love? He wants us to know that God loves us very much. When Jesus is our special friend, we can tell others about God's love, too.**

Ask: • **Who can you tell about God's love this week? How will you tell them?**

Say: **Let's practice right now by telling Whiskers!**

Closing

■ Help for Whiskers

SUPPLIES: paper towel or facial tissue, tape

Before class, tape a paper towel or facial tissue to Whiskers' waist for an apron.

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse wearing the paper apron. Go through the following puppet script. Then put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: *(Comes out muttering and shaking his head)* I don't want to. Nope, don't wanna do it.

Teacher: Hello, Whiskers. It looks as if you're all set to do some cooking. You're wearing a nice apron, but you don't sound very happy.

Whiskers: I'm not happy. Mom wants me to help her make cheese pie for dinner, but I don't want to do it.

Teacher: Why, Whiskers? It sounds like lots of fun—cooking cheese pie with your mommy. I thought cheese pie was one of your favorite things to eat.

Whiskers: But I don't know how to make cheese pie! I'd rather make cheese cookies. I know how to make them. I wouldn't be good at making a pie. No sirree!

Teacher: Whiskers, you sound like Moses. We just heard a Bible story about the time God asked Moses to be his helper. Moses was afraid he couldn't do the job God wanted him to do. But God loved Moses and promised to be with him. Children, can you tell Whiskers who loves us and wants us to be his helpers? *(Have children tell Whiskers that ► **God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.** Encourage children to tell Whiskers about the Bible story and how God called Moses to be his special helper.)*

Whiskers: You mean I can be God's helper, too?

Teacher: Yes, Whiskers, we can all be God's helpers just like Moses.

Whiskers: Well, if God wants me to be his special helper, I guess I can be Mommy's helper, too. I'll go help her make that cheese pie, an' I'll make it the best cheese pie ever! Yummy!



Teacher: Have fun, Whiskers, and remember: ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.

Permission to photocopy this handout from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Preschool, granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ **Helpers for God**

SUPPLIES: none



Gather children in a circle on the floor. Say: **We've been learning that ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.**

Ask: • **How can we be God's helpers this week?**
(By helping at home; praying for others; being kind to my family.)

Hold up the *burning bush stamp*, and say: **Let's go around the circle and say, "I'm God's helper." Then each of you can stamp your hands.** Have children take turns saying, "I'm God's helper" and stamping their hands with the stamp.

When everyone is finished, say: **Let's join hands and say a prayer to thank God for letting us be his helpers.** Pray: **Dear God, please help us be your special helpers every day. Thank you for loving us. We love you, too. 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: Hoppy-Happy Helpers



Tape index cards to the floor in a circle. You'll need one card for each child. Stamp the *burning bush stamp* on a few of the cards. Direct children to stand on the cards, and then play "I'm God's Helper" with the CD (track 10) as children hop from card to card around the circle. Pause the music at various intervals, and have children standing on the picture cards clap and repeat, ► "God loves us and wants us to be his helpers." Encourage the other children to help if someone forgets the words to the Bible Point.

■ Make to Take: Helping-Hand Pals



Before class, collect an old, clean sock for each child. Set out tacky craft glue and scraps of felt. Invite children to make the socks into helping-hand puppets by gluing on felt eyes and noses. Then let children help you by dusting the classroom using their puppets. Remind children that ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers. Encourage children to use their helping-hand puppets to help at home.

■ Treat to Eat: Burning Bushes

Before class, shake flaked coconut in a bag with a few drops of red food coloring.

Set out softened cream cheese, plastic knives, and a bowl of the red coconut "flames." Ask children to clean their hands with wet wipes. Hand each child a mini-muffin "bush," a spoonful of cream cheese, and red coconut "flames" on a paper plate. Show the children how to spread a bit of cream cheese on the top of the muffin and sprinkle on the red coconut "flames." While they munch their burning bushes, encourage children to retell the story of Moses and the burning bush in their own words. Remind children that God wanted Moses to be his special helper and that ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers, too.



■ Story Picture: God Calls Moses to Be His Helper

Cover a work area with newspaper, and set out glue sticks, crayons, washable markers, and scraps of red, yellow, and orange construction paper. Hand each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Invite children to color the pictures and then glue bits of colored paper to the bush as flames. Encourage children to help each other tear paper bits. Remind them that ► God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.

Today i learned...

God loves us and wants us to be his helpers.

Help me learn this:

"I obey your commandments with all my heart" (Psalm 119:69b).

Ask me:

- Who called Moses to be a special helper?
- How can we be God's special helpers?
- How can we help each other in our family?

Family Fun

- Be special helpers to someone who's feeling sick or discouraged. Show family members how to make wrapping-paper flowers. Have them each gather an 8-inch paper circle in the center and then wrap a chenille wire around it as a stem. Use a ribbon to tie the flowers together. Deliver the bouquet with bright smiles!

Lesson 5
Today children learned that **GOD LOVES US AND WANTS US TO BE HIS HELPERS.** They heard how God called Moses to be his helper and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The children talked about ways they could be God's special helpers.



God Calls Moses to Be His Helper

(Exodus 3:1-12)

