



# Leader Guide

Moses

## Moses

### Story of God- Leader Info

#### **Big Idea:**

God is our Protector and Provider and always keeps His promises!

#### **Scripture:**

Exodus 1-4

#### **Memory Verse:**

I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

Exodus 3:6

Kids' City is changing up the lessons a little bit! We are starting on a journey together to understand the Story of God, and grow closer to Him and know Him better along the way! The lessons each week will now be chronological stories from the Bible told to the kids orally in a Story-formed way.

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions —our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

#### **Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!**

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?” Jesus replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.”  
*Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)*

#### **Goals of Telling the Story**

**-To understand, experience, and intersect with God’s story.**

-To become a ‘story-formed’ kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

-To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

-To see and experience God’s “Redemptive Arc” throughout history as found in the Bible—seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

-To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

-To see the intersection of ours’ and the kids’ stories with God’s Story.

-To understand our identity differently in light of God’s story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

-To “live in the gospel”, seeing the world differently, seeking to further God’s Kingdom - to live missionally.

-To become excited about the biblical narratives, reading and learning more about them in the Bible.

-To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God’s story.

## Introduction in Small Groups

### Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. Have you ever had someone promise you something and then completely forget about the promise? How did that make you feel?
4. Have you ever thought something was impossible to fix?

### Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

## Large Group

### Game

Have the kids play a fun game of Rock, Paper, Scissors- but have them make up the animals or people to go in the game.

### Prayer, Offering, and Communion

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

### Review the Story from Last Week

**Review the last stories a bit, focusing more on the most recent story, Joseph.**

What patterns do you notice about God in these stories?

How did God show up in the Abraham and Isaac story?

What did God tell Jacob?

How has God continued to keep his promises in the story of Joseph?

Vocabulary to discuss (esp. for young children) before, in between tellings, or after the story: famine, slavery, clumsy.

## Tell the Story (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

The family of Israel had moved to Egypt and was enjoying the blessings that God had given to Joseph. Years passed, and Israel's family multiplied so quickly that they began to fill Egypt! Soon, a new king ruled Egypt who didn't remember how Joseph had saved them from the great famine. This king, called Pharaoh, told his people, "The Israelites are becoming a threat to us. There are too many of them! If we don't stop them now, they could join our enemies and fight against us."

So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves and treated them horribly. Pharaoh even gave an order to have every newborn son of the Israelites killed by drowning them in the Nile River.

One Hebrew family put their baby son in a basket and floated him down the Nile in hopes of saving his life. Pharaoh's daughter discovered this baby crying in the basket and felt sorry for him. Moses' sister, who followed the basket from a distance, offered to help Pharaoh's daughter find a mother to nurse the baby.

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, but she didn't know that she was hiring Moses' own mother to take care of him! The princess took the baby home to raise him in the king's palace and named him Moses (which means "to draw out") because she drew him out of the water.

Many years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them being forced to work as slaves. He witnessed an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrews. Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching, then killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

When Pharaoh heard about this he tried to have Moses killed, but Moses escaped to the wilderness and started a new life as a shepherd.

Several years later a new Pharaoh came into power and continued to punish the Israelites in slavery. The people of Israel cried out to God for help and deliverance. God heard their cries and felt deep concern for them. He did not forget the covenant promise he made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

One day while Moses was tending sheep he noticed a bush that was on fire, but it wasn't burning up. He said to himself, "That's amazing! I've got to go over and see this."

God called out to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

"Yes, here I am!" Moses answered.

"Don't come any closer," God told him, "Take off your sandals because you are standing on 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 in his hands because he was afraid to look at God.

Then God told him, "I have heard my people's cries for deliverance and I have come down to rescue them. I have chosen you to meet with Pharaoh and lead my people out of Egypt."

But Moses begged God to send someone else saying, “Who am I? I’m not a good speaker... I’m clumsy with my words.”

But God said, “Who created mouths? Who gives people the ability to speak, hear, and see? I will help you speak clearly, and I will tell you what to say. But be prepared—Pharaoh is stubborn and will not listen.” God also told Moses he could bring his brother Aaron with him to help him speak to Pharaoh.

Then Moses asked, “Who should I tell them has sent me?”

God replied, “I AM WHO I AM. Tell them that I AM has sent you—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name for every generation.”

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the God of Israel says: ‘Let my people go!’”

You won’t believe what happened next...

## Small Groups

### Retell the Story

This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping your kids remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: So, where did the story begin? Where did Moses grow up? What did he do when he saw someone of his own people being treated badly? Where did God talk to Moses for the first time?

### Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialogue, not a quiz**. The questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story, and the “answers” are just there to help you guide kids toward some key ideas.

**1. How did the Israelites get into Egypt? How were they treated when they first arrived?**

**How did that change?**

**2. Why did Moses remove his sandals when he talked to God?**

**3. Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?**

**4. What did God call himself in the story? What do you think this means?**

I will always be—before you and after you.

God cannot be contained in a name—too amazing for words.

**5. What do we learn about Moses from this story?**

Moses was a sinner and a murderer, but God still chose to use him.

He felt weak but God used him anyway.

He obeyed God and went with his brother Aaron to talk to Pharaoh.

**6. How does Moses get along with God? How do the people of Israel get along with God?**

**7. What does this story teach us about God?**

He is powerful.

He keeps his promises.

He cares for people.

He is able to deliver and protect all who cry out to him.

He wants to use people to represent him.

He allows suffering.

His ways are sometimes hard for us to understand at first.

He gives us everything we need to do his work, even if we don't think we are "good enough" or "ready" sometimes.

## Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

8. **What questions do you have about the story?**
9. **What will you remember most about this story?**
10. **How does this story make a difference in your life?**
11. **Has God ever used you when you were afraid or unsure of yourself? How? What did you learn?**
12. **How has God taken care of your family in the past?**

## Activity

Have the children work on the Moses color sheet and word search when the lesson is over. In small groups you could also read through the story in the Jesus Storybook Bible.

## Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud.