



Moses is an important prophet in the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths. His story can be read in the Bible in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It is thought he lived from 1391–1271 BCE but we do not know for sure. We have rewritten the story of Moses here for you to read in each section.

THE STORY OF MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES

Moses was born into a Hebrew family. His family were slaves in Egypt. Generations before they had fled their own homeland when famine hit and there was no food. The Egyptian Pharaoh (a king) was a cruel man and did not look after the slaves. They were used to do the dirty and dangerous jobs no-one else wanted to do like building the pyramids, huge tombs for the pharaohs when they died.

The Pharaoh made life so dangerous for the Hebrews that mothers started to hide their baby boys as soon as they were born. When Moses was tiny, his mother was so scared for him she put him in a basket of bulrushes, prayed to God to protect him, and placed him in the river.

It just so happened the Pharaoh's daughter came and swam in the river each morning and she found Moses in the basket. She loved him as soon as she saw him and decided to adopt him. Without realising, she employed his own mother to look after him when he was a baby and, when he was old enough, he moved into the palace and lived as an Egyptian prince.

This is why the baskets that new babies are placed in are called Moses baskets.

- **Something to think about:**

How scared must Moses' mother have been to put him in a basket in the river. Refugees from war torn countries make that decision every day. It is so dangerous where they live, they would rather risk getting on an old boat in the hope of reaching safety in countries where there is no war.

• **Activity: Word Search**

N	I	L	E	H	J	O	P	S	B
A	H	A	I	M	E	H	R	N	U
H	E	B	R	E	W	S	I	B	L
G	T	Z	B	E	U	Z	N	F	R
N	E	E	R	T	S	R	C	A	U
P	H	A	R	O	A	H	E	I	S
C	P	W	A	L	L	S	S	T	H
C	R	M	O	S	E	S	S	H	E
E	O	I	S	C	M	I	O	F	S
L	T	R	R	R	I	N	G	U	J
E	E	I	G	O	T	P	O	D	A
B	C	A	E	C	U	I	D	G	Y
R	T	M	H	O	I	A	F	S	S
A	P	E	R	D	A	E	F	T	D
T	B	E	L	I	M	F	X	M	I
E	E	C	H	L	O	R	U	O	M
B	A	S	K	E	T	I	C	S	A
A	S	W	P	B	H	L	I	E	R
A	N	I	E	S	E	B	A	B	Y
C	U	M	B	E	R	R	E	R	P

Moses
Nile
bulrushes
Hebrews

Miriam
crocodile
pyramids
God

Pharaoh
basket
swim
protect

Princess
mother
baby
adopt

• **Messy Nature**

Make a Moses basket with things from the garden and then test it in a bucket of water to check if it's watertight. Here's my attempt – I would not put a baby in that! Can you do better? I think it needs some big leaves to hold the baby dry.



At Home

MOSES, THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

Moses grew up to be an Egyptian prince even though he was actually Hebrew. He rode chariots with fast horses, he raced the other Egyptian princes but he was never happy with the way the Hebrew slaves were treated. One day, he saw a slave being treated very badly by an Egyptian and he stepped in to stop it. But he hurt the Egyptian man and so was forced to leave the palace.

He joined a group of shepherds who wandered with their sheep and lived with them. He became a great shepherd, he married and built a new life for himself.

- **Something to think about:**

Hurting people is never the right thing to do and it never solves our problems. How do you think Moses could have handled that better?

- **Activity**

If you were a member of the royal household in Egypt, how would you live? As you draw what you might look like, think about these questions and draw your answers around the outside.

- **What would you eat?**
- **What would you do every day?**
- **What decisions would you make?**

- **Prayer reflection**

Think about someone you have hurt this week and think about how you could have handled that better.

- **Sheep**

Moses became a shepherd. Make your own sheep or even a few sheep to make your own flock.

Make your own Egg Carton Moses Sheep!

Grab yourself an egg carton, foam ball, paint, black marker, cotton wool balls & black paper! You'll also need a glue stick & some scissors and you are good to go!

Cut out 1 egg carton cup, paint & decorate with cotton wool balls and then stick on your head, eyes, ears, legs & tail! You can get creative & use whatever you have on hand! Make a whole flock of sheep just like Moses used to have!



At Home

THE STORY OF MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

One day, when Moses was looking after the sheep, he saw a bush that was on fire but not burning. It was really weird so he went over to see what was going on.

As he got close, he heard a voice calling to him, 'Moses! Moses!' it said. When he reached the bush, the voice told him to take off his sandals as he was standing on holy ground. Moses knew this was God speaking to him.

God told him that he was very unhappy about how the Egyptian Pharaoh was treating the Hebrew people and he told Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to let them go in the name of God.

Moses wasn't at all sure at first, but God told him he would be with him all the time.

- **Something to think about:**

Moses had left Egypt because he had hurt an Egyptian man very badly. How might he have felt about going back? Scared? Worried?

- **Messy Science**

Messy Science with Sharon will need an adult to help – here, she retells the story of the burning bush that did not catch fire.

Watch the video here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=5544>



At Home

MOSES AND THE STORY OF THE PLAGUES

Just as Moses suspected, Pharaoh did not want to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt as they so much work. Each time Moses asked him to free them, he told him no and sent him away. But Moses was determined and he spoke to God each night asking God to help him.

Each time Pharaoh told Moses no, God sent a plague – he sent locusts to eat the crops, he sent frogs that rained out of the sky and hopped EVERYWHERE, he sent a plague of flies that were so many they covered people if they went outside. All of the yukky plagues were to annoy the Pharaoh so much he would send the Hebrews away out of Egypt.

In the end, the Pharaoh had had enough and he told Moses to get out of Egypt for good and take all the Hebrew people with them. Moses told the people to gather a few belongings very, very quickly and they left fast. They left so fast they ended up having to take bread with them that hadn't risen properly before it was cooked – this is called unleavened bread or flat bread.

- **Something to think about:**

If you had to leave home quickly without packing very much into bags, what would you definitely want to take with you?

- **Messy kitchen**

Check out Messy Kitchen with Fee where she shows us how to make scones. Watch the video here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=5544>



Sultana Scones Recipe (Makes 12)

Ingredients-

50g Butter	2 cups of Self Raising Flour
½ teaspoon Salt	200ml Milk

Method-

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.

Place flour and butter in a bowl.

Rub the butter into the flour with your fingers.

When the flour and butter looks crumbly add in the salt, milk and sultanas.

Using a rolling pin or your hands spread dough out to the thickness of about 2 cm.

Using a scone cutter or knife cut out scones and place on a tray lined with baking paper. Brush the top of the scones with milk, and cook for 10 - 12 minutes until scones have turned golden brown on the top. Best served warm with butter.



At Home

- **Prayer reflection**

Take a piece of flat bread, think about the Hebrew people who had to run out of Egypt as soon as the Pharaoh said they could go. Think about all the older people who couldn't move very fast, and all the small children who would have been scared and needed to be carried. Now eat your bread and give say thank you that you are safe here with us.



MOSES AND THE STORY OF THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA

The Hebrews ran with Moses as fast as they could to get out of Egypt. Then they came to the shores of the Red Sea. As they were wondering what to do next, they heard Egyptian soldiers in chariots coming up behind them.

The Pharaoh had decided to change his mind! He realised how much work the Hebrews did for him for no money and he realised he couldn't do without them. But the Hebrews didn't want to be slaves anymore. Moses was leading them into a new country where they would be free to worship God and follow their faith.

The Hebrews were very scared but Moses was told by God not to worry as God had already promised him God would never leave him. So Moses lifted his shepherd's stick and struck the ground with us at the shore line of the Red Sea. Immediately the water parted so that there was a dry path to cross.



The Hebrews ran across to the other side of the Red Sea. But the Egyptians were closing in on them. As soon as the last Hebrew reached the shore, Moses struck the ground again with his shepherd's stick and the water flowed back again – the Egyptians were taken by the current downstream and they had to swim to shore, but the Hebrews never saw them again.

They were safe!

- **Something to think about:**

We think of slavery as something that happened in the history but people are still enslaved today. When you buy products with the Fair Trade symbol, you know that the people who produced it or grew it are being paid properly and are being looked after by their employers. This is particularly important with chocolate as children as young as you are employed in very dangerous work in the fields. Aldi sells Fair Trade chocolate so it doesn't have to be really expensive – check your labels.

- **Craft**

Can you retell the story using lego, duplo or Minecraft?



At Home

MOSES AND THE STORY OF WANDERING WITH THE HEBREW PEOPLE THROUGH THE DESERT

The Hebrews did not reach their new country straight away. They journeyed for 40 years. That is a lot of walking.

Whilst they were journeying, they were fed by God with manna which we think might have been a type of bread. Wherever Moses hit the ground with his shepherd's stick, there was fresh water for the people to drink.

The people often argued whilst they were wandering through the desert as they got fed up. I am sure they would have asked Moses 'are we there yet?' over and over again.

There were lots of lessons that the Hebrew people needed to learn. They had to learn to live as a community that was free and lived according to certain laws that would keep everyone safe; they had to learn to trust God as they had not lived as God's people for so long when they were in Egypt.

- **Something to think about:**

Do you know anyone who is 40 or older? How old are you? 40 years is a long time to be walking and journeying and looking for your new country. Some refugees live for years and years in refugee camps waiting to be found a country willing to give them a new home.

- **Prayer reflection**

Pour yourself a glass of water and thank God that we have clean water from the tap anytime we are thirsty.

- **Activity: Playdough**

Make the manna the Hebrews collected each day using the playdough.

Make your own playdough using this easy recipe:

2 cups plain flour

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1/2 cup salt

2 tablespoons cream of tartar

1 to 1.5 cups boiling water

food colouring

Mix the boiling water and food colouring. Mix separately the other ingredients. Add these ingredients to the boiling water and keep mixing. If the end result is a bit sticky, just add a bit more flour.

This should keep for about 6 months if you keep it in an airtight container.



At Home

MOSES AND THE STORY OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

One day, whilst the Hebrew people had stopped and set up a camp, God called to Moses to climb Mount Sinai so they could speak together. God wanted to give Moses some rules so the people could live and journey together without anyone getting hurt. These rules were carved into slabs of stone and called the 10 commandments and the Hebrew people carried them with them whilst they journeyed.

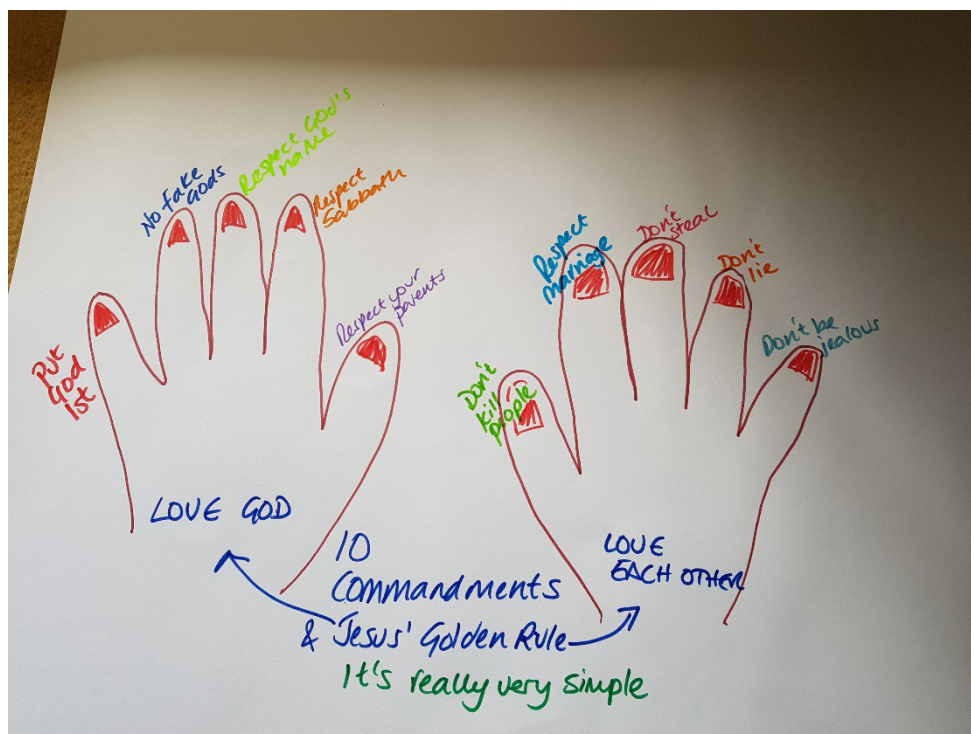
- **Something to think about:**

Jesus came after Moses and he said there are 2 commandments: love God and each other, even people you don't like very much. Do you have rules at home? What are your rules? Why do you have rules?

- **Activity: Commandments**

Make your own commandments using your handprints. Each finger represents one of the commandments. I've included Jesus' Golden commandments too – Love God and each other. You can find a list of the commandments in Exodus 20:2-17 or, for young children there's a list here

<https://ministry-to-children.com/ten-commandments-lesson-for-kids/#:~:text=Child%20appropriate%20paraphrase%20of%20the%20Ten%20Commandments%201,Do%20not%20lie%2010%20Do%20not%20be%20jealous>



At Home



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THE STORY OF MOSES AND THE PROMISED LAND

God promised Moses and the Hebrew people a home that would have enough to eat, a great climate to grow food and raise livestock, and somewhere they would be free. This became known as the 'Promised Land'.

In the Bible, it describes the Promised Land as somewhere that flowed with milk and honey. Honey was used to sweeten food as they didn't have sugar and milk was drunk to keep the people strong and healthy.

After wandering in the desert for 40 years, I reckon the Hebrew people would have been really pleased to have reached their new home!

- **Something to think about:**

By the time they reached the Promised Land, Moses was a very old man. He died just before he led the people into the new country but he did get to see it in the distance. Moses was a faithful man of God and he led the people as God asked him to do; he led them out of slavery in Egypt and into freedom in the Promised Land.

- **Messy kitchen**

In the Messy Kitchen, Fee and special guest chef Nat make honey joys!
Watch the video here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=5544>



Honey Joys

Ingredients

90g butter or margarine

1 tablespoon honey

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar

4 cup Kelloggs Corn Flakes

Method

Preheat oven to 150 degrees C.

Line 24 hole patty pan with paper cases.

Melt butter, sugar and honey together in a saucepan until frothy.

Add corn flakes and mix well.

Working quickly spoon into paper patty cases.

Bake in a slow oven 150 degrees C for 10 minutes.

Cool.



At Home

of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then God told him, “I have seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress, and am aware of their suffering. So I am going to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people out of Egypt.”

“Me?!” said Moses. “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

God answered, “I will be with you.”

But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

God replied to Moses, “I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.

I wonder how Moses felt when he saw that bush.

I wonder how Moses felt when he heard what God wanted him to do.

I wonder how Moses felt when he re-entered Egypt.

Prayer

God calls us in different ways to take on different roles but one role we all share is to care for one another and for the world. Can you remember the commandments that Jesus gave us?

What do you do to show you care?

Talk about this with the others around you.

Remember that God loved us first and so we go out and love others. We respond to God’s love

by loving other people rather than keeping it all to ourselves.

Is there a commitment you could make today in order to care more for others?

God of grace,

We give thanks for all the love you show to each and every one of us, and to the whole of creation.

Today, we commit that we will reflect that love to others by

We know it will not be easy to keep our promise,

but we commit to do our best at all times knowing that you loved us first.

Amen

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Blessing

Go out into the world to join God in the work of love, of peace, of justice.

Take in the breath of life.

Take off your shoes.

Know that you are ever in the presence of the Holy and Living God.

Go in peace.

Amen.

(Joanna Harrader)



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