

# Moses

## The Mediator

### Who was this person?

- Moses was born as a Hebrew slave, but was educated as an Egyptian prince. He was a humble man, never feeling he was good enough to do the tasks God asked him to carry out.
- Moses was known as the greatest Jewish leader. His life story is set out in the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Moses is part of many well-known stories. In fact, the first five books of the Bible were written by him. Maybe you have heard about...
- A baby who was placed in a basket by his mother and put into the Nile River to float so that he would be found and kept safe and not killed (Exodus 2). That was Moses!
- How when Moses was grown that God sent him to Pharaoh, the Egyptian king, to tell him to let the Israelites go. When Pharaoh refused to listen and would not set them free, God sent ten plagues to strike Egypt (Exodus 7-12).
- The time when God parted the Red Sea so Moses could lead "The Exodus", bringing the Israelite people to walk through the Red Sea on dry ground (Exodus 13).
- How God guided Moses and the Israelites as they travelled through the desert with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night (Exodus 14).
- God taking Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai so He could give him Ten Commandments to write down on stone tablets as rules for the people to follow (Exodus 20:1-17).
- Moses was the only person who ever spoke with God face to face (Exodus 33:11 and Numbers 12:8).
- God demonstrated His power and guided His people in so many ways when Moses was obedient to follow what he had been told, and even when he struggled to obey God, thinking that people like Pharaoh would not listen to him. But, even when Moses disobeyed God (Numbers 20:12) God did not reject him. God disciplined him, but He still called Moses his "friend". Sadly, Moses did disqualify himself from entering the Promised Land. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, Moses died at 120 years of age, within sight of the Promised Land at a place called on Mount Nebo (Deuteronomy 34).

Making The Bible Come Alive





- The Bible tells us in Deuteronomy 34:10-12 that “Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt...” and “No one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.”

### What is this person known for?

- Moses was known to be obedient and faithful to what God asked of him although he never felt capable, and would sometimes get frustrated or angry and become fearful.
- He was honest before God and was willing to sacrifice the things he desired for his people.
- At 40 years of age Moses fled Egypt and stayed in Midian for another 40 years. It was in Midian that God appeared to Moses (described in Exodus 3) in a burning bush, and He tells Moses that he will be the one who will lead the Israelites out of Egypt and back to the land promised to their forefather Abraham. It is here that Moses asks God to tell him His name, and God replies saying, “I Am” (Exodus 3:14).
- Moses was known as a mediator – someone who took messages from God and gave it to the people. He was the messenger of the laws of the Old Testament. Jesus is known as the One who fulfilled the law in the New Testament.
- Moses was known to have had a unique relationship with God. Moses was the only person allowed to see the true appearance of the Lord.

### WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us that God brings freedom.** Over a thousand years after Abraham, the Jews were living in Egypt as slaves. Moses, their leader led them out and to the Holy Land that God had promised them. Even now, all these years later, Jewish people celebrate the festival of Passover to remember how God brought them out and freed them.
- **To remind us that God is the Great I Am.** When God refers to Himself as “I Am”, He is describing Himself in the present tense, meaning He has no beginning and no end. He was and He will be — He always is. Moses trusted Him, and still today we can trust Him to lead us. We should follow what He tells us to do.

• **To show us how God can use someone when they are obedient.** There were times when Moses had difficulty following God's guidance, and when he disobeyed. We can have our challenging times too, when God is speaking to us or our parents or spiritual leaders are trying to guide us and show us what is right and best, but we don't want to listen or think we may know better. We must remember Moses' life and learn from him.

• **To remind us how God can equip us to be a good leader.** Moses was a man who didn't feel that he was the right person to lead the children of Israel. God equipped Moses to say what needed to be said and to help him do what was required of him. Through the life of Moses we can learn many lessons on how to be a good and godly leader and how to be a "friend of God".

### LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

**Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.**

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

### MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Take the children to the New Testament book of Hebrews chapter 11 and read verses 23-28 together. In this well-known "Hall of Faith" chapter Moses is referenced as follows (New International Version):

*23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.*

