

LESSON 29

Moses Confronts Pharaoh

EXODUS 4:18–7:13



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 15 MIN**
Listing the Promises
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ whiteboard and markers
 - ✓ paper and pencils
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
Unbelief Hunt for Clues
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper
 - ✓ pencils
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Aaron’s Staff
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ crayons, colored pencils, and paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN**
Create a Snake
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ rubber toy snake (one for every five students)
 - ✓ twelve-inch-long stick (one for every five students)
 - ✓ silk or nylon scarf (one for every five students)
 - ✓ paper bag large enough to hold the stick (one for every five students)
 - ✓ cardboard box large enough to hold the stick (one for every five students)

TOTAL 90 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Hardened Heart

The term "hardened heart" is used to describe active unbelief associated with the rebellion of man. A reluctance to listen to the command of God, a lack of gratitude or thankfulness, and an absence of the fear of the Lord characterize a hardened heart.

The disciples are said to have hardened hearts when failing to understand the authority of Jesus after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Mark 6:52). The unbelieving Gentiles who satisfied their pleasures with a continual lust for more impurity are said to have hardened their hearts (Ephesians 4:18).

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 15 MIN

Listing the Promises

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and markers
- ✓ paper and pencils

▲ UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON 29

Make two columns on the board: one with the heading “God,” another with the heading “Moses.” Ask the children to look through Exodus 6:1–13 and raise their hands when they either find something God said he would do or did already or when they find something God said Moses should do.

God	Moses
You will see what I will do to Pharaoh.	Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of this land.
I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.	Bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.
I also established my covenant with them.	
I have heard the groaning of the people.	
I have remembered my covenant.	
I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.	
I will deliver you from slavery.	
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.	
I will take you to be my people.	
I will be your God.	
I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham.	
I will give it to you for a possession.	

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What do you notice when you compare the two lists?**
(It is very obvious that God is the one who is doing all the work. Even the items on Moses' list also appear on God's list.)

- **Why do you think God decided to use Moses when he could easily have accomplished all of the above without him?**
(God has always chosen to use a person to deliver his people as it foreshadows the salvation that will eventually come through his Son, Jesus.)

Divide the class in half and play a game to see which team remembers the most items on the list. Give them a minute to review the list and then erase the board and have them work together to come up with as many items as they can remember. (Some whiteboards show residue of what was written, so you might need to ask them not to look at the board.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Unbelief Hunt for Clues

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ pencils

Hand out paper and pencils, and ask the children to read Exodus 5:1–11 and 7:8–13 and write down the evidence for Pharaoh's unbelief. Then talk about what they discovered and wrote down. Ask for a few examples of areas of life where we can fail to believe in or trust in God today.

Pharaoh questioned God saying, "Who is the LORD that I should obey?" (5:2)

Pharaoh said that he did not know the Lord. (5:2)

Pharaoh said he would not obey the command of the Lord. (5:2)

Pharaoh punished Israel for God's request. (5:9)

Pharaoh called Moses' words "lying words." (5:9)

Pharaoh demanded a miracle to believe. (7:9)

Pharaoh depended on wise men, sorcerers, and magicians. (7:11)

Pharaoh refused to listen to Moses and Aaron. (7:13)

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 15 MIN

Aaron's Staff

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper

Have the children draw a picture of Aaron's staff becoming a snake.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Create a Snake

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ rubber toy snake (one for every five students)
- ✓ twelve-inch-long stick (one for every five students)
- ✓ silk or nylon scarf (one for every five students)
- ✓ paper bag large enough to hold the stick (one for every five students)
- ✓ cardboard box large enough to hold the stick (one for every five students)

Divide the class into groups of four or five and explain that they each represent a group of magicians from Egypt. They must come up with a way to fool you (Pharaoh) into believing they can change a staff into a snake. Give them about five minutes to plan. Move from group to group helping them figure out a way to "magically" produce a snake. One simple way is to place the snake in the bottom of the open bag and then pinch the snake to hold it at the bottom of the bag while shaking the bag upside down to show that it is empty. Next, place the stick in the bag and pinch it, turning the bag upside down and letting the snake drop to the floor.

As Pharaoh, judge which group of magicians did the best job of turning the staff into a snake. Then ask 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 used a trick or sleight of hand, much like your bag.)
- How did God create a snake from the staff?
(God 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 the creator of life. He is more powerful than the magicians of Egypt—he is all-powerful.)