

MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

*God patiently saves despite unbelief.***The STORY**

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

God revealed his plan of salvation to Moses – Just as the Lord predicted, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. In response to the request, Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew slaves to keep their same quota of bricks but gather their own straw. Moses expressed discouragement (Exodus 5:22-23). Rather than judge Moses' complaint, God showed amazing mercy by encouraging Moses with what He is about to do. The plan of God to deliver His people by the hand of Moses was on the mind of God. Moses foreshadows a day when Jesus would bring salvation to God's people.

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 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 surely gave him fresh faith and strength.

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 casts down the staff and it becomes a snake. The Egyptian magicians perform a similar trick. But God's power was demonstrated when the serpent of God swallows up the Egyptian's snakes. In spite of this demonstration of miraculous power, Pharaoh hardens his heart and refuses to allow the people of Israel to leave, just as the Lord had said.

MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

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.

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 six 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.

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh:

I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. (Romans 9:17)

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Isaiah 9:2

Connecting the passage to Christ:

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 and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6).

Questions for reflection:

- 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.)

MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

LISTING THE PROMISES

Supplies

white board

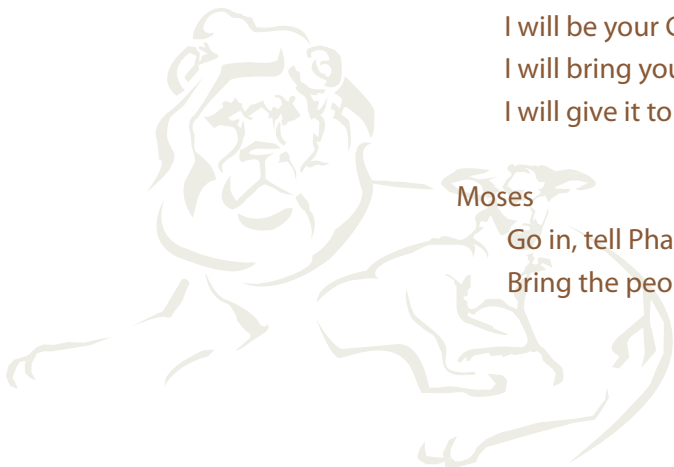
Have the children look at Exodus 6:1-13. Make two columns on the board one with the heading "God," another with the heading "Moses." Ask the children to look through the passage and raise their hands when they either find something God said He would do or did already, or something God said Moses should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

God

You will see what I will do to Pharaoh
 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob
 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

Moses

Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of this land
 Bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt



MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

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 man to deliver His people, as it foreshadows the salvation that will eventually come through His Son, Jesus.)

You can play a game to see whether the girls or the boys can remember the most items on the list. Divide the class, give them a minute, then erase the items on the board and have them work together to come up with as many as they can remember. (Some white boards show residue of what was written, so you might need to ask them not to look at the board.)

MAKE AN IMPRESSION

Supplies

- three balls of soft modeling clay or dough in plastic bags
- one ball of hardened modeling 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.), table

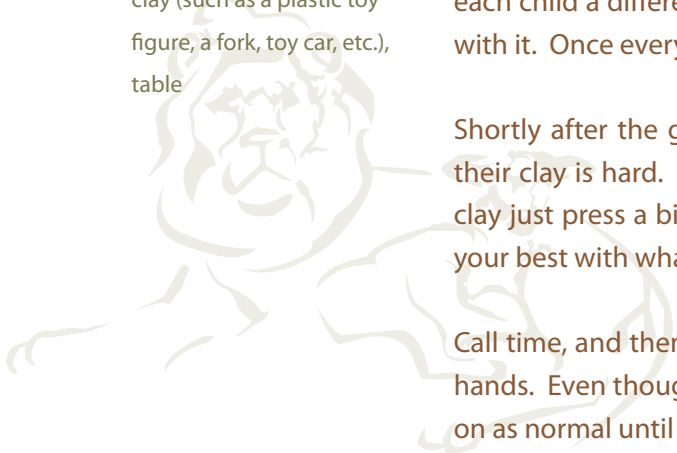
The object of this lesson is to show how a hardened heart will not change.

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. You will direct them one at a time to make an impression. 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 give them the go. Each child will have 2 minutes to decorate their clay.

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 give the word "Go" to start.

Shortly after the game begins, the child with the hardened clay will object that their clay is hard. Answer them with the following helps: "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 got."

Call time, and then display the four entries and have the class judge by a show of hands. Even though the children will want to talk about the hardened lump, carry on as normal until the very end.



MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why didn't the dried out clay work? (When the water leaves 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, see 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 man who fears the Lord with the man 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.)



MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

THE HARDEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE

Draw the children out about 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.

Have them look up Proverbs 3:5-6 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, not 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 the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ.")

PRAYER

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

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of Aaron's staff becoming a snake.

MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 6:1-12 & 7:1-13

FOR OLDER GRADES

Pass out a sheet of paper and ask the children to write down the evidence they see which illustrates Pharaoh's unbelief. Have them look at Exodus 5:1-11 and 7:8-13.

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

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

Pharaoh demanded a miracle to believe (7:8)

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

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

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Hardened Heart –The term hardened heart is used to describe the active unbelief associated with the rebellion of man. A reluctance to listen to the command of God, a lack of gratefulness 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).

