

LESSON 29

# Moses Confronts Pharaoh

EXODUS 4:18–7:13



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

**GOD PATIENTLY SAVES DESPITE UNBELIEF**

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Read Exodus 7:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 29, “Moses Confronts Pharaoh,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Make an Impression  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ three balls of soft modeling clay or dough in plastic bags  
✓ one ball of hardened play clay or dough (oil-based clays do not harden)  
✓ several objects to use to make impressions in the clay (such as a plastic toy figure, a fork, toy car, etc.)
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
The Hardest Thing I Have Ever Done
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**  
God’s Snake  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ crayons, colored pencils, and paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Snake in the Bag  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ rubber snake  
✓ stick about sixteen inches long and three-quarter-inch diameter  
✓ paper bag large enough to easily accommodate the stick

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**Moses arrives in Egypt**—Moses obeys the Lord and returns to Egypt with Aaron to confront Pharaoh. Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go for they are Pharaoh's slaves. Pharaoh refuses and mocks Israel's God. Pharaoh responds to Moses by punishing the people. He orders they find their own straw for their daily quota of bricks, forcing the Israelites to search for stubble on their own time.

At first, the people had worshiped God for sending Moses and Aaron. But after Pharaoh takes away their straw, they begin to complain and lose heart. This pattern of the Israelites first believing God and then turning away will happen over and over again throughout Israel's history.

**God's voice encourages Moses**—Moses is discouraged because he does not yet understand God's power or his ways. So God encourages Moses and sends him back to speak to the people again. It must have been good for Moses to hear the word of the Lord once more. Moses had left the burning bush in faith, and he demonstrated courage and faith by speaking to Pharaoh. Now the voice of the Lord gives Moses fresh faith and strength.

**Moses confronts Pharaoh with a demonstration of God's power**—The salvation of Israel through the powerful hand of God begins. The snake transforming from Aaron's staff swallows up the snakes from the Egyptian staffs. But despite this display of God's power, Pharaoh hardens his heart. He refuses to allow the people of Israel to leave, just as God had predicted.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW

**5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY

**10 MIN**

Read Exodus 7:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 29, "Moses Confronts Pharaoh," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1

**10 MIN**

#### Make an Impression

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ three balls of soft modeling clay or dough in plastic bags
- ✓ one ball of hardened play clay or dough (oil-based clays do not harden)
- ✓ several objects to use to make impressions in the clay (such as a plastic toy figure, a fork, toy car, etc.)

The object of this lesson is to show how a hardened heart will not change.

Ask for four volunteers. Sit them at a table and explain to them that you are going to give them each a lump of clay and objects to make impressions with. The person with the best impressions will be the winner. Do not tell them that one of the lumps of clay is hard. Tell them not to touch their clay until you say go. The children will have two minutes to work.

Pass out the bags of clay and the objects to be used to make impressions. Give each child a different object and tell them to be creative in the way they decorate with it. Once everything is in place, say go.

Shortly after the game begins, the child with the hardened clay will object that their clay is hard. Answer them with the following: “I don’t have any more clay, just press a bit harder. Perhaps if you knead it a bit it will soften up. Just do your best with what you have.”

Call time and then display the results. Even though the children will want to talk about the hardened lump, carry on as normal until the very end.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Why didn’t the dried out clay work?**  
*(When the water evaporates out of the clay, the solid molecules have no lubrication and fuse together, making it very difficult to leave an impression.)*
- **How is this hardened clay like Pharaoh’s heart?**  
*(Pharaoh’s heart was hardened against God. God’s word could leave no impression upon him, just as the hardened clay could not receive an impression [Exodus 7:1–4].)*
- **What would be strong enough to leave an impression in the hardened clay?**  
*(If a truck tire ran over it, it would leave the impression of the tire tread in the clay. Also, a hammer could leave an impression in the clay if it struck with a hard blow.)*
- **What did God use to strike an impression in the hardened heart of Pharaoh?**  
*(God used ten plagues to make an impression on Pharaoh.)*

- How do you keep your heart from becoming hard?

*(Proverbs 28:14 contrasts the one who fears the Lord with the one who hardens his heart. Certainly Pharaoh did not fear the Lord or else he would have let the people go. Fearing the Lord is respecting his word and following it, knowing it is the word of the almighty God.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

**10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . .

**10 MIN**

**The Hardest Thing I Have Ever Done**

Discuss the difficulty Moses must have experienced in going to Pharaoh to tell him to let the Israelites go. It took a lot of courage and faith. Ask the class to think of a time when they faced a great difficulty and have them testify to how the Lord provided for them in the midst of the difficulty.

Read Proverbs 3:5–6 to them and then answer the following questions:

- How can this Scripture help us to follow God in difficult circumstances?

*(God is bigger than our circumstances and can help us find a straight way through our troubles if we trust in the Lord rather than in our own limited observations and reasoning.)*

- How is Moses a good example of following Proverbs 3:5–6?

*(Moses did things that seemed impossible because God gave him faith through the miraculous signs he performed.)*

- Since we do not have the miraculous signs that Moses did, where do we find our faith?

*(Moses looked forward to a coming Redeemer. We know Jesus. Jesus also sent his Spirit to remind us of all the teachings of the Lord. The Holy Spirit, when he comes to live inside us, is also an inner witness and a guarantee of our salvation in Christ and our promised inheritance. Romans 10:17 says, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY**

**5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

God’s Snake

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils, and paper

Have the children draw God’s snake eating up the snakes of Pharaoh.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

Snake in the Bag

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ rubber snake
- ✓ stick about sixteen inches long and three-quarter-inch diameter
- ✓ paper bag large enough to easily accommodate the stick

Prior to class place the rubber snake in the paper bag. After reading the story, tell the children you want to show them how the magicians of Pharaoh could have turned their staffs into snakes. Take the bag in one hand and the stick in the other and say something like, “The magicians of Egypt can also turn a staff into a snake.” Then put the staff in the bag and pull out the snake. Move it around to simulate the action of a real live snake but in the end show them it is a fake. Ask the class the following questions:

- What happened in the story to show us that God was more powerful than the Egyptian magicians?  
*(God’s snake ate up the Egyptian magicians’ snakes.)*
- How did the magicians create snakes from their staffs?  
*(They performed a trick using sleight of hand much like I did with the rubber snake.)*

- How did God create a snake from the staff?

*(God actually transformed the staff into a live snake. Since God is the creator of the world, it is no problem for him to turn something like a stick into something alive like a snake.)*

- What does this story teach us about God?

*(He is more powerful than the magicians of Egypt. He is the creator of life. He is all-powerful.)*



LESSON 29 - MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

