

Moses 2- Exodus 7:1-13

THE POINT

Focus:

The Lord works through people that he chooses, often who are unskilled.
The Lord is able to do miraculous things in the face of enemies.

Application:

We can trust the strength of the Lord against any other evil powers.
We can worship the Lord for his power.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- a variety of items with different strengths, some ideas include- 4-5 squares of toilet paper, a piece of computer paper, a stick, a piece of wood (like a ruler or 2x4), a square of aluminum foil, a cookie sheet

Goal: What would happen if we didn't know for sure that the Lord was the most powerful? Why do we sometimes live like God isn't more powerful than things we face? This activity will bring up those questions in our hearts and minds before we turn to the text.

Directions: *Give an object to each child in the class (or ask for volunteers to come forward if the class is large!). Have them figure out among themselves which items are the strongest and weakest and stand in order. If there's a tie or debate, have the class vote on it.*

Have the class sit in the circle. Pass around the weakest item. Use the following discussion starters.

What would happen if you had to lift a heavy object with ____?

How do you have to handle it to make sure it gets all the way around the circle.

Have you ever tried to do something with a material that wasn't strong enough? Maybe you stepped on a board that broke, or tried to tie something on a string that wasn't very strong.

Pass around the strongest item. Show how you can't twist it. If you hit something with it, it would hurt!

How strong do you think this _____ is? What do you think it's strong enough to do?

Put the items away completely, or put the example items in the middle of the circle so that no one is touching them.

In our story today we're going to see how the Lord began to show His people, the Israelites, how He is the Most Powerful. He is stronger than any person. He is stronger than any evil power. He is stronger than any impossible situation!

STORY CONNECTION (7-9 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- 1 bag made of opaque material
- 2 sticks
- 2 snakes (can be plastic or cut from felt or paper)
- Flameless Candle
- Bibles

Instructions:

No fancy instructions this week! The story is short. Read it aloud, and when the text talks about the staff, hold up the stick. Remember to read with some dramatization- emphasize certain words, pause for suspense, etc.! When the text talks about the snakes, pull out the snakes.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Note to the teacher about the snake: There is no reason to associate this snake with the serpent in the garden. Snakes are dangerous and were present in religious symbolism of ancient Egypt, so their appearance in this passage is notable for the religious connotations of the time, but it is not appropriate to read-in religious symbolism from Genesis 2.

When the Lord met Moses in a burning bush, he gave Moses a very special task. He told Moses that it was time for the Israelites to leave Egypt, and Moses was going to be their leader. Moses was frightened! God promised Moses that He would go with him and lead him. God was with Moses and provided for him. Let's light our candle to remind us that God is with us as we learn here, too.

Exodus 7:1-13

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I have made you like God to Pharaoh. And your brother Aaron will be like a prophet to you.² You must say everything I command you to say. Then your brother Aaron must tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his country. ³ But I will make Pharaoh stubborn. I will multiply the signs and amazing things I will do in Egypt. ⁴ In spite of that, he will not listen to you. So I will use my powerful hand against Egypt. When I judge them with mighty acts, I will bring my people Israel out like an army on the march. ⁵ Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord. I will reach out my powerful hand against them. I will bring the people of Israel out of Egypt."

⁶ Moses and Aaron did exactly as the Lord had commanded them. ⁷ Moses was 80 years old and Aaron was 83 when they spoke to Pharaoh.

⁸ The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron. ⁹ He said, "Pharaoh will say to you, 'Do a miracle.' When he does, speak to Aaron. Tell him, 'Take your walking stick and throw it down in front of Pharaoh.' It will turn into a snake."

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They did exactly as the Lord had commanded them. Aaron threw the stick down in front of Pharaoh and his officials. It turned into a snake. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh sent for wise men and people who do evil magic. By doing their magic tricks, the Egyptian magicians did the same things Aaron had done. ¹² Each one threw down his walking stick. Each stick turned into a snake. But Aaron's walking stick swallowed theirs up. ¹³ In spite of that, Pharaoh became stubborn. He wouldn't listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like for Moses to go with Aaron before the Pharaoh, the most powerful person in Egypt...

I wonder what it was like to see God do a miracle

I wonder what the Egyptian magicians thought about when they did their trick.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.