

LESSON # 22

Exodus 2

1.

Moses had been wandering for a long time in the hot, dry, desert. He had been raised by Pharaoh's daughter to be a leader in Egypt, but instead Moses had chosen to be with his own people, the Jewish people called the children of Israel. They were slaves and one day when trying to help them, Moses had killed an Egyptian. He had to flee from Egypt and now Moses was wandering around, with nowhere to go and he was tired, hot and thirsty.

As Moses walked around some rocks, he spied something green in the distance. Could that be green trees, Moses wondered? He hurried toward the trees and when he reached the area, he saw a well. Moses quickly drew some water from the well and drank until his thirst was quenched. Then he sat down in the shade to rest for awhile. As he was sitting there he saw a large flock of sheep being driven to the well. Instead of a shepherd boy driving the sheep, Moses saw that seven girls of different ages were driving the sheep to the water. The girls happily chattered and giggled as they filled long, wooden, troughs with water for their sheep. But, just as they began to water the sheep some rude men came up with their sheep and began yelling and driving away the girl's sheep. Moses quickly stood up and yelled at the men. The men were cowards; it was easy enough to frighten off the girls, but Moses looked big and strong and they didn't want to fight him! The men quickly ran off with their sheep and Moses helped the girls gather their scattered sheep and watered their flocks for them. The girls shyly thanked Moses, then took their flocks and left for their home.

When the girls got home they told their father Jethro, about the young man who had driven away the mean shepherds and helped them water their sheep. "Where is he?" Jethro asked. "Why did you leave him there, go see if he is still there and bring him home to eat with us." One of the girls quickly ran off to find Moses and invite him to their home.



Jethro was a man who believed in God and taught the people around his home about God. That night Moses had a warm meal, a soft bed and friendly people to laugh and talk with. How different this was from the last few days, when Moses wandered through the desert, tired and alone. Jethro asked Moses to stay with him and help take care of his sheep. Moses was glad to have a place to stay and as time went on, Moses asked Jethro if he could marry Jethro's beautiful daughter, Zipporah. Jethro was glad to have Moses join his family and he planned a big feast for Moses and Zipporah's wedding.

Moses loved Zipporah very much and in time they had two little boys named Gershom and Eliezer. Moses took Jethro's sheep to many areas in the desert and he soon learned where the best grasses were and where the watering holes and wells were located. All this would be very useful for Moses to know, for one day he would be leading a large number of people and animals through this very same desert. When Moses first thought of helping the Jewish slaves in Egypt, he was proud and angry and thought the way to get things done was by force like the Egyptian rulers did. This was not God's way though. By caring for the sheep, Moses learned to be patient and wait for the little lambs to catch up. He learned to be kind and helpful when the mother sheep gave birth to their babies. He learned to take the time and trouble to climb over rocks or down cliffs when a sheep or lamb got in trouble and needed to be rescued. These were the things God wanted Moses to learn, then he would be the kind of leader God would choose when it was time to help the children of Israel.

Many great men of the Bible started out as shepherds. Can you think of the names of some Bible people who were shepherds? Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David were a few who started out as shepherds. Do you know who was called "The Good Shepherd?" This was a name that was given to Jesus. Jesus said he was a good shepherd, and took care of his people just as a good shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Do you know the [23rd Psalm](#) that starts, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want?" David wrote this pretty song to tell us how God gives us our food and water, gives us rest and blesses us in many ways, just as a shepherd looks out for his sheep. Do you have a Bible or do your parents have a Bible you can use? Instead of a memory verse to learn this time, you can slowly read the 23rd Psalm and think about each verse. Think about how God is like a shepherd and how he takes care of us if we follow him like a sheep follows their shepherd. When you have read this Psalm put a check mark in the gold box.

While Moses was learning how to care for the sheep, the children of Israel were having a very hard time in Egypt. The cruel Pharaoh wanted more and more beautiful statues of himself and tall temples built for his honor and the honor of all the Egyptian idols. He made the Israelites slaves and they had to make bricks, gather straw, farm Pharaoh's land, serve him food and scrub and clean and haul heavy loads and massive stones. If they grew tired or weak they were beaten or killed. They began to cry to God for help and God heard them.



One day as Moses was out watching over Jethro's sheep, he saw something very strange. On the side of a nearby mountain, something was burning. Moses walked a little closer and saw that it was a bush burning. Moses wondered how that happened, as there had been no lightning or any reason for it to catch fire. In that hot, dry, country when bushes or weeds catch on fire, they quickly burn up, but this bush just kept on burning. This was very strange so Moses walked closer. As Moses came up to the bush he heard a voice calling, "Moses, Moses." He quickly looked around but saw no one, "Here I am," Moses said. Then he realized the voice was coming from the burning bush!

That would be pretty scary, wouldn't it? How would you like to have a bush or tree talking to you? This really happened, for it was an angel of God speaking and God can make miracles happen. The angel said, "Take off your shoes for the place where you stand is holy ground." Holy means "special or set apart," so God was telling Moses that he should not trample or walk on God's "set apart" area. Moses quickly took off his sandals and bowed down while the angel of God gave him a message from God.



"I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I have seen the troubles of my people in the land of Egypt. Their cries have come to me and I am now ready to save the children of Israel from their sorrows. I will deliver them from the Egyptians and bring them into their promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

This was God's way of describing the land called Canaan in those days and called Israel today. It was a rich and fertile land, full of milk cows and honey bees humming among the fruit trees. After being slaves of the cruel Egyptians for so many years, God was promising that the Israelites would be able to farm and live peacefully in their very own land that was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Then God gave Moses a startling message, "I am going to send YOU to Pharaoh, so you can save my people and bring them out of Egypt." It had been a long time since Moses had lived in Pharaoh's palace in Egypt. He didn't feel that he was able to return, or to speak in front of the Egyptian people or the Pharaoh. Moses said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt, I can't speak well, you need to find someone else to do this."

Do you sometimes wish someone else could do a job that you've been told to do? Have you ever said, "Let someone else do that, let my brother or my sister or Joe or Sara do this?" I think we all have times when we try to get out of doing a hard job, don't we? Moses felt like this, but God told Moses, "Don't be afraid, I will be with you and after you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve me right here on this very mountain."

Then Moses said, "But the people don't know you, they have been in Egypt for many years and have been around all the Egyptian idols who have special names. How can I go to them and say a god has sent me ... they will want to know a special name for you." God said, "tell them my name is 'YAHWEH.' "

That's a funny sounding name for God, isn't it? The name "Yahweh" has a special meaning in Hebrew. It means "I will be" and the name is in a future tense and includes a meaning of many men and women. The name Yahweh was showing Moses and the Israelites that God would be seen through a future multitude of people; things about God's name and plans would be known because of these people.

When do you think a bunch of people will show others about God and his plans?

Well ... when God delivers the Israelites from Egypt, (which will be in some of our next lessons) everyone in Egypt and the nations around Egypt knew there was a powerful God who saved the Jews. That's one way. When Jesus came he and his disciples showed God's plan and God's word to multitudes of people and now we have Jesus's words in the Bible in our time. That's another way God's name is known. The Bible tells us that in the future Jesus will return to earth and make all the nations on earth know about God and everything God plans for a kingdom on earth, that will last forever. That's a lot of things all wrapped up in one name, isn't it?

Moses still didn't want to go back to Egypt. He said, "but the Egyptians won't believe me, they will say I'm just making this up and God never appeared to me." Then God said, "What is that in your hand, Moses?" Moses looked down at the long stick that he was carrying. Shepherds needed a long, stick, called a "rod" to guide the sheep along a certain path, or to help the shepherd climb a steep hill to rescue a sheep.

Moses answered God, "I have a rod in my hand."



God told Moses, "Throw the rod on the ground." Moses immediately obeyed, and threw his rod down. Guess what happened? His rod turned into a writhing, poisonous snake! God can do miracles, can't he!

Moses jumped back and started to run, but God said, "Now, reach out your hand and pick up the snake by it's tail." What do you think a snake would do if you picked it up by the tail? It could easily turn it's head and bite you, couldn't it? Moses must have been shaking,, but he trusted God and reaching out his hand, he picked up the snake by the tail, and it turned back into his wooden rod. Wow!



Then God said, "Put your hand inside your robe." Moses put his hand into the neck of his robe, wondering why God wanted him to do this. "Now take your hand back out." God said. When Moses took his hand out, it had turned all white and covered with sores of the most frightening disease called Leprosy. In those days many people died from this awful skin disease. Moses began to shake in fright. "Now, put your hand back inside your robe," God said. Moses probably didn't want to touch the rest of his skin with that ugly, diseased hand, but once again he trusted God and put his hand back inside his robe. "Take you hand out now, God said, and Moses' hand was once more his normal, sun-tanned skin.



"If the Israelites don't believe the first sign of turning your rod into a snake, then they should believe the second sign of leprosy," God said.. However, if they still don't believe you, then I'll give you one more sign to show them. You are to take the water of the River Nile and pour some of it onto the ground. When the water touches the ground it will turn into blood." Moses still didn't want this job. He said, "But I'm not a good speaker, Pharaoh will never listen to me."

Then God told Moses that his brother Aaron would be coming to meet him and Aaron would speak for Moses. Moses would tell Aaron God's words, then Aaron would tell Pharaoh what Moses said. This would impress the Pharaoh and be a help to Moses when he went to Egypt.



Moses didn't want to go, but he trusted God and knew he must obey him. Moses went back to Jethro and told him and his wife Zipporah, all that God had said. Jethro felt sad to have Moses and Zipporah leave his home, but he knew that God must be obeyed. The children of Israel needed someone to deliver them and Moses was the one God had chosen.

Question Page

1. Why did Moses flee from Egypt?
2. How many shepherd girls did Moses see when at the well?
3. Why didn't the girls water their sheep?
4. Who helped the girls water the sheep?
5. Who said he was the "good shepherd" sent by God? What Psalm says God was like a Shepherd?
6. Moses stayed with Jethro and his family, did Jethro believe in God?
7. Who was Zipporah?
8. What strange thing did Moses see when in the desert near a mountain?
9. Who spoke to Moses when he was looking at this strange sight?
10. What was the new name that God told Moses about? Y _____
11. What three signs did God give Moses to show the Israelites that God was sending
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
12. Where did God want Moses to go, to deliver the Israelites?
13. God told Moses that a relative would go with him and speak to Pharaoh for him, who was this and how was he related to Moses?
14. Did Moses want to do what God asked?
15. Did Moses do it anyway?

A MOSES CROSSWORD

In the story below there are some numbers by the blanks. Match the numbers with the number on the crossword. If you can't fill in all the blanks in the story, try matching up the words at the bottom of the page with the spaces in the crossword.

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When the 6. _____ were 1. _____ of the 2. _____, 11. _____ was a
 4. _____ tending the flocks of his father-in-law, 7. _____ in the 8. _____ near a tall
 5. _____. There Moses saw a strange 10.(down) _____ that did not 10. (across) _____
 up. Moses said " 9. _____ am I that I should go to 3. _____?" God said, " I will be with you."

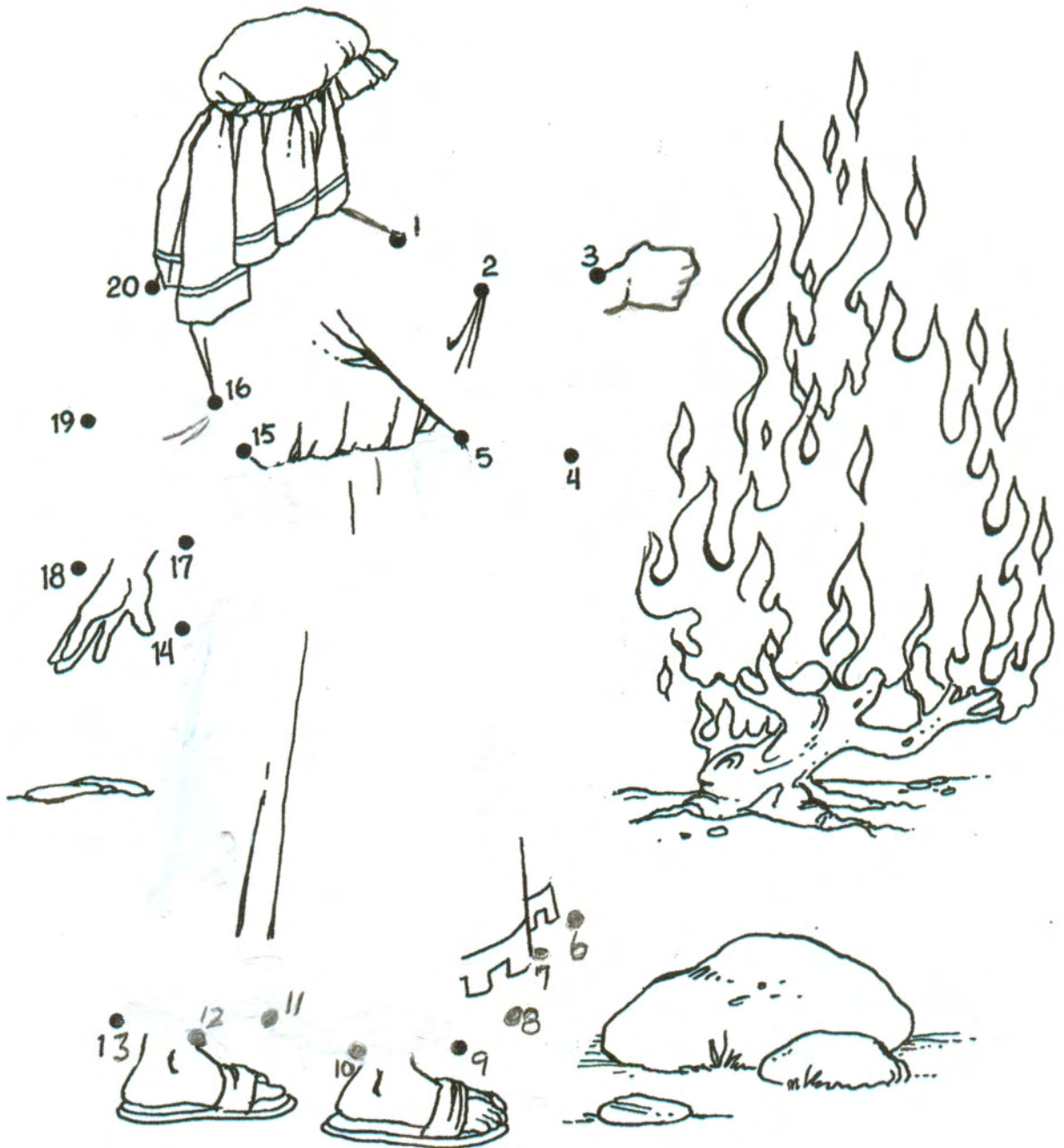
Pharaoh, Israelites, Desert, Slaves, Burn, Moses, Egyptians, Moses, Who, Shepherd,
 Mountain, Jethro, Bush

COMPLETE THE PICTURE

God spoke to Moses from a burning bush; He wanted Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and take them to their promised land.

Complete the picture below by connecting the dots, finish the decoration on the robe, then draw a snake in Moses's hand, leprosy spots on the other hand and draw a surprised face. Then color the picture.

Exodus 3:1-12



Below are some names found in the Bible story of Moses. To find the names put the first letter of the picture in the space below. Example: under a picture of an apple, print an A



















































