

Bible Story 11: MOSES - PART 3 GOD'S PROTECTION AND PROVISIONS AFTER LEAVING EGYPT

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 13:17-22; 14:5-7,15-16,21-31; 15:1-2,13,22,26-27;
16:2-4,12,31; 17:1-6; 18:1, 5-11,14,19-27; 19:1-2

MEMORY VERSE: "WHEN I AM AFRAID, I WILL TRUST IN YOU (GOD)." PSALM 56:3 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

After God sent the final and most disastrous plague, King Pharaoh finally allowed the Israelite slaves to leave Egypt. Moses began guiding the people toward the Promised Land. When the Israelites left, they had to pass through a desert area where it was very hot during the day and very cold during the night. God guided and protected them along their journey. During the day, God led them by a pillar of cloud which protected them from the scorching sun. During the night, God led them with a pillar of fire which lighted the pathway and warmed them so they would not feel so cold.

As God guided the Israelites towards the Red Sea, King Pharaoh changed his mind and decided to bring them back to Egypt. With his army, King Pharaoh marched after the Israelites. The Israelites were afraid. The Red Sea was in front, and the Egyptians were close behind. The cloud separated them: it was brilliant and sunny for the Israelites, but it was dark for the Egyptians.

Moses told the people to stand firm, have faith and trust in God. Following God's instructions, Moses extended his staff toward the sea and God brought a wind with great force. The sea separated; between the

two walls of water was a dry pathway. The Israelites were able to pass safely to the other side on dry ground. When the armies of Pharaoh followed, God allowed the waters to return to normal. God protected the lives of the Israelites, but the Egyptian army was destroyed.

The Israelites continued their journey towards the Promised Land. Many times the people complained, but God loved and protected them. God always instructed Moses how to solve each problem. When they were thirsty, God provided water, telling Moses to strike a rock. When he did, water gushed out! When they were hungry, God sent manna, a type of bread, and quail, a type of bird, to eat.

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came to bring Moses' wife and children. Jethro observed all that Moses was doing. He made some suggestions. Following the helpful advice from Jethro, Moses chose capable men to help him with his responsibilities of resolving problems and disputes among the people.

God continued being faithful, protecting and guiding Moses and the Israelites as they journeyed towards the Promised Land.

LIFE-LESSONS:

1. As the Israelites left Egypt, God guided them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night. God separated the Red Sea so that they were able to pass safely to the other side. God protected the lives of the Israelites. Trust in God to protect and help care for you wherever you are.
2. Sometimes the Israelites were afraid, but they put their trust in God to be with them. Whenever you are afraid, trust in God to help you. He is always with you.
3. Moses accepted good advice from Jethro. When facing a problem, seek someone who can help you.
4. Moses guided the Israelites to follow God. Like Moses, influence others to follow God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who led the Israelites away from Egypt?
2. How did God lead the Israelites during the day on their journey to the Promised Land? During the night? Why was this helpful?
3. How did the Israelites feel when they realized King Pharaoh and his army were marching after them to take them back to Egypt?
4. How did God protect the Israelites so they could pass safely over to the other side at the Red Sea? What did Moses do?
5. What happened to King Pharaoh and his army?
6. What are some bad situations that you, your family, your friends or classmates are facing or may face in the future?
7. Are you ever afraid? When?
8. Can God help you when you are afraid and whenever you face a bad situation? How? Who are some people who can help you?
9. Who gave good advice to Moses? What did Moses do?
10. Who are some people who have given you good advice? Who are some people who can give you good advice when you need it in the future? What should you do after you get good advice? Why?
11. How did Moses help the Israelites? How can you help other people?
12. God guided the Israelites to follow God. How can we influence others to follow God?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

– Ahead of time get pictures of circumstances where a person might become afraid and pictures of people who can help them. Be discreet and not frighten anyone. Do not use scary pictures.

Examples of being afraid: hearing strange noises while alone at home; someone breaking into your home or car; lost in the wilderness; car trouble in a storm; an illness; someone being mean or cruel; a fire, flood, tornado, hurricane or earthquake; etc.

Examples of people who can be helpful: a doctor when we are sick; a fireman when there is a fire; a policeman when we are lost or in danger; a forest ranger when we are lost in the woods; parents, a pastor, teacher and/or counselor when someone is facing problems; etc.

– The leader will show these pictures and then let the group discuss these incidences that might occur, what to do under the circumstances and people who can help them.

– Share: *“Today our Bible story is about a man who is leading a group of people on a long journey. Sometimes they had problems and were afraid.”* Then tell the Bible story and apply the Life-Lessons.

POPPING BALLOONS:

– After telling the story, do the following:

- (1) On individual slips of paper, each person writes a question about the Bible story. Fold each paper very small.
- (2) Place the questions in separate balloons. Blow up the balloons and tie the ends.
- (3) Mix up the balloons.
- (4) Each person must get a balloon and pop it, reading and answering the questions.

FINDING THE WAY:

– Show a video or DVD or talk about someone lost in the woods or desert and how he found his way out or was rescued. Discuss ways to protect oneself if lost in the woods or desert, caught in a thunder or snow storm, etc.

GAME: “HIDE AND SEEK”

– Option 1: Choose a leader and a place that will be home base. Everyone hides and then the leader tries to find each person hidden. If someone gets to home base, he/she is safe. Choose another leader and repeat the process.

– Option 2: Hide objects for everyone to find.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Exodus 13:17-22; 14:5-7,15-16,21-31; 15:1-2,13,22,26-27; 16:2-4,12,31; 17:1-6; 18:1, 5-11, 14, 19-27; 19:1-2

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
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