

MOSES CONFRONTED PHARAOH

God patiently saves despite unbelief.



THE STORY: EXODUS 4:18-23 & 5:1-21 *

* Be aware that Exodus 4:24-31 tells the account of the circumcision of Moses' son. This is a wonderful demonstration of how Moses' life was covered by a blood offering but may be difficult for smaller children to comprehend. Circumcision is an important biblical theme that you should introduce to your children with care.

MONDAY

Moses returned to Egypt to confront Pharaoh.

Moses returned to Egypt to confront Pharaoh. Moses obeyed the Lord and returned to Egypt to confront the Pharaoh, asking him to let God's people go. Pharaoh refused to let Israel go and mocked Israel's God (vs. 5:2). Pharaoh punished the people by forcing them to gather their own stubble for bricks without reducing the quota. The people blamed Moses and Aaron for this punishment. Though they initially exhibited faith and believed (4:31), they quickly began to complain and lose heart. This pattern would follow Israel for years to come.

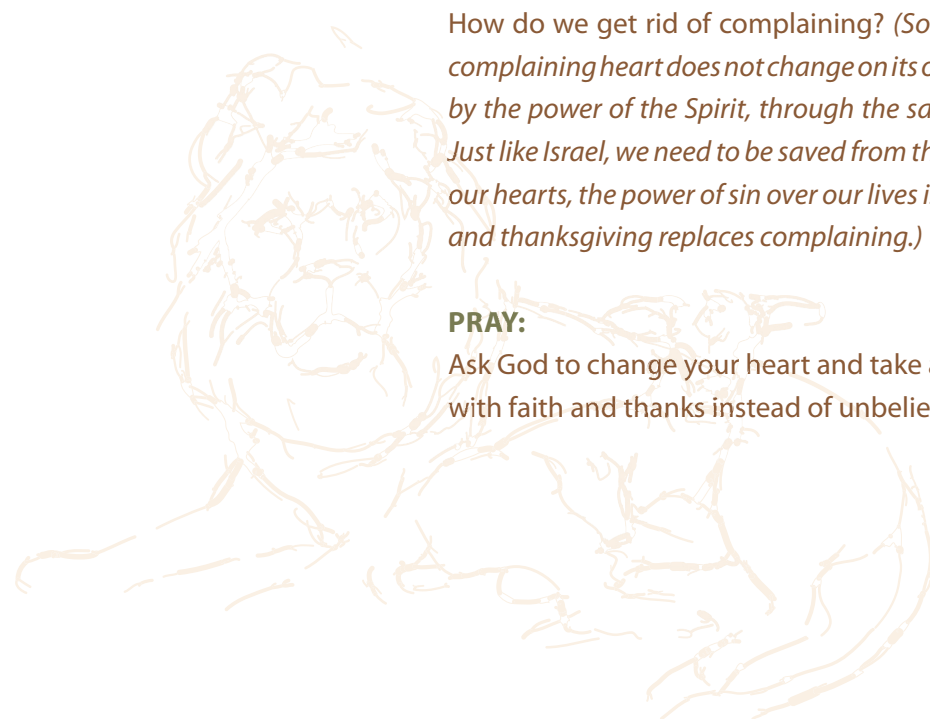
TALK ABOUT IT:

How are we similar to the Hebrews? *(It is easier for us to confess belief than it is to follow through with attitudes and behavior consistent with belief. It is easy for us to grumble and complain when things become difficult.)*

How do we get rid of complaining? *(Some might say, "just stop complaining." But a complaining heart does not change on its own. Apart from the grace of God, which comes by the power of the Spirit, through the sacrifice of Jesus, we cannot stop complaining. Just like Israel, we need to be saved from this sin. When we trust in Jesus and He changes our hearts, the power of sin over our lives is broken. It is only then that earthly cares fade and thanksgiving replaces complaining.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to change your heart and take away sinful complaining. Ask God to fill you with faith and thanks instead of unbelief and complaints.





God honored His word

God honored His word - “Now you shall see what I will do” are the words God used to encourage Moses. Pharaoh was not bigger or stronger than the Lord. Moses was discouraged because he saw things in the natural realm and did not yet understand the mighty hand of the Lord. God revealed His plan to Moses again with a bit more detail. It must have been encouraging for Moses to hear the word of the Lord again. Moses left the burning bush in faith, and demonstrated courage by speaking to Pharaoh, and now the voice of the Lord gave him fresh faith and strength.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God respond to Moses when he was confused and cried out to God (verse 5:22-23)? *(God responded with understanding, kindness and a promise of deliverance.)*

How did the people respond to God’s promised deliverance? *(They were so oppressed and discouraged that they would not listen [vs 6:9]. Notice that God was working on their behalf despite their unbelief. Sin has so affected us all that God in His mercy must move to save us even before we turn from sin. Apart from God’s initiative to save us, we would never believe.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to save you in spite of your unbelief. *(Have the children confess any unbelief, or struggle to believe, of which they are aware, and ask God to help them overcome their unbelief).*





Where is Jesus?

God's purpose involved hardening the heart of Pharaoh so God's greatness and glory would be revealed. Moses came to Pharaoh and asked him to allow God's people to worship and hold a festival to God. Pharaoh refused, even after nine plagues and many miraculous signs. Similarly, in spite of the many miraculous signs Jesus performed, the Hebrew rulers did not believe. They too were used of God, in His plan to deliver His Son up to death. So once again, the hardening revealed God's greatness and glory.

Moses was the prophet who brought the word of the Lord to Pharaoh just as Jesus was the prophet who brought the Word of God to all of us. Even as Pharaoh hardened his heart against that word, so many people today harden their hearts against the Gospel.

TALK ABOUT IT:

In what ways do we harden our hearts against God's word? *(If we truly always believed God's Word we would always obey it. We can't say that we believe it and not obey it. We harden our hearts against God's word when we hear it but do not obey it.)*

Ask the children to think of a time when they knew God's word but did not obey it.

PRAY:

Ask God to forgive your disobedience and change your heart so that you will no longer harden your heart against the purpose of God.



Moses confronted Pharaoh with a demonstration of God's power

Moses confronted Pharaoh with a demonstration of God's power – Encouraged by the words and plan of the Lord, Moses did just what God instructed him to do. Aaron cast down the staff and it became a snake. The Egyptian magicians perform a similar trick. But God's power was demonstrated when the serpent of God swallowed up the Egyptians' snakes. In spite of this demonstration of miraculous power, Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to allow the people of Israel to leave, just as the Lord had said.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What would the Egyptians learn through all the mighty acts God would do against them? *(The Egyptians would come to understand that God is alive and Lord over all -- see verse 7:5).*

How was God's power shown to be greater than the magicians of Pharaoh's court? *(Aaron's staff which became a snake swallowed up the staffs of the magicians. They tried to match the power of God with a cheap trick but God always prevails.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His Word, which preserves these stories to help us to see just how amazing He is!



THE STORY: ISAIAH 9:1-5

FRIDAY

On the road to Emmaus.

In John 12:46 and 8:12, Jesus described Himself as the light which has come into the world. This is consistent with John's previous description of Jesus in John 1:9. Isaiah 9:2 also precedes a more detailed description of the blessing of light to come – a child born, a son given, who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6). What a joy we will have when the victory of Christ is complete and there is no more need to war – on that day every boot will be thrown in the fire, every garment rolled in blood will be burned up!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How might this passage be talking about Jesus? *(The passage contrasts people walking in darkness with a great light. Jesus said that He was the light of the world and the Bible presents sin as darkness.)*

Why is light a good way to describe the Glory of God? *(Light exposes what is hidden and brings out the truth. Light is what sustains life. Since God is completely sinless and sustains all life, it is a wonderful way for God to describe His glory.)*

PRAY:

Thank God that he is a God of light who will one day completely defeat all our enemies including sin, darkness, and death!

