

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

GOD'S COVENANT WITH MOSES

TOPIC: BABY MOSES SAVED BY GOD FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE. MOSES FORESHADOWS JESUS' ESCAPE INTO EGYPT

REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

NO. 62

Sacred Scripture

**EX 2:1-10, 3:1-10;
MT 2:13-15, 5:17-18**

CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos.	nos.	nos.	nos.
72, 530, 577-82	1221-25	2258-62	2574-77, 2593

GOAL(S):

- Families will reflect on how the story of baby Moses is a foreshadowing of Jesus' escape into Egypt.
- Families will discuss God's special purpose for their lives.

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- [Moses Maze](#)
- [Miriam and Moses Craft](#)

Idea to consider: Parishes may decide to have a family movie gathering to watch the movie *Prince of Egypt!*

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
 We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.
 Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Family Truth or Challenge

Print the questions and challenges listed below, cut them into strips, and place the strips in a paper bag. Then start playing by letting each family member choose one of the strips and follow the directions on the paper that he/she has chosen. Keep playing until everyone has had a chance. Keep the atmosphere, light, fun, and kind.

Sample Truth Questions

- What is the silliest thing you have ever done?
- What is the worst tasting thing you've ever eaten?
- What thing do you do best?

Sample Challenges

- Balance a book on your head and walk around the room
- Bark like a dog
- Cluck like a chicken
- Tell a good joke.
- Show us your best dance move.

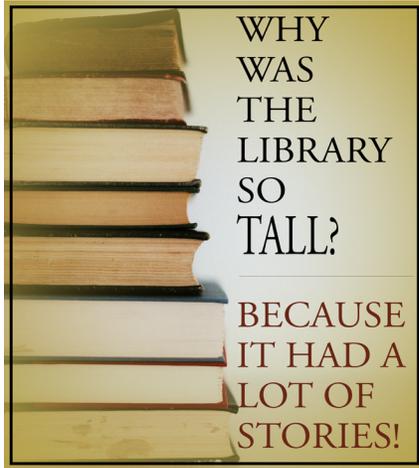
Adapted from Truth or Dare by Claudia Mitchell



TEACH

1. Hook/Question

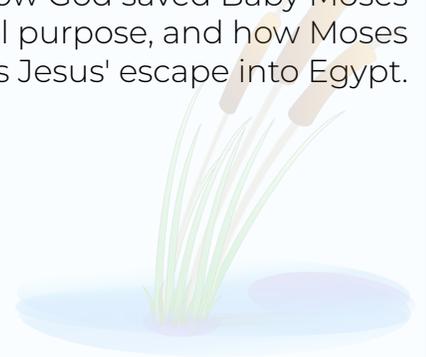
Share the pun!



2. Introduce Topic

God's Covenant with Moses (Setting the Stage)

Today we will reflect on God's covenant with Moses, how God saved Baby Moses for a special purpose, and how Moses foreshadows Jesus' escape into Egypt.



CONTENT

Ask: Does anyone remember why we say the Bible is a library?

Answer: Because it is made up of many books.

Invite: Please open your bibles to the beginning of the Book of Genesis.

Explain: We have been reading bible stories from the first book of the Bible called "Genesis", which means the origin or beginning. That makes sense because the Book of Genesis tell us our origin, how we began as being created in the image and likeness of God. Our last story about God's promises to Abraham is in the Book of Genesis. God kept his promise to Abraham and to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (see Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and his brothers), and the stories of how God made covenants with them are also in Genesis.

Invite: Please turn to the beginning of the book of Exodus.

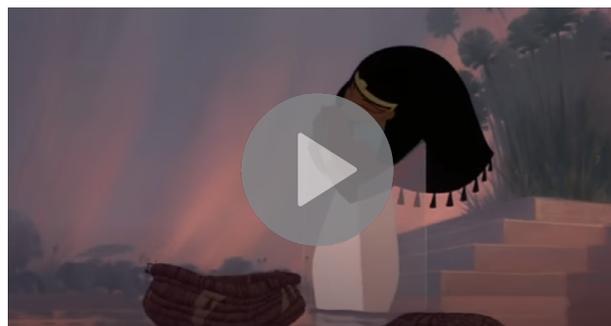
Explain: Today we are going to start reading the second book of the Bible called Exodus. "Exodus" means "a mass or large departure of people," and as this book begins we learn that, overtime, the number of Abraham's descendants who were living in Egypt had grown so much that the Pharaoh, the Egyptian king, became concerned that eventually the children of Abraham, who were now called Israelites, would rise up and overthrow the Egyptians. So Pharaoh made slaves of all the Israelites.

Tip: Consider having someone with a theatrical voice read the bible verses (red) and a different person read the explanations (black)

For 400 years, the Egyptians forced the Israelites into hard labor, making bricks and building cities, but although they endured great hardships their families still grew! During this period another king of Egypt became afraid and declared that, in order to stop the Israelites from increasing in number and their sons from someday rising up against the Egyptians, every Israelite baby boy must be thrown into the Nile River and drowned.

Read: [Exodus 2:1-10](#)

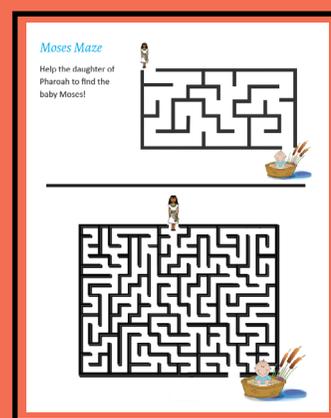
Watch: *Prince of Egypt*, Moses in the Basket (4 min)



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Choose one or both of the activities listed for families to complete together.

- [Moses Maze](#)
- [Miriam and Moses Craft](#)



Explain: Many times in the Old Testament, God foreshadows or gives us clues about what will happen when Jesus comes in the New Testament. This is one of those stories.

Last month we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany by marking the front doors of our homes, and we talked about the Magi who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. At that time, King Herod was the King of Israel. When he heard the news that a new king had been born, he got very angry and jealous. Herod was afraid that when the infant king grew up, he would overthrow Herod and take his place as King of the Jews. So, Herod ordered that all the baby boys in Bethlehem who were two years old or younger be killed. But the angel of the Lord was sent to Joseph to save the baby Jesus.

Read: [Matthew 2:13-15](#)



FAMILY CONVERSATION

When we read the Bible we have to put on our detective hats and look for the clues God has left there.

What are some of the many ways that these stories of Moses and Jesus are similar?

(Allow families time to discuss and list the ways)



Invite families to share their answers.

Explain: God saved Moses when he was a baby because Moses had a special purpose in freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. We will learn more about that when we gather together next time. The story of Moses being saved as a baby is a clue that God gave us that points to His Son, Jesus. Jesus too was saved from death as an infant for a special purpose, which was to free all God's children from their sins. Just as Moses had a rescue mission, so did Jesus.

Each one of us is unique and has a special purpose given to us by God. After thinking about Moses and Jesus, our own purpose might not seem to be very great, but in God's eyes and for the people He has put into our lives, fulfilling our purpose is vitally important. Take a few moments in silence to think about your purpose and then share your thoughts with your family.

(Give families time to share privately)

MISSION

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

Second, Explain Activity

i. Watch one or both of the videos on Ash Wednesday and Lent together

ii. Read the USCCB explanations about the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, as well as the Lenten Family resource (images and links provided in week 2's handout).

iii. Next, pray and plan. First read Exodus 3:1-10 together as a family. Entrust your preparations for Lent to the Lord, praying that you may be faithful to what the Lord asks, like Moses. Consider praying together an Our Father before completing the next steps. Then, decide together which works your family will do to practice the Lenten pillars of praying, fasting, and almsgiving and make a Family Lenten Plan.

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2

Explain Activity (Continued)

- iv. As part of your Family Lenten Plan, schedule a time to go to confession together. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a great opportunity to rely on the Lord's mercy and grace and be renewed by the Lord's forgiveness. (Provide information about how the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will be made available at your parish during Lent.)
- v. Place a cross, crucifix or another sacramental on your family's home altar to remind you of the upcoming Lenten Season. Then pray together as a family. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (the Great Commandment) is suggested for a closing prayer of thanksgiving.
- vi. Be prepared to share about your Family Lenten Plan and sacramental, at the next gathering.

Last, Model for Families

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- Use the Lenten Family resources and Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to model how to practice the Lenten Pillars of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Remind families not to feel as if they have to do all of the works, because that's not practical. Some works they may already do, like praying for others. That's great! Encourage them to keep doing those works and pick one or two more that will fit naturally into their family life to do for Lent.
- Model for the families by sharing your own Family Lenten Plan that corresponds to the three Lenten Pillars of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Show what your family will do to practice each of these.
- Finally, show the families the crucifix that you have placed on your own home altar and tell them a little about where it came from or why it is special to you and your family. Encourage the families to begin practicing the Lenten pillars by praying together for others and for one another.

REVIEW AND PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for gathering us together today! Bless us and give us the wisdom to make the best choices for our family. Give us grace to trust in You even when we don't see immediate answers. Give us hope to carry on in spite of the circumstances around us. We thank You for hearing and answering our prayer. Glory be to the Father,

(adapted from www.happierhuman.com)

SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* (1965), no. 14:

In carefully planning and preparing the salvation of the whole human race the God of infinite love, by a special dispensation, chose for Himself a people to whom He would entrust His promises. First He entered into a covenant with Abraham (see Gen. 15:18) and, through Moses, with the people of Israel (see Ex. 24:8). To this people which He had acquired for Himself, He so manifested Himself through words and deeds as the one true and living God that Israel came to know by experience the ways of God with men.

***Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 62 & 2575:**

After the patriarchs, God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt. He established with them the covenant of Mount Sinai and, through Moses, gave them his law so that they would recognize him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Savior. [God] calls Moses to be his messenger, an associate in his compassion, his work of salvation.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience (June 1, 2011):

As we read the Old Testament we note one figure who stands out from among the others: Moses, precisely, as a man of prayer. Moses, the great prophet and leader at the time of the Exodus, carried out his role as mediator between God and Israel by making himself a messenger to the people of God's words and divine commands, by leading it towards the freedom of the Promised Land and by teaching the Israelites to live obeying God and trusting in him during their long sojourn in the desert. However, I would say also, and above all, by praying.