

LESSON 29

Moses Confronts Pharaoh

EXODUS 5:1 – 7:13



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PATIENTLY SAVES DESPITE UNBELIEF

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Three tissues with red hearts drawn on them; three small card stock heart shapes (make the hearts small enough for a child to hide in their hand or pocket)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 29)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 29

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

A Mighty God

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry erase marker

Felt Board Story

SUPPLIES: felt characters from the story; three large felt snakes

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will hear the story of how Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go because God hardened his heart.

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three tissues with hearts drawn on them with red marker
- ✓ three small heart shapes cut out of card stock (Make the hearts small enough for a child to hide in their hand or pocket.)

In class ask for six volunteers. Give three of the children soft hearts and three of the children hard hearts. Tell the children with the soft hearts to carefully do everything you tell them to do. Tell the children with the hard hearts not to follow your commands.

These instructions should be given so the rest of the class does not know who has which kind of heart. Play this game like Simon Says by using the following commands:

Teacher says:

- Jump up and down,
- Raise your hand,
- Smile, etc.

After you give several commands, see if the rest of the class can pick out which children have the soft hearts. Then have the children reveal which hearts they had. Explain to the class that a hard heart is a heart that is turned against God. A soft heart is turned toward God so that the person with a soft heart wants to obey God’s Word. *(You can try this several times rotating children so that everyone gets a turn.)*

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 29, “Moses Confronts Pharaoh,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is this story about?**
(God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go.)
- **Who went with Moses to talk to Pharaoh?**
(his brother, Aaron)
- **What did Aaron do with his staff?**
(He threw it down on the ground, and it became a snake.)
- **What did Pharaoh’s magicians do?**
(They also threw their staffs to the ground, and they became snakes.)
- **If the Egyptian magicians could do the same thing that Moses and Aaron did, how do we know God is more powerful?**
(The snake that came from Aaron’s staff ate the Egyptian snakes, showing that God is more powerful.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **The Bible tells us that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart. What does it mean that your heart becomes hard?**
(You don’t want to obey; you just want to do what you want to do.)
- **Can our hearts become hard?**
(Yes, we can disobey God and do what we want to do.)
- **If God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, was it Pharaoh’s fault?**
(Yes, Pharaoh wanted to disobey.)
- **How do you know if your heart is becoming hard?**
(When children disobey God’s Word by not obeying their parents or other adults it can be an indication their hearts are hard.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Romans 9:15–18

Moses asked Pharaoh to allow God’s people to go into the desert to worship and hold a festival to God. Pharaoh refused. As we will see later, Pharaoh kept on refusing even after many miraculous signs and nine horrible plagues. The Bible says that this happened because God hardened Pharaoh’s heart and because Pharaoh hardened his own heart. Both are true.

This is another way in which Moses presents a picture or a foreshadowing of Jesus. Moses was a prophet who brought the word of the Lord to Pharaoh. Jesus was the prophet who brought the word of God to all of us. In Jesus’ day, the Hebrew rulers rejected him despite his miracles. So, just as Pharaoh hardened his heart against God’s words, many people, then and now, harden their hearts against the good news of Jesus.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 29—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What happened to Pharaoh’s heart?**
(It became hard because he did not want to obey God.)

- What did Moses warn would happen if Pharaoh did not obey?
(God said that he would send plagues to Egypt.)
- What did God's snake do to Pharaoh's snakes?
(God's snake gobbled up the snakes of Pharaoh, showing that God was more powerful.)
- What lessons can children learn about obeying God from this story?
(It is important not to harden your heart but to obey your parents. If you disobey your parents you are like Pharaoh. There is punishment for disobedience.)

A Mighty God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry erase marker

Review the Bible story asking the children to recall as many miracles and strong acts of God as they can remember. List them on a whiteboard. Be sure to highlight how God's snake ate the Egyptians' snakes. Ask them what this may tell them about God.

Expand the discussion to see if there are miracles or mighty acts outside of this story that the children may know. *(creation, Jesus' resurrection, parting the Red Sea, etc.)*

Ask, "Is there anything our God can't do?" *(No, "all things are possible with God!" [Mark 10:27].)*

Tell the class that God was mighty then and God is still mighty now and able to do the same strong acts.

Felt Board Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ felt characters from this story
- ✓ three large felt snakes

Instructions prior to class: Make three felt snakes. You can keep the eyes separate. When the staff turns into a snake, you can add the eyes to make it look alive.

Make Aaron's snake a bit larger so that it can cover over the other snakes to make it seem that it is eating up the others.

Tell the story of Moses, Aaron, and the snakes with the felt board.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 29 - MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

