



LEVEL 2  
2·7  
LESSON 1

# Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Birth of Moses

# Birth of Moses

**L**ong ago, the Israelites lived in Egypt. Their leader was Joseph, who was second-in-charge after pharaoh, the king of Egypt. But after Joseph died, a new pharaoh came to the throne who hated the Israelites.

This new pharaoh made the Israelites slaves. Year after year, their enslavement grew more grievous. When pharaoh worried that the Israelites were having too many children and were becoming too many, he thought he could reduce their numbers by making their slavery even harder. Yet the number of Israelites continued to grow.

The king turned to an even more wicked solution: murder every baby boy born to an Israelite slave.

Sadly, the Israelites had forgotten the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob years before; they now only knew the pagan gods of the Egyptians. But the merciful God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still heard the cry of His people!

## **BIRTH OF MOSES**

Among the slave huts of the Israelites was a woman named Jochebed who

gave birth to a baby boy. She and her husband feared the pharaoh, but they bravely disobeyed his wicked command and hid the baby. As the boy grew, however, it became harder to keep him hidden. After three months, they developed a plan to spare his life.

Jochebed placed her son in a basket and, along with the baby's older sister, Miriam, carried him to the river. She placed the basket in the water. Miriam ran along the river's edge to watch the basket as the water's current carried it downstream.

Eventually, the basket arrived at the place where the pharaoh's daughter had gone to bathe. The princess noticed the basket floating among the reeds. As she opened the basket, she was startled to discover an Israelite baby inside. She knew her father had ordered all male Israelite babies to be killed, but she decided to protect this infant.

Miriam ran down to the water's edge near where pharaoh's daughter was holding the baby. "Princess, I

know of someone who can nurse the baby for you,” she said. “Would you like me to get her?” Pharaoh’s daughter nodded. A short time later, Miriam returned with her mother. Pharaoh’s daughter asked Jochebed to care for the baby until he was old enough to move to the palace.

It was a wonderful miracle: The baby survived; he would receive the privileges of growing up as an adopted grandson of pharaoh himself; his mother would be allowed to care for him when he was young without having to hide him, and pharaoh’s daughter would even pay her to do it!

The princess named the baby *Moses*, which means “to draw out,” since she had drawn him out of the river. God had protected the person He would later use to *draw out* the Israelites and deliver them from Egypt.

### **MOSES FLEES EGYPT**

Moses grew up with princely privileges and was personally instructed by some of the best Egyptian tutors. He learned Egyptian customs, history and culture. Yet despite his upbringing as an Egyptian prince, Moses and the others knew he was actually an Israelite. When he watched how the Israelite slaves were oppressed, he became upset.

One day, Moses saw an Egyptian taskmaster beating an Israelite slave. Furious, Moses ran over and killed

the Egyptian. Realizing the terrible crime he had committed, he quickly buried the man’s body.

The next day, Moses was walking among the Israelites. He discovered that some of them knew what he had done. Then the pharaoh also learned of his crime. He ordered Moses to be executed. Moses fled to the desert east of Egypt. His time as an Egyptian prince was over—but he would return years later under very different circumstances.

While in the desert, Moses encountered a family that took him in. The father of this family, Jethro, was a prominent leader in the land of Midian. In return for housing



Egypt’s pharaoh made the Israelites into slaves.

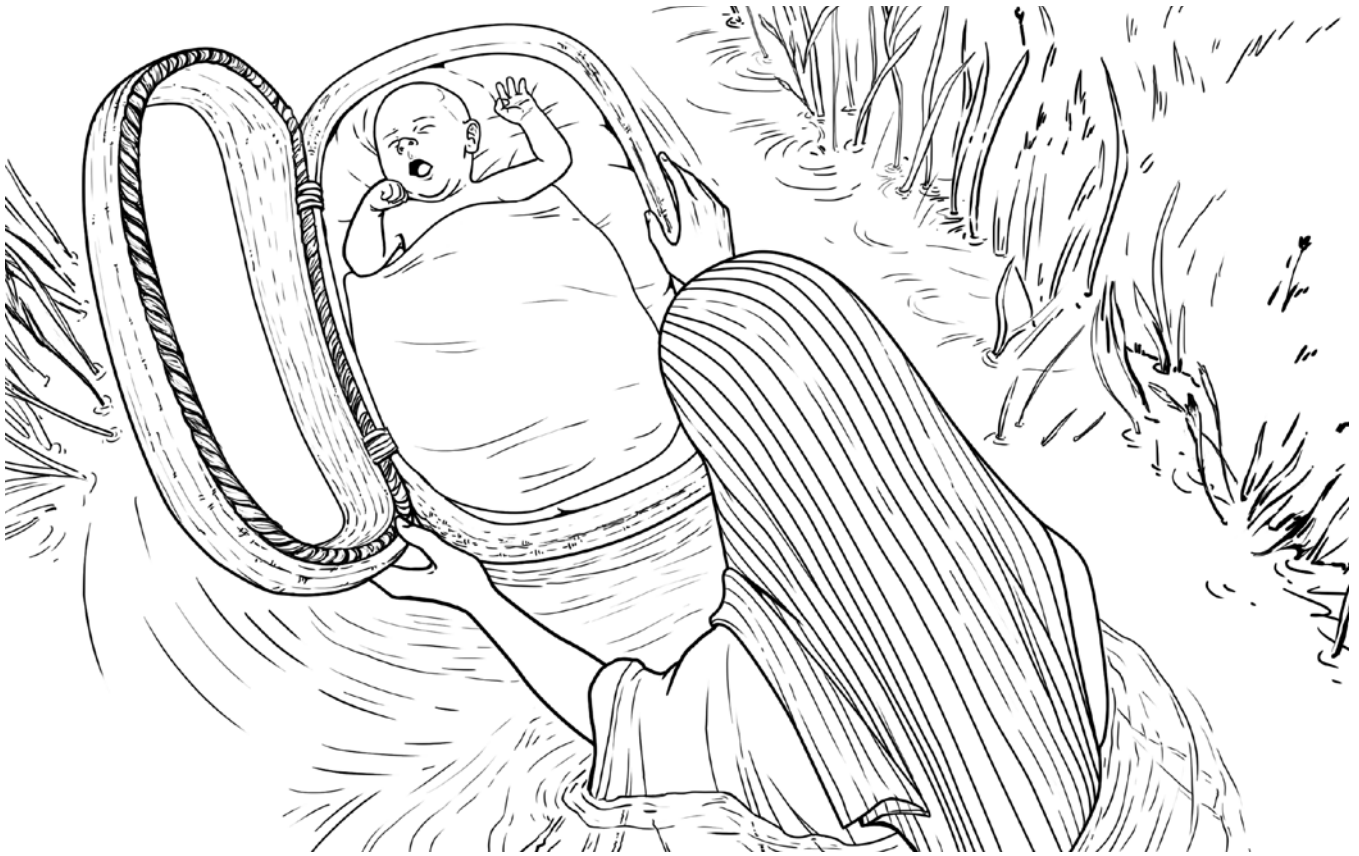
ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO



Israelite slaves carry straw to make bricks.



Jochebed places her baby boy into the basket.



The princess is surprised to find a baby in the basket.

and food, Moses helped shepherd Jethro's flocks. Eventually, Moses married one of Jethro's daughters.

As the years passed, Moses became content with his new life and family. However, for Israelites still in Egypt, life was getting worse. A new pharaoh took the throne, and he persecuted the Israelites even more intensely.

## **BURNING BUSH**

One day, Moses was tending the flock. As he passed by the foothills of a mountain, he noticed a bush on fire. He stared at it for some time before realizing something strange: It was not being consumed in the flames. When he moved closer

to inspect the bush, a voice cried out, "Moses! Moses!" Puzzled and hesitant, Moses answered, "Yes—I am here."

The voice commanded Moses to remove his sandals because he was on holy ground, and then said: "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Moses hid his face, afraid to look upon God.

"I have seen what the Egyptians have done to my people," God said. "I will send you to deliver my people out of the land of Egypt and lead them to a land of freedom and prosperity."

Moses was stunned. Would the Israelites believe he had been sent by God? Even if they did, how could he make the pharaoh release them?



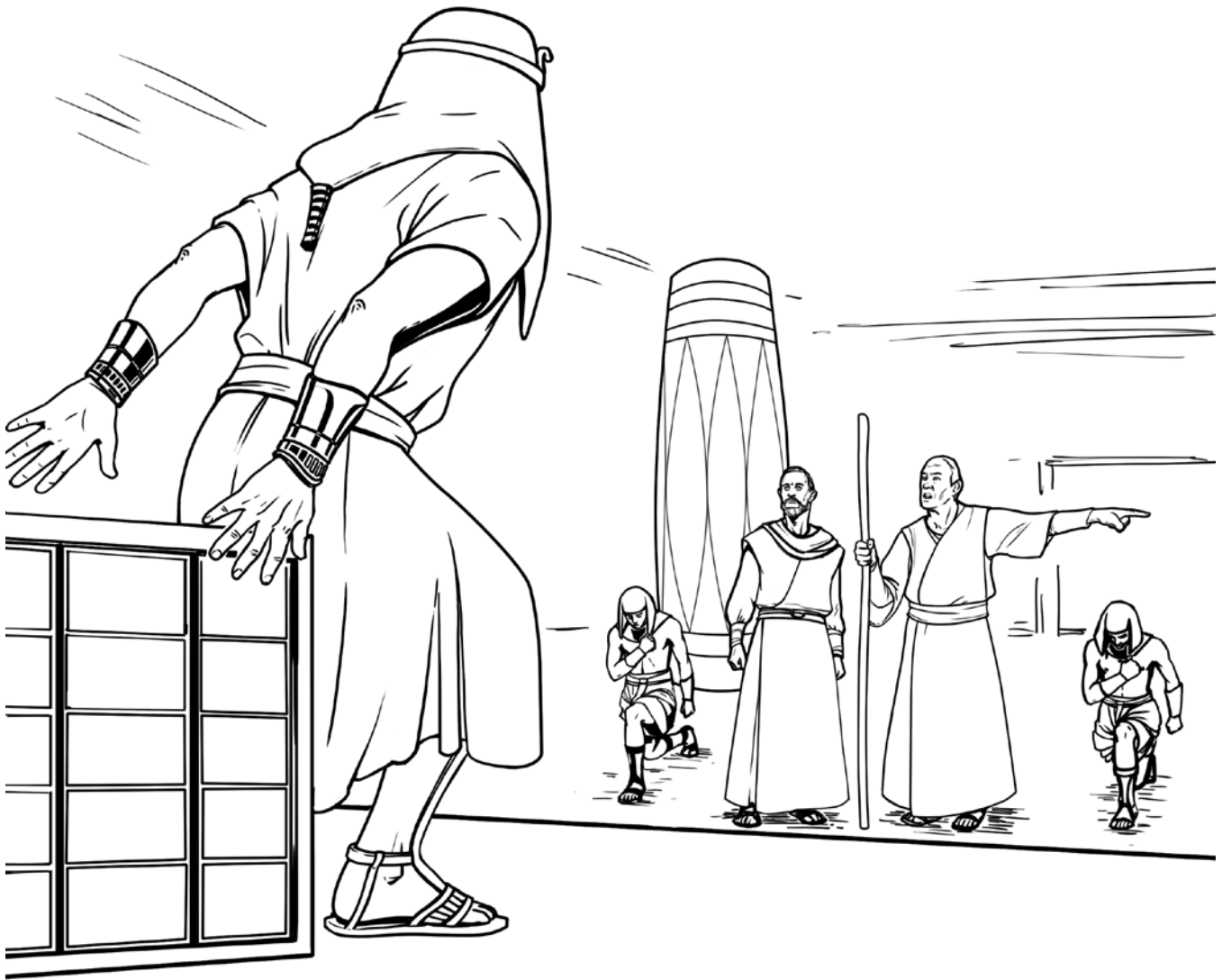
Moses defends an abused Israelite slave.



Moses stands before the burning bush.







Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh.

Moses tried to give excuses why he couldn't complete such a mission. God had to strengthen Moses's faith. He told Moses to take his shepherd's staff and throw it to the ground. When Moses did so, it became a snake. God told Moses to pick it up by the tail. When he did so, it transformed back into a staff.

"Put your hand in your coat," God said. Moses did so, and when he removed his hand, it was white with leprosy. "Put your hand back in your coat," God said. Moses obeyed, and his hand returned to normal.

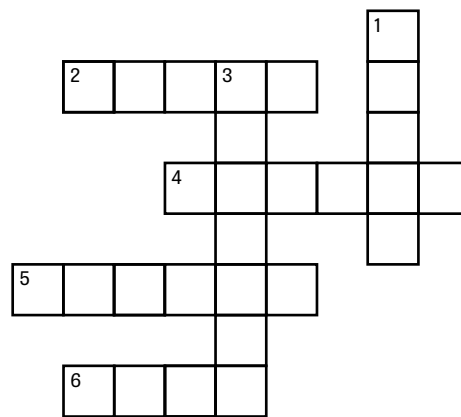
Finally, Moses told God that he couldn't speak well enough. So, God said that his brother, Aaron, would speak for him. Moses finally stopped making excuses and accepted that he would be returning to Egypt.

Meanwhile, God had instructed Aaron to go out and meet Moses in the wilderness. He did so, reuniting with his brother after 40 years. Moses told him what had happened and they began the journey back to the land of their birth—the land where their people were slaves.



Moses returns to Egypt as commanded by God.

## Moses Crossword



### ACROSS

2. The Israelites were in slavery in \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Jochebed put Moses in a \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Moses's sister's name was \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Moses had to take off his sandals at the burning \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. \_\_\_\_\_ means "to draw out".

3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the leader of Egypt.