

Year 3&4 Key Stage 2



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

## Year 4 units of work - Judaism - Moses





# Lesson 2 Moses

## The big picture

This lesson looks at how Moses came to be leader of the Hebrews during their time of captivity in Egypt. The story of Moses affirms the core Jewish belief that they are special to God and that he will not abandon them or forget them. (Lesson 3 looks at the exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea.)

## Learning objective

- To know how Moses came to be leader of the Jewish nation and why he is important to believers today.

## Success criterias

### Learning about

- Pupils will know details of the life of Moses.

### Learning from

- Pupils will have reflected on what it means for a believer to follow their 'calling'.

## Religious Education Council Requirements

A2, B3, C2, C3

## Resources

- **Resource sheet 2:** 'Moses in Egypt'
- Any available resources, for example, DVDs, story tapes or big books, to illustrate the story of Moses
- A4 paper or RE books
- Writing or drawing materials

## Vocabulary

Calling, Hebrews, Moses, Pharaoh

## Introduction

Share the learning objective: 'In this lesson, we are going to learn about Moses and why he is important to Jews.'

Put the word, 'Moses' on the board. Ask people to share with each other and then with the rest of the class anything they know about this character. Moses is a significant figure in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, so people from many backgrounds are likely to have some knowledge.

Explain that the story of Moses is very important to Jews because they believe he was a very good leader when they needed one. They believe he was very close to God. Jews today still try to live by the teaching that Moses gave to the Jews many thousands of years ago.

## Key questions ?

*Who was Moses?*

*Why is his life important to believers?*

*Which other people do you know of that had a 'calling'?*

## Activities

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### Stimulus

Explain to the class that you are going to share the first half of a story this week, and the second half next week. Tell them that the story will explain how Moses came to be leader of all the Jews.

Read the story of Moses up to the meeting with God at the burning bush.

(Your school may have a range of resources to illustrate the story, such as videos, DVDs, story tapes or big books. Most school libraries will contain versions of the story that will be illustrated. Using any of these resources will add further impact to the delivery of the story. If no other version is available, one is provided on resource sheet 2. This and other stories from the Jewish scriptures are also included in the Christian Bible; references are given on the resource sheets.)

### Response

Give the class a chance to discuss the story together. Focus their attention on what Moses must have felt after this encounter with God at the burning bush. Ask them to think about the different characters in the story. What would they say to Moses if he had told them about what God had said to him? You may wish to role-play this. People from a Muslim tradition might find it awkward to have someone take on the role of Moses, but leaving that role vacant, the other characters could all be given a voice without any issues arising.

Ask people to put the word, 'Moses' in the middle of a piece of paper. Ask them to write what the following characters might say to Moses at this point in the story:

- His mother
- The Pharaoh
- The Hebrew he saved
- The other shepherds

After people have written their responses, they could put speech bubbles around them and then decorate the rest of the paper with scenes or events from the rest of the story.

## Plenary

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Ask the class to consider whether they think Moses was happy after he had this encounter with God. What would he think about the future? Explain that believers from many religions think that God speaks to them today, sometimes through signs like the burning bush, but often through holy teachings, other people or happenings.

Ask if anyone believes that God has spoken to them personally. Do they know anyone who believes this has happened to them? You might like to ask them to respond to this in writing.

Explain that, in the next lesson, they will find out what happened when Moses followed the calling that Jews believe he was given: to confront Pharaoh with God's demand to let the Jews go.

After time to think, pupils could copy and complete the following sentence:

- 'Looking at the story of Moses, I have been thinking about...'

## Differentiation

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(By support) some people could have their responses scribed for them to copy or illustrate according to their ability.

(By task) some people could be given the option of presenting their responses orally, rather than in written form.

## Extension

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More able people could be challenged to not only come up with statements for the various characters in the story, but also what Moses might reply.



Name:

Date:

## Moses in Egypt

Long ago, the Hebrews (Jewish people) had been invited to come to Egypt to live. They came and one of them (Joseph) had even saved the nation from starvation. But now the Pharaoh was worried that there were too many and they were taking over. He decided that every Hebrew baby boy would be killed.

So the killing began.

Miriam, like every other Jewish mother, was terrified. She believed her son was special, not just to her, but to God. She decided to do something desperate and trust God with her son. She took him to the river, placed him in a basket and, with a prayer, let him float away.

At that moment, just downstream, the Pharaoh's daughter was bathing. She heard the baby's cry and rescued him. Her heart was filled with love and she decided that she would look after the baby. She also knew

that she could not do it by herself, that she would need a Hebrew woman to help her. She looked around and there was Miriam. She asked her to come and take care of the baby. So Moses grew up in the Pharaoh's palace, loved by the Pharaoh's daughter and cared for by his own mother. God had looked after him.

Moses became an important Egyptian, but he never forgot that he was a Hebrew. He became more and more angry at the way the Hebrews were treated by the Egyptians. One day, he saw an Egyptian beating his Hebrew slave. He was so cross he attacked the Egyptian man and killed him.

Moses realised he was hated by the Hebrews for living like an Egyptian and hated by the Egyptians for being a murderer. He found out the Pharaoh wanted to have him killed. He decided he would run away from his royal surroundings. He went to the hills



Name:

Date:

where he became a shepherd, living apart from his family and all those he had grown up with.

One day, Moses was looking after his sheep, when he saw a bush that looked like it was on fire. There were flames and heat, but the bush itself was not burning. Then he heard a voice.

‘Moses! Take off your shoes. You are standing on holy ground!’

Moses knew straight away that it was God talking to him. He took off his shoes and knelt down on

the ground. God told him that he was annoyed about the way the Egyptians were treating the Hebrew nation. God said he had decided that the Hebrews would leave Egypt and go back to the land they had been given many years before. There they could worship God and he would look after them.

‘Moses, I want you to go and tell Pharaoh to let my people go,’ said God.

