

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: October 19, 2014

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: God Calls Moses in the Burning Bush

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 2:11-25; 3:1-22; 4:1-20, 27-31; Acts 7:22-34

AIM: To help the children see and believe that the Lord will help us and strengthen us to do all things that He asks us to do.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Philippians 4:13 (I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me); Isaiah 41:10 (Do not be afraid, for I am with you; Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; surely I will help you; Surely I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.); Ephesians 6:10 (Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: #2510 (Bible Story Songs - Moses 1 CD - Four Hundred Years); #3403 (Bible Story Songs - Moses 1 CD - I AM that I AM); #6708 (Bible Story Songs - Moses 1 CD -The Burning Bush); #2201 (Bible Story Songs - Moses 1 CD - Educated in Egyptian Ways); #4607 (Moses and God); #25 (I believe God); #52 (God is always near me); #1614 (Cooperation); #6703 (Bible Story Songs - Moses 1 CD - The Ballad of Moses in Midian).

BACKGROUND: Last week we saw that God's people were slaves under hard bondage in the land of Egypt. We also saw how the evil Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, plotted to destroy God's people by ordering any male baby born to the Hebrews be killed. Moses was hidden by his mother and then put in a basket and placed among the reeds on the bank of the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter found the basket with the baby inside and had compassion on him. She took him for her own child. Moses was raised by his own Hebrew mother, because she had been hired by Pharaoh's daughter to nurse the child. His mother had the opportunity to teach him about the true God, the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. She also could teach him that he was a Hebrew, not an Egyptian, and that he should love the Hebrews. They were God's people and they were also his people. When the child was old enough, his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter. She called his name Moses because she drew him out of the water.

CONTENT: When Moses was close to forty years of age, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel (Acts 7:23). When he went out to them to look on their burdens, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. He looked to see that no one was there and then he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. On the next day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting together. When he tried to stop the one who was in the wrong, the man said to him, "Who made you a ruler or judge over us? Are you thinking to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" When Pharaoh heard about the matter, he sought to kill Moses. But he ran away from Pharaoh to dwell in the land of Midian. There he met Jethro, a priest of that land. Eventually, Moses married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, and tended sheep for his father-in-law. He lived forty years in the land of Midian shepherding his father-in-law's flock.

Pharaoh died. And the children of Israel groaned because of their bondage. God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And He looked upon the children of Israel, and took notice of them.

One day, Moses led Jethro's flock to the back of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. The Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. Moses looked at the thornbush—though the bush burned with fire, it was not consumed! The Lord called to him out of the midst of the thornbush, "Moses, Moses." Moses said, "Here I am." Jehovah said, "Do not come near here. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground...I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Jehovah told him that He would send Moses to Pharaoh to bring His people out of Egypt. Moses said to

God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” Jehovah said, “Surely I will be with you...” Moses said, “If I come to the children of Israel and say to them, the God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, what is His name, what shall I say to them?” God said, “I AM WHO I AM....Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.”

But Moses said to Jehovah, “What if they do not believe me or listen to my voice, but say, Jehovah has not appeared to you?” So Jehovah told Moses to throw his staff on the ground. When he threw it on the ground, it became a serpent and Moses recoiled from it. Jehovah told him to take it by its tail. When he did so, it became a staff in his hand. This was a sign for the people to believe that Jehovah had appeared to Moses. But Moses said, “Please, Lord, I am not a man of words ...I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” Jehovah said to him, “Who gave man a mouth?...Go therefore, I will be with your mouth, and I will teach you what you shall speak.” But Moses said, “Please, Lord, send word by sending someone else.” He told Moses that his brother Aaron the Levite could certainly speak. His brother Aaron was to be his mouth.

So Moses said goodbye to his father-in-law and left for Egypt. In Egypt, Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron told them all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and he did signs in the sight of the people. The people believed; and when they heard that Jehovah had visited them and had seen their affliction, they bowed and worshipped.

APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

The Lord is able to prepare us, strengthen us and help us in all that we are required to do. For example:

- Moses learned about God as a child from his mother. This was very important later in his life to be able to do what God wanted Him to do.
- Moses learned the top math and science being raised as a king in Pharaoh’s palace. When God asked him to go to Egypt it was not a foreign place. He was very familiar with Pharaoh’s palace.
- Moses was able to work as a shepherd even after being raised as a prince. God used Moses’ situation to teach him to be humble and to trust in God.
- When the Lord wanted to use Moses to speak and Moses found that difficult, he asked the Lord for help. The Lord provided Aaron for Moses. The Lord wants us to do the best we can at any task, large or small, that we are required to do (homework, projects, memorizing verses, making our beds, etc.) and He even provides helpers for us – parents, teachers, friends.

The Lord may have given us natural abilities along with opportunities to be educated and trained in many areas. Some of us may be able to speak well, get very good grades, or do very well in music or sports, etc. We should not become proud or self-confident in our abilities. We should not put our trust in our abilities or our acquired skills. On one hand, we should do our best to be trained, even excel, in many areas. These skills and experiences are arranged by the Lord so that we can be useful to Him later, but our trust and confidence should always be in the Lord.