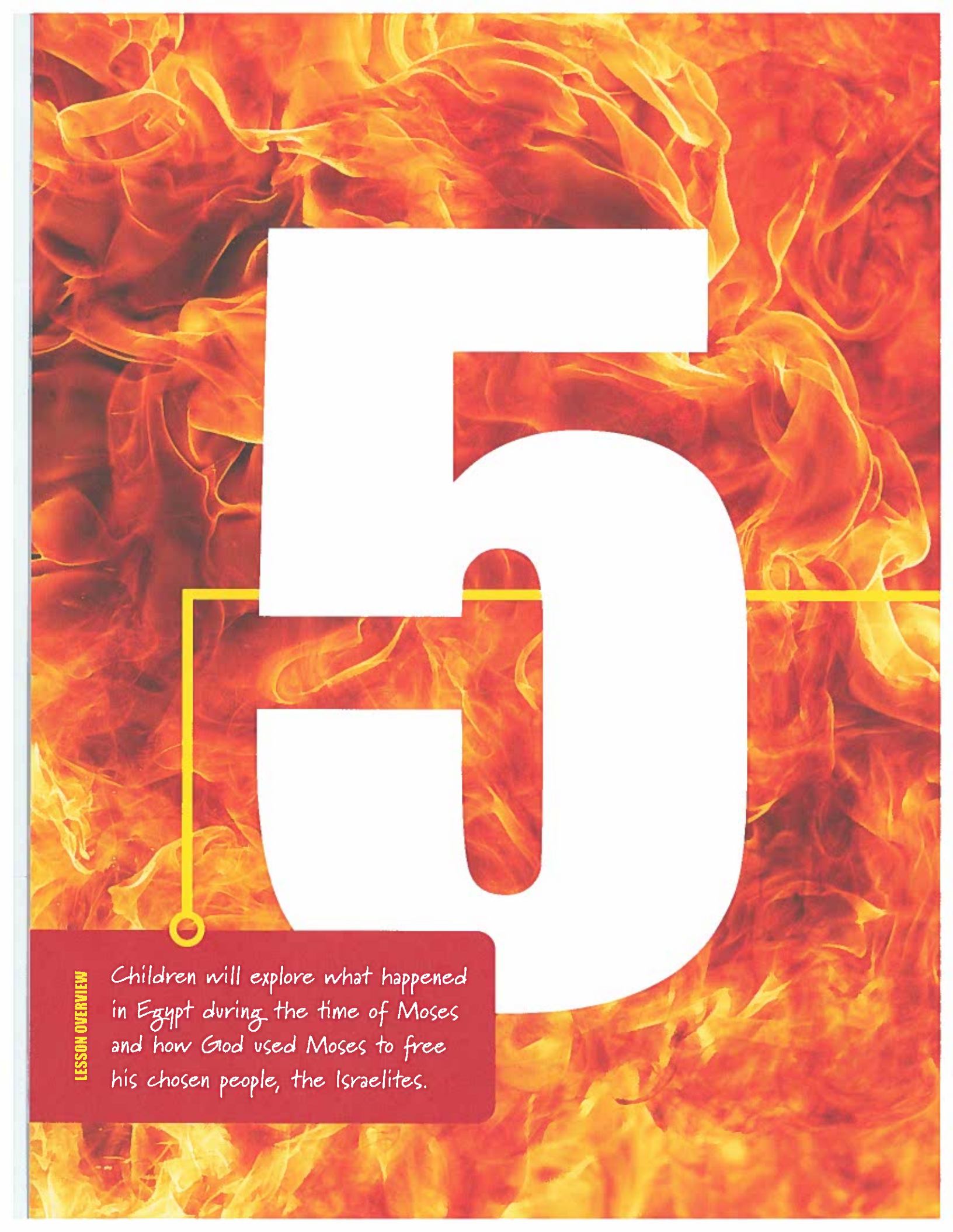




5

LESSON OVERVIEW

Children will explore what happened in Egypt during the time of Moses and how God used Moses to free his chosen people, the Israelites.



M

Exodus 1–5 Moses

Introduce It!

Time Line Materials needed. (See p. 4.)

Begin the lesson in prayer. Thank God that he is always with us, wherever we go.

After many years, Abraham and Isaac passed away. Isaac's son, Jacob, lived in Canaan with his twelve sons. Place time line marker at 1900 B.C. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, so he made him a beautiful coat. The other brothers were so jealous and angry that they sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Through hard work and God's grace, Joseph became governor of Egypt!

When a famine arrived, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt seeking food. Joseph forgave his brothers, and the whole family moved to Egypt. Place time line marker around 1876 B.C.

Joseph's family stayed in Egypt for a few hundred years. During that time, the Israelites grew and grew. Today, we are learning about an important Israelite named Moses.

Time Line
1500 B.C.

Key Events & People

God chooses Moses to free the Israelites enslaved in Egypt; Moses, Pharaoh

Memory Verse

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Tell It!

Choose a way to tell the story while reading the account from the Bible or telling it in your own words. Ideas for creative storytelling include acting it out, using props, or incorporating pictures.

Years Between Joseph and Moses

Moses was born at a dangerous time about 376 years after Joseph's family moved to Egypt. Place time line marker at 1500 B.C. Many pharaohs had ruled over Egypt since Joseph had been in power. They did not know about Joseph or how he had saved Egypt from famine (see Exodus 1:8). The new Pharaoh looked around and saw how many Israelites there were. He was worried that there would be more Israelites (God's people) than Egyptians (his people). So, he turned them into slaves. The Israelites were treated very harshly and forced to work.

Read Exodus 1:12-14.

Eventually, there were so many Israelites, Pharaoh ordered all of the Israelite baby boys to be thrown into the Nile River. God had not forgotten about his people, though. He had a plan for an Israelite to lead his people out of slavery.

A Baby in a Basket

One Israelite woman gave birth to a son, and she hid him from the Egyptian guards for three months. When she could not hide him anymore, she made a waterproof basket. She put the baby inside and hid him among the reeds. The mother told her daughter, Miriam, to watch the basket to see what would happen (see Exodus 2: 1-4).

Read Exodus 2:5-8.

The princess named the baby Moses. She paid Moses' mother to raise him until he was old enough to move to the palace.



Even though Pharaoh was having all of the Israelites' baby boys killed, God protected Moses. He had a plan for Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Exodus 2:23 tells us that "the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God." Did God hear them?

Children respond. Yes! God heard their cries, and their prayers, and he had a plan.

The Burning Bush

Growing up, Moses knew he was an Israelite. One day, after he was a grown man, he witnessed an Egyptian slave master hurting one of his people. A flare of anger came over Moses. He killed the slave master and buried him in the sand. But Pharaoh discovered Moses's crime. He ordered Moses to be killed.

Moses ran for his life. He escaped to Midian and became a shepherd there.

After a few years, he married a Midianite woman and had two sons. Moses spent his days watching the sheep, but one day, something strange happened in the wilderness.

Read Exodus 3:2-10.

God had heard the cries and the prayers of the Israelites. He wanted his people freed from Egypt, and he wanted Moses to lead them.

Pray It!

Dear God, thank you for always watching over me.

Thank you for listening to my prayers. Even when I am scared, I know you are with me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Perform the Won't Burn Up object lesson found on page 46.

WON'T BURN UP





Apply It!

Choose any of these activities for your lesson. Use more than one if time allows. For any of these activities, discuss the **Talk about It!** questions on page 49 as time allows.

Show It!

Won't Burn Up

Overview

Light a solution-based paper on fire. Because of the solution, the paper will not burn.

Preparation

In shallow container, pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Isopropyl alcohol, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt. **Do you think I can burn this picture of a bush without it burning up?**

Directions

1. Soak the picture of a bush in the solution.
2. Pick it up with the tongs.
3. Light the paper on fire.
4. The alcohol will burn off the paper, but because of the water, the paper will not burn.

Conversation

Isn't that amazing? Imagine seeing a bush burning but not burning up. And that wasn't the most exciting part. God had a message for Moses. He told Moses that he had heard the cries of the Israelites. Moses was to go and tell Pharaoh to let God's people go!

Materials

picture of a bush
shallow container
(cooking pan,
serving dish, storage
container, etc.)
Isopropyl alcohol
(91% rubbing alcohol)
water
salt
metal tongs
lighter

Act It Out!

A Burning What?

Overview

Children act out reactions to the burning bush.

Directions

1. One at a time, children act out what their reactions would have been if they had seen God in a burning bush.
2. After all the children have a turn with their reactions, select a few children to act out Moses encountering God in the burning bush.

Materials

burning bush prop;
for example, a
potted plant with
red, orange, and
yellow streamer
"flames" tied on it.

Optional

Use a burning bush prop for kids to react to. Or ask a volunteer to act like a burning bush and make burning noises.

Conversation

If we were to see a burning bush like Moses did, we might have some crazy reactions. The Bible tells us Moses saw the bush and then went to investigate. God called to Moses from the burning bush and told him about the job he had for him.

Play It!

Pyramid Stack

Overview

Children build pyramids out of cups.

Directions

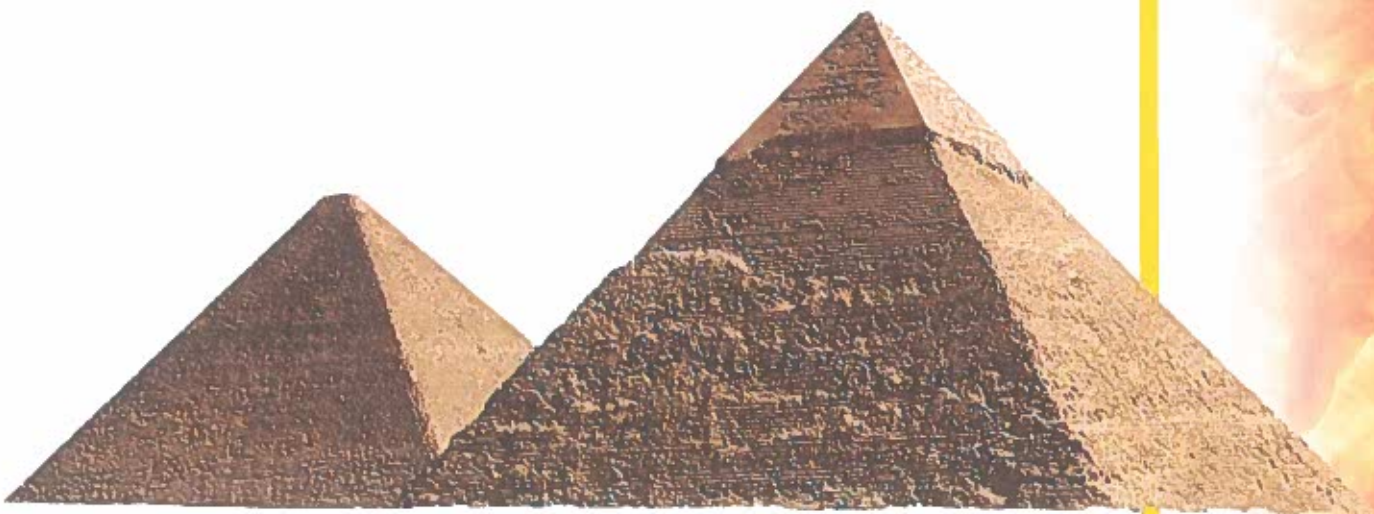
1. Separate children into teams.
2. Demonstrate how to build a pyramid out of cups.
3. Teams race to create the best pyramid in the fastest time.
4. Team finishing first answers the **Talk about It!** questions on page 49 or recites the memory verse.
5. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Conversation

In this game, you were all racing to build cup pyramids. The Israelites were forced to build pyramids and work for the Egyptians, but it wasn't nearly as fun. Egypt wasn't a fun place for God's people to live in, but he had a plan to rescue them!

Materials

20-50
disposable
plastic cups
per team



Talk about It!

Basic Questions

1. About how many years were there between Joseph and Moses? *About 400.*
2. How were the Israelites treated in Egypt?
They were treated harshly because they were slaves.
3. Why did the Israelites become slaves?
Pharaoh was scared of how many there were.
4. What rule did Pharaoh make so the Israelites could not take over?
He had all Israelite baby boys killed.
5. How did Moses' mother keep him safe when he was a baby?
She put him in a basket and hid him in the reeds of the river.
6. Who found Moses in the basket? *Pharaoh's daughter.*
7. Moses was out tending his sheep and saw what crazy sight?
A bush that did not burn up.
8. How did God speak to Moses? (See Exodus 3:1-10.) *Through a burning bush.*
9. What did God want Moses to do? *To tell Pharaoh to let God's people go.*
10. Did Moses want to go to Egypt and deliver his message? *No! He made excuses.*
11. What was Moses' response to the job God had for him? (See Exodus 3:11-12.)
He asked why he was chosen to lead.
12. What was God's response to Moses' excuses?
God told Moses to go, and that he would be with him.

Go Further

1. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. How does God speak to people today?
2. Has God ever spoken to you? If so, were you willing to listen and obey? Do you think there is anything God could ask you to do that you do NOT want to do?

Wrap It Up!

Refer to the time line.

Wow, what an exciting time in Egypt and the Bible's history. In less than 400 years, the Israelites had moved to a new country (Egypt) and became oppressed slaves. They cried out to God for help. Since God is always in control, we saw that God had a plan. He saved Moses as a baby and used him to talk to Pharaoh.