



GOD'S CREATURES TELL THE STORY

Moses: God's Rescued Prince

Teacher's Packet · Book One of Two

FREE ♦ PHOTOCOPY FREELY FOR YOUR CLASS

Five lesson plans, discussion questions for two age bands, a reproducible Bible Detective worksheet with a full answer key, a ten-question quiz, background notes for the teacher, and projects built around a basket, a river, and eighty years of preparation. Built for readers ages 11–17 from the full narrative of *Moses: God's Rescued Prince*.

WHAT'S INSIDE

1. Cover
2. How to Use This Packet — three tracks
3. Five Lesson Plans
4. Discussion Questions — ages 11–13 and 14–17
5. Bible Detective — reproducible worksheet
6. Family and At-Home Devotions
7. Activities and Projects
8. For the Teacher — background notes
9. Reproducible Quiz
10. Answer Keys, Scoring, and Where to Go Next

How to Use This Packet

Three tracks, one book. Pick the one that matches your setting and ignore the other two. Everything here may be photocopied for your own class or family.

Track One — Family Devotions (nine days)

- Nine chapters, one a night. This is the first of two Moses volumes; it ends at the calling, not at the Exodus.
- Close each reading with one question from page 4, chosen for the age at your table.
- Assign each family member a reporter to follow — Penny, Professor Hoot, or Dominic — and have them report what their reporter noticed that the others missed.
- Use the devotion starters and prayer on page 6 for the Sunday evenings.

Track Two — Sunday School (four weeks)

- **Week 1 — The Decree.** Chapters 1–2. A king’s order, two midwives who disobey it, and a mother with a plan and a basket.
- **Week 2 — Two Worlds.** Chapters 3–4. Raised in a palace, nursed by his own mother, and never quite belonging to either household.
- **Week 3 — The Failure.** Chapters 5–6. A killing, a flight, and forty years of keeping sheep for a man in Midian.
- **Week 4 — The Bush.** Chapters 7–9. A fire that does not consume, a name that answers nothing and everything, and four excuses.

Track Three — Homeschool (across subjects)

- **History.** Egypt’s New Kingdom, forced labor, and how an empire administers a resident population it fears.
- **Science.** Papyrus, bitumen, and why a woven basket sealed inside and out floats. The book’s craft appendix is the best hands-on section in it.
- **Geography.** Goshen, the Nile, Midian, Horeb. Three of those are a long way apart.
- **Language.** The name given at the bush, and why translators disagree about it. See page 8.
- **Writing.** Jochebed’s account of the morning she let go of the basket. See page 7.

A NOTE ON THE AGE BANDS

This packet is banded 11–13 and 14–17. The book’s own appendices still use younger bands from an earlier edition; where the two differ, follow the packet. Chapter 1 involves an order to kill infants and chapter 5 involves a killing. Both are handled directly and older readers should be allowed to sit with them.

Before the First Session

- Read page 8. Moses’ life divides into three forty-year blocks and almost every question students ask is really a question about the middle one.
- Photocopy pages 5 and 9 — one per student. Everything else is for you.
- The basket experiment on page 7 needs a day to dry. Start it early.

Five Lesson Plans

Each lesson names a key verse, the chapters to read, one main point, and one activity that can be done in the room. The lessons require the book; the verses are ones the narrative itself puts on the page.

1. Two Women Who Said No

READ Chapter 1 · **KEY VERSE** *Exodus 1:17*

Main point: Before Moses exists, two midwives quietly refuse a direct royal order and Scripture records their names — Shiphrah and Puah — while leaving the Pharaoh anonymous. The most powerful man in the world goes unnamed; two women who disobeyed him do not.

Activity: Ask the class to count how many named people appear in Exodus 1 and who is missing from that list. Then ask what the writer is doing on purpose.

2. A Basket on the River

READ Chapters 2–3 · **KEY VERSE** *Exodus 2:3*

Main point: Pharaoh ordered the boys thrown into the Nile. Jochebed obeyed the letter of it in the most subversive way available — she put her son in the river, in a sealed basket, at the spot where the princess bathed. Then Pharaoh's own daughter paid the boy's mother to nurse him.

Activity: Trace who does what in Exodus 2:1–10. Every actor is a woman, and one of them belongs to the household that issued the decree.

3. Neither One Nor the Other

READ Chapters 4–5 · **KEY VERSE** *Exodus 2:11–12*

Main point: Moses goes out to his own people, sees an injustice, and acts — violently, secretly, and by his own authority. The next day a Hebrew asks who made him judge. He is rejected by the people he tried to help and hunted by the household that raised him.

Activity: Ask what was right about what Moses wanted and what was wrong about how he got it. Both lists should be full. Then note that God does not comment on it for forty years.

4. Forty Years of Sheep

READ Chapter 6 · **KEY VERSE** *Exodus 2:23–25*

Main point: A prince of Egypt spends four decades doing the one job Egyptians considered contemptible, in a desert he will later cross with two million people. The verse that matters is about God: He heard, He remembered, He saw, He knew. All four verbs, while nothing visible changed.

Activity: List everything Moses learned in Midian that he could not have learned in a palace. Then ask whether those years were a detour or the curriculum.

5. Four Excuses and a Name

READ Chapters 7–9 · **KEY VERSE** *Exodus 3:14*

Main point: Moses raises four objections — who am I, who are You, what if they do not believe me, and I cannot speak. God answers the first three and gets angry at the fourth, then gives him Aaron anyway. The name given at the bush is not an explanation; it is a promise of presence.

Activity: Find all four objections (3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10) and God's answer to each. Ask which answers actually address the objection and which change the subject on purpose.

Discussion Questions

Choose three or four per session. This volume is mostly about waiting and failing, which makes it the more useful of the two Moses books for older students.

AGES 11–13

1. Two midwives disobeyed the king and the Bible records their names. Why do you think their names were worth writing down?
2. Pharaoh said to put the babies in the river, and Moses' mother put him in the river. How did she obey and disobey at the same time?
3. Miriam was a child watching from the reeds when she spoke up to a princess. What would you have done?
4. Moses grew up in a palace but was nursed by his own mother. Which family do you think he felt he belonged to?
5. Moses saw someone being beaten and did something about it — the wrong thing. Was he right to care and wrong to act, or wrong about both?
6. Moses spent forty years as a shepherd, which Egyptians thought was a disgraceful job. What could that have taught a man raised as a prince?
7. Moses gave God four reasons he was the wrong man. Have you ever argued your way out of something you were actually able to do?

AGES 14–17

1. Exodus names Shiphrah and Puah and never names their Pharaoh. What argument is the writer making by that choice?
2. Jochebed's plan required placing her son exactly where the princess bathed. Was that faith, calculation, or both — and does the distinction matter?
3. Moses acted on a real injustice by real violence, and Scripture neither excuses it nor dwells on it. What does the silence do?
4. Hebrews 11:24–26 says Moses chose mistreatment with God's people over the treasures of Egypt. Does that reading match Exodus 2, or is Hebrews interpreting?
5. Forty years pass in a single verse. What does it do to a reader to have four decades compressed like that, and what did it do to Moses to live them?
6. Exodus 2:24–25 uses four verbs about God — heard, remembered, saw, knew — at a moment when nothing changed for anyone in Egypt. Why say all four?
7. God gets angry at the fourth objection and then supplies Aaron anyway. What does that combination tell you about how God handles reluctance?
8. "I AM WHO I AM" is famously difficult to translate. What kind of answer is it to the question Moses actually asked?

Bible Detective

“Grab your notebook and your magnifying glass.” — Penny the Squirrel. Answer from the book, then verify against the verse. Answer key on page 10.

NAME _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 9

1. What did Pharaoh order done to every Hebrew baby boy? (*Exodus 1:22*)

2. Name the two midwives who refused, and say what reason the text gives for their refusal. (*Exodus 1:15–17*)

3. What was the basket made of, and what two substances sealed it? (*Exodus 2:3*)

4. Who watched from a distance, and who ended up being paid to nurse the baby? (*Exodus 2:4, 7–9*)

5. Why did Moses have to run from Egypt, and where did he go? (*Exodus 2:11–15*)

6. What was strange about the bush, and what did God tell Moses to do before coming closer? (*Exodus 3:2–5*)

7. **Challenge.** How old was Moses when God called him, and how long had he been in Midian? (*Acts 7:23, 30*)

8. **Challenge.** What name did God give for Himself, and what did He tell Moses to say to the Israelites? (*Exodus 3:14*)

9. **Super Sleuth.** Moses gave God four reasons he could not do the job. Name all four. (*Exodus 3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10*)

Family and At-Home

Five devotion starters, a prayer, and one application to carry into the week. None of these require a craft table or more than fifteen minutes.

DEVOTION STARTERS

One — Two names God kept. Shiphrah and Puah risked everything and Scripture wrote their names down. Ask who in our family's history did something quiet and right that nobody outside would know. Read Exodus 1:15–21.

Two — Letting go of the basket. Jochebed did everything she could and then pushed it into the current. Ask what our family has done all we can about and now has to release. Read Exodus 2:1–4.

Three — Right heart, wrong hands. Moses cared about the right thing and went about it terribly. Ask where each person is right about a problem and wrong about the solution. Read Exodus 2:11–14.

Four — The forty quiet years. Nothing visible happened for four decades while God heard, remembered, saw, and knew. Ask what our family has been waiting on longest. Read Exodus 2:23–25.

Five — Excuses. Moses had four, and they were all reasonable. Ask each person for the excuse they use most, then read God's answer: I will be with you. Read Exodus 3:11–12.

MEMORY VERSES

- *Exodus 1:17* — the midwives feared God.
- *Exodus 2:24* — God heard, and remembered His covenant.
- *Exodus 3:12* — I will be with you.
- *Exodus 3:14* — I AM WHO I AM.

A FAMILY PRAYER

Father, You noticed two midwives nobody else remembered and You heard a people who had been crying out for four hundred years. Give us the courage to do quiet right things when no one is looking. Help us to let go of what we have done everything we can about. When we are right about the problem and wrong about the answer, correct us gently. And when we are out of excuses, remind us that Your answer was never about us. In Jesus' name, amen.

APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK

Moses had four objections and God answered the first three with facts and the fourth with a person. Have each family member write down the one thing they most believe they are not capable of. Keep the papers. Read them again in a year. Nobody has to share now.

Then do the other half of the exercise out loud: name one thing each person in this family is genuinely good at, and say who first noticed it. Moses was raised by two households and both of them put something in him that he needed forty years later.

Activities and Projects

Ordinary household supplies only — reeds or straw, petroleum jelly, a basin, a map. Nothing here needs a craft store.

AGES 11–13

Build the Basket. *Supplies: raffia, straw or paper strips, and petroleum jelly or candle wax.* Weave a small open basket, then coat it inside and out. Float it with a weight in it and time how long before water gets through. Try one uncoated for comparison. Exodus 2:3 specifies both coatings for a reason.

Sixty Miles of Sheep. *Supplies: a map app.* Measure Egypt to Midian. Then look up how far a flock travels in a day. Work out roughly how much of forty years Moses spent simply walking, and what a person thinks about while doing it.

Two Households. *Supplies: paper, folded in half.* On one side list what Moses learned in the palace; on the other, what he learned in Jochebed's house during the years she nursed him. Then circle which column mattered at the burning bush.

Reeds and Water. *Supplies: drinking straws, tape, a basin.* Bundle straws tightly and tape them into a raft, then load it with coins until it sinks. Loosen the bundle and repeat. Tightly bound hollow reeds are far stronger and more buoyant than loose ones, which is why papyrus boats worked at all.

Name the Unnamed. *Supplies: Exodus 1–2 and a highlighter.* Go through both chapters and highlight every person who is named. Then list who is not. The pattern is the whole argument, and students find it faster than adults do.

AGES 14–17

The Detestable Trade. *Supplies: Genesis 46:34 and page 8.* Egyptians despised shepherds, and Moses spent forty years as one. Write eight hundred words in his voice at year thirty-five — a former prince who has stopped expecting anything, talking about the work he does now. Do not give him foresight.

Jochebed's Morning. *Supplies: paper.* Write eight hundred words as Moses' mother on the day she set the basket in the reeds. She has a plan. She has no guarantee. Do not have her know how it ends.

Three Forty-Year Blocks. *Supplies: Acts 7:23–36 and a ruler.* Stephen divides Moses' life into three equal parts. Draw the timeline to scale and label what happens in each. Then write five hundred words on why the middle block gets almost no text.

Translating the Name. *Supplies: three or four Bible translations.* Compare how each renders Exodus 3:14 and read the footnotes. Write a page on why translators disagree and what each choice makes the name mean.

Two Arks. *Supplies: Genesis 6:14 and Exodus 2:3.* The same Hebrew word is used for both vessels and for nothing else in the Bible. Set the two verses side by side and list every element they share — the material, the sealing, the water, the remnant, the fresh start. Then write five hundred words on what the writer of Exodus is claiming by reusing the word.

Civil Disobedience. *Supplies: Exodus 1:15–21 and Acts 5:29.* The midwives disobeyed a lawful order and God dealt well with them. Write five hundred words on what makes disobedience righteous rather than merely convenient, using both texts.

For the Teacher

Background you will want before a sharp fourteen-year-old asks. The first box reorganizes the whole book.

THREE BLOCKS OF FORTY YEARS

Stephen's summary in Acts 7 divides Moses' life into three equal parts: forty in Egypt, forty in Midian, forty leading Israel. This volume covers the first eighty and stops at the bush. Half of the book is therefore about a man being prepared by failure and obscurity, which is why it reads slower than the second volume and why it is often the more useful one.

THE BASKET IS AN ARK

The Hebrew word for Moses' basket, *tevah*, appears in only one other place in the Bible: Noah's ark. Both are sealed with pitch, both carry a rescued remnant through water, and both are how a story starts over. That is a deliberate echo, not a coincidence, and older students find it immediately once you point at it.

PAPYRUS AND PITCH

Papyrus reeds are hollow and buoyant, and bundled tightly they make a light, strong hull. Bitumen — natural asphalt, available in the region — seals the gaps and repels water. Coating inside and out, exactly as Exodus 2:3 specifies, keeps the reeds from absorbing water on either surface. Egyptians built real river craft this way.

WHY SHEPHERDING WAS THE HUMILIATION

Genesis 46:34 records that shepherds were detestable to Egyptians. A man raised in Pharaoh's household spent forty years in the one occupation his upbringing had taught him to despise — and it is the occupation that taught him to move livestock across desert for decades, which is precisely the job he was about to be given.

THE NAME AT THE BUSH

The Hebrew of Exodus 3:14 can be rendered "I AM WHO I AM," "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE," or "I AM THE ONE WHO IS," and translations footnote the difficulty. All the readings point the same direction: God is self-existent and not defined by anything outside Himself. Note what Moses asked and what he got — he wanted a name to use as credentials and received a statement of being. Verse 12 gives the practical answer: I will be with you.

THE PHARAOHS GO UNNAMED

Exodus names midwives, mothers, sisters, and shepherds, and leaves every Pharaoh anonymous. That is a literary decision with a point. It also means the book cannot be pinned to one Egyptian reign, and scholars propose different candidates. Say that plainly rather than picking one.

IF A STUDENT ASKS WHETHER MOSES MURDERED SOMEONE

He killed a man, hid the body, and fled when it became known. Exodus reports it without excusing it, and Acts 7:24–25 adds that Moses assumed his people would understand what he was doing and they did not. Hebrews 11:24–26 commends his choice of allegiance, not his method. Let students hold all three passages at once; the tension is in Scripture, not in your lesson plan.

Professor Hoot's Quiz

Ten questions. Circle one answer for each. Scoring guide and answer key on page 10.

NAME _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 10

1. Why did Pharaoh order the Hebrew baby boys killed?
 - a) He hated all foreigners b) He feared the Hebrews were growing too numerous c) He wanted Egyptian slaves only
2. What was the basket made of and sealed with?
 - a) Cedar and rope b) Sheepskin and wax c) Papyrus reeds, tar and pitch
3. Who watched over the basket from the riverbank?
 - a) His father Amram b) His sister Miriam c) His brother Aaron
4. Who nursed Moses after he was found?
 - a) An Egyptian nurse b) The princess herself c) His own mother
5. Why did Moses flee Egypt?
 - a) He stole from the treasury b) He killed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew c) He insulted Pharaoh
6. How long was Moses in Midian before God called him?
 - a) Ten years b) Twenty years c) Forty years
7. What was strange about the bush?
 - a) It moved as he approached b) It burned but was not consumed c) It was the only green plant there
8. What did God tell Moses to do before coming closer?
 - a) Bow to the ground b) Wash his hands c) Take off his sandals
9. What name did God give when Moses asked?
 - a) The God of thunder b) I AM WHO I AM c) The Most High Lord
10. Who did God give Moses as a helper?
 - a) Joshua b) Caleb c) His brother Aaron

Bonus. The Hebrew word for Moses' basket is used in only one other Bible story. Which one, and what do the two have in common?

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Answer Keys and Where to Go Next

QUIZ ANSWER KEY — PAGE 9

1	b — he feared their numbers	6	c — forty years
2	c — papyrus, tar and pitch	7	b — burned, not consumed
3	b — Miriam	8	c — take off his sandals
4	c — his own mother	9	b — I AM WHO I AM
5	b — he killed an Egyptian	10	c — Aaron

Bonus. Noah’s ark — both are called a *tevah*, both are sealed with pitch, and both carry a rescued remnant safely through water.

BIBLE DETECTIVE ANSWER KEY — PAGE 5

1. Every Hebrew boy was to be thrown into the Nile (1:22).
2. Shiphrah and Puah; the text says they feared God (1:15–17).
3. Papyrus, sealed with tar and pitch (2:3).
4. His sister Miriam watched; his own mother Jochebed was hired to nurse him (2:4, 7–9).
5. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew, it became known, and he fled to Midian (2:11–15).
6. It burned without being consumed; God told him to remove his sandals because the ground was holy (3:2–5).
7. Eighty — forty years in Egypt and forty in Midian (Acts 7:23, 30).
8. “I AM WHO I AM”; he was to say “I AM has sent me to you” (3:14).
9. Who am I; who shall I say sent me; what if they do not believe me; I am slow of speech (3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10).

SCORING GUIDE

9–10 correct — Senior Correspondent. Reading at the level of detail Penny would sign off on.

7–8 correct — Field Reporter. Solid. Send them back for the two they missed and let them find the verse themselves.

5–6 correct — Cub Reporter. The basket landed; the bush did not. Re-read chapters 7 through 9.

Under 5 — Back to the Newsroom. Not a failing grade. Read the book together rather than assigning it.

WHERE TO GO NEXT — MORE FREE DOWNLOADS

- **Moses: The Great Deliverer** — the second volume, and its own Teacher’s Packet. Start there when this one ends at the burning bush.
- **The Six Sacred Rules of Divine Reporting** — one-page classroom poster.
- **Meet the Divine News Team** — one page, four character cards.
- Teacher’s Packets for the other titles in the series.
- **52 Questions: A Year of Family Bible Conversations** — one a week, from across the series. Coming soon.

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