

GOD PROTECTS MOSES

Bible Basis: Exodus 1–16

Bible Verse: “Moses answered the people. He said, ‘Don’t be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the Lord will save you today.’” —Exodus 14:13, NIV

Bible Point: God watched over Moses and his people. God watches over me, too.

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 4: “God Protects Moses”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Have children sit on the floor.

Say, “**God takes care of you through your parents. I am going to act out a way that your parents take care of you.**” Pantomime how you would make a sandwich and eat it. Let children guess that their parents make food for them to eat. Ask for volunteers to act out other ways that their parents take care of them. If no one volunteers, you can act out bedtime, putting on clothing, holding the hands of parents to cross a street, reading the Bible, etc., and let your class guess each action. Then ask the following questions:

- **Whom does God use to watch over you?**
- **What is one way God takes care of you?**
- **What is one way your parents take care of you?**

Say, “**God watches over all his children. In Bible times, he watched over a man named Moses. Let’s find out how God took care of Moses.**”

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 4, “God Protects Moses,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

When you see (*) in the story, point up and have the children shout, “God watched over Moses!” When you see (!) in the story, wave your hand over the children and have them whisper, “God watched over his people.” Practice these before you begin the story.

Pharaoh thought he was in charge. He did not let God’s people keep their baby boys. Moses was a baby boy. His mother hid him from Pharaoh at home for 1, 2, 3 months. (*) Then his mother put Moses in a basket, and he floated on the Nile River. (*) Moses’ sister watched over

him. (*) Pharaoh's daughter saw baby Moses in the Nile River. She rescued him. (*) Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own son. (*)

After Moses grew up, he started to help God's people. Moses got into trouble with Pharaoh for helping God's people. Moses ran away. (*) Moses ran to a desert and lived there for 10, 20, 30, 40 years. (*) After 40 years, God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. He told Moses to take his people away from Egypt and away from Pharaoh. (!) Pharaoh was in charge of Egypt. Moses told him that God was in charge.

Pharaoh refused to do what God said. So God made many bad things happen in Egypt. Bugs ate all the crops, animals got sick, the sky was dark during the day, and finally, people died. Now Pharaoh knew God was in charge. He let God's people leave. Moses and God's people were safe. (!) God used Moses to watch over his people. (!)

After the Bible story, ask these questions:

- **What did Pharaoh do when Moses was a baby?** (*Pharaoh didn't want God's people to keep their babies.*)
- **What did Moses' mother do to protect her baby?** (*put him in a basket on the river*)
- **Who found him?** (*a princess*)
- **What did God do to watch over Moses?** (*protected him in the river; let him be raised by a princess*)
- **Moses got into trouble when he grew up. After that, how did God speak to Moses?** (*in a burning bush*)
- **What did God want Moses to do?** (*take God's people out of Egypt*)
- **Did Pharaoh agree?** (*no*) **So what did God do?** (*made bad things happen in Egypt*)
- **Then did Pharaoh let the people go?** (*yes*)
- **How did God watch over his people?** (*He sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt.*)

Say, "God watched over Moses and his people. God watches over me, too."

Pray with the children, thanking God that he watches over you.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: GOD TOOK CARE OF MOSES

Stuff you need: a baby doll wrapped up in a blanket

Have the group stand in a circle, with the teacher holding the baby doll. If you have more than 10 or so children, make two circles and use two baby dolls.

Say, **“We are going to pretend this baby doll is baby Moses.”**

Pass the baby doll, gently and carefully, around the circle. When a child gets the baby doll, he or she says, **“God watched over baby Moses, and God watches over me,”** then passes the baby doll to the next child.

OPTION 2: THE BURNING BUSH

Stuff you need: white card stock; sheets of orange, red, and yellow tissue paper ripped into pieces a few inches long; glue; wet wipes

Say, **“God watched over Moses by talking to him through a burning bush. We are going to make our own burning bush.”**

Use the glue to make an oval bush on the white card stock. (Use plenty of glue.) Let the children choose pieces of tissue paper to stick onto the glue, creating a burning bush. Use the wet wipes to wipe excess glue off hands.

OPTION 3: PLAGUE OF FROGS RELAY

Stuff you need: 1 pillow for each group of 4–5 children

Say, **“One of the bad things God sent to Egypt was a plague of frogs. There were so many frogs they were in people’s houses—in their food and their beds! Can you imagine rolling over and seeing a frog on your pillow? Yikes! We are going to leapfrog down to the pillows, pretending we are those frogs.”** Demonstrate how to do a leapfrog jump, or recruit an older child to demonstrate.

Set up a relay of 4–5 children per group. Have the children take turns doing a leapfrog jump down to the pillow and back, then tap the next person in line. Do not yell, “Go,” or declare a winner—just let the children enjoy pretending to be frogs. Make sure each child gets a turn.

OPTION 4: MOSES TO THE RESCUE

Stuff you need: Moses to the Rescue Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. Review how Moses helped rescue the Israelites from Pharaoh. Talk about the way he helped God. Have children color the picture of Moses leading the people. Older children might enjoy tracing the words “Moses was God’s helper.”

OPTION 5: RIVER TURNS TO BLOOD PLAGUE

Stuff you need: clear pitcher filled with clear water; clear pitcher, empty, except for dry red Kool-Aid powder in the bottom. Cover this object lesson with a sheet so the children don’t see it beforehand.

Say, **“Earlier we talked about the 10 plagues God sent to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let God’s people go. In one plague, Moses went to the Nile River and said to Pharaoh, ‘If you don’t let God’s people go, God’s power will turn the water in this river into blood.’ But Pharaoh’s**

heart was hard, and he wouldn't let the people go. So, right in front of Pharaoh and his officials, Moses raised up his staff and changed the water into blood."

At this point, pour the clear water into the empty pitcher with the Kool-Aid powder in the bottom of it. It will look like the water is turning into blood.

Say, "The water turned into blood, so the fish died, and the people couldn't drink the water. But still Pharaoh wouldn't let God's people go! It took a few more plagues before Pharaoh finally let God's people go. Throughout all the plagues, God watched over his people."

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 4*.

Say, "The front of this card will remind you that God watched over Moses. Show your parents the back and tell them that God watches over you, too." Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.