

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

*Leaving Egypt*

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## MOSES' DECISION

Exodus 2:11-25; Hebrews 11:24-26

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Nine

[0220]

AIM: to use Moses' decision to leave the palace to teach my students that God needs people who will choose to tell others about Jesus.

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A map of the world  
Pictures of as many of the following things as you can get:  
A beautiful palace  
Beautiful clothes  
Lots of food  
Gold treasures  
Big fans  
Chains, or pictures of chains  
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Kids, every one of us ought to take time every day to thank God that we live right here in the United States of America. Do you know why? Well, there are many reasons. The biggest reason is that in the United States we have freedom that many other people do not have. But another reason that you ought to thank God that you live right here in the United States is that you enjoy so many things that kids in other parts of the world never enjoy. For example, you live in a **house**. Nobody here slept on the street last night. You had a warm, dry place to stay. Did you know that in some place in the world, little boys and girls who have no parents have to live in cardboard boxes in the garbage dump? That's no lie. You ought to thank God that you live in a house.

You also have **clothes to wear**. You have lots of clothes to wear, and shoes and socks and coats. You also have **food to eat**. And if you ever did not have food to eat, there are all kinds of places that you could go, and someone would help you so that you would not starve. Another thing that we have in America is we have **plenty of jobs** so that anyone who wants a job can find one. If a grown up goes out and really tries he can find a job so that he can make **money**. But in many parts of the world, there are no jobs. There is no way to make money.

We also have many **luxuries** in America. Luxuries are things that you can live without, but that make life easier or more comfortable. A **car** is a luxury. A **telephone** is a luxury. An **air conditioner** is a luxury. A **washing machine** is a luxury. You could live without a car, a telephone, an air conditioner, and a washing machine, but these things make life easier and more comfortable. Most people in the world do not have cars, telephones, air conditioners, or washing machines, and some people have never even heard of these things. In America most people have all of these things. We sure do have it good, don't we?

Imagine if I asked you to give up all of these things for the rest of your life, in order to help other people have a better life. You'd probably say, "No way!" Today I am going to tell you about someone who had all of the luxuries that life could offer, but he gave it all up to help others.

STORY: Last week I told you the story of Moses. I told you how wicked Pharaoh had made a law saying that all Hebrews baby boys had to be thrown in the river as soon as they were born. I told you how Moses' mother saved his life by hiding him in her house for three months. I told you how she then built a little boat, and she put Moses inside of it, and put that little boat in the river. I told you how Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river and found that little boat, and the baby inside. Pharaoh's daughter named the baby "Moses", and she hired Moses' own mother to raise him until he was old enough to live in the palace.

Well, that day finally came—the day when little Moses was old enough to come live in the palace with Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter would become Moses' adopted mommy.

Life inside of the palace was very different from the way that the children of Israel were living. The palace had **beautiful** stone and marble walls and floors, while the children of Israel lived in mud houses with dirt floors.

In the palace everyone wore beautiful **clothes**, and they had different clothes for every day of the week. The children of Israel only had one pair of clothes, and they were worn out, raggedy clothes.

In the palace everyone **ate well**, with many different kinds of delicious foods, and all of the food that they could ever eat. The children of Israel were given just enough food to get by on.

In the palace everyone had lots of **money**, all kinds of gold, silver and precious jewels. They were very rich in the palace. The children of Israel were not rich at all. They were slaves who did not get paid for their work, and were whipped and beaten when they did not work hard enough.

Inside the palace there were servants who kept the king's family **cool** with big fans and cold drinks. The children of Israel had to work hard all day in the hot sun. If they died working in the hot sun, nobody cared.

If you had to choose to live inside of the palace or out in the hot sun and the mud with the children of Israel, you would choose the palace, right?

Well, Moses grew to be 40 years old. He had been told all of his life that he was one of the children of Israel, but that he would never have to live that kind of life because he had been rescued and brought into the palace. But Moses had always wondered how his own people, the children of Israel, had lived. One day Moses decided to walk out and see how his people lived. He could not believe the awful things that he saw. He saw people working in the hot sun, getting whipped if they did not work fast enough. He saw that, even though they worked hard, they were not paid any money. They were only given a place to live, and the places they were given to live were just little mud huts with dirt floors. They barely had food to eat, and they were made to work in the hot sun without anything to drink. They were sick, poor, and discouraged.

Moses thought, "Somebody ought to do something for my people." But who? Nobody cared. Nobody bothered to try to help his people. It seemed as if a voice inside of Moses was saying, "You could help them. You're the only person who could help them." But Moses ignored that voice and said, "No, what could I do?"

The more he saw his people beaten and mistreated, the less he could ignore that voice inside that was telling him to do something. Moses had a decision to make: either he would stay in the luxuries of the palace and let his people suffer and die, or he would leave the palace and live in the awful conditions that they lived in, in order to have the choice to help deliver them.

That is the same choice that you and I must make. We live lives that are very blessed. Every one of us can accomplish anything with our lives that we want to. Anybody in this class can decide, "I want to be a lawyer, I want to be a doctor, I want to be a business man;" and do you know that if you are serious about it, you can have the opportunity to make that come true. You can live in a big house some day, drive a nice car some day, and have enough money to buy anything you want. That sounds good, doesn't it? And none of those things are sinful. But all around you are people who need to hear about Jesus. If someone does not tell them about Jesus, they will die and go to hell forever. God needs some people who will say, "I could be rich, but instead I'm going to give my life to telling people about Jesus. I could have a mansion some day, but instead I'll be content to live in a little house while I spend my life telling people about Jesus." The reason we have our church is that our pastor decided one day that he was going to spend his life telling people about Jesus. The reason our pastor was saved as a boy is that some people before him decided to leave money and wealth behind and spend their lives telling other people about Jesus. This old world needs some of God's people to give them the message of hope, the message that God loves them, the message that Jesus died to take away their sins, and rose again to give them victory.

So what decision did Moses make? Did he decide to stay in the palace where it was comfortable and easy? Or did Moses decide to go out and try to help deliver his people from their burdens? Listen to what the Bible says, and see if you can figure it out for yourself:

Hebrews 11:24-27 - *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Moses made the right decision, didn't he? He decided to leave the palace behind, and to go try to deliver his people from slavery. His efforts failed at first. God had some important lessons that He needed to teach Moses. But as I will tell you next week, God looked at Moses and said, "Moses, you made the right decision in leaving the palace to help your people. I'm going to use you to deliver my people from Egypt."*

Let's learn our memory verse: **Proverbs 11:30** – *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

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### **MOSES' DECISION**

**Exodus 2:11-25; Hebrews 11:24-26**

**Teen and Adult Lesson**

**Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Nine**

**[0220]**

*Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.*

- I. **THE PRINCIPLES WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN AT AN EARLY AGE WILL STAY WITH THEM FOR LIFE.** Proverbs 22:6. We do not know how long Moses' mother had to raise and influence Moses. The Bible says, "the child grew," (2:10), which implies a significant amount of time. Whatever time she did have, she undoubtedly used it to ingrain the boy's heritage into his mind and heart. Moses pondered these thoughts for 40 years before he made a decision about them. Then he made a choice that would change him and his family forever.
- II. **WHEN WE ARE WILLING TO LOOK AT THE NEED, THAT IS WHEN THE BURDEN COMES.** Exodus 2:11. Moses went out to his brethren, the Israelites, and looked on their burdens. Moses had compassion for his fellow-Israelites, and though he did not know what to do for them, he at least wanted to see the suffering that they had to endure. Nehemiah got a burden to rebuild the wall when he viewed the wall. Nehemiah 2:13. Jesus was moved with compassion when He viewed the multitudes. Mark 6:34. We must be willing to leave our place of ease and see those who are in need; then let God do in our hearts as He pleases.
- III. **GOD OFTEN BURDENS OUR HEARTS FOR A CAUSE BEFORE HE CALLS US.** Moses was 40 years old when he became burdened for the plight of his brethren. He was 80 years old when God called him. A burden does not necessarily equal a call, but it often precedes a call, and prepares us to be called.
- IV. **OUR PLAN MUST FAIL BEFORE GOD'S PLAN CAN COMMENCE.** Moses tried to do something for his brethren by killing one who hurt them. 2:11-15. This plan, of course, backfired, and led to Moses fleeing Egypt before he was arrested for murder. God wanted to deliver His people, but God's plan was not Moses' plan. Before Moses could fulfill God's plan, his plan had to fail, and Moses had to know that it had failed. Moses' failure was a necessary step before he could find success in God's will.
- V. **EVERY BELIEVER CHOOSES BETWEEN THE TEMPORAL AND THE ETERNAL.** Hebrews 11:24-26 tells us of the nature of Moses' decision: he chose eternal blessing over temporary pleasure. Every believer makes that same decision, both in the everyday decisions of obedience, and in the big picture decisions of his life. Choosing short-term comfort is easy, and that is what most Christians do. Choosing long-term obedience to God is difficult, but its rewards are immeasurable.

# Moses' Decision

**Exodus 2:11-25**

[0220]

## *Moses Chooses God's People over the Palace*

HEBREWS 11:24-26

### I. EXODUS 2:11-15 Moses Visits His People

11-12 Moses, as an adult, kills an Egyptian who is beating an Israelite

13-14 Word gets out of what Moses has done

15 Pharaoh seeks to punish Moses, and Moses escapes to Midian

### II. EXODUS 2:16-22 Moses Lives in Midian

16-17 Moses helps the daughters of a priest in Midian

18-20 Their father invites Moses to eat with them

21-22 Moses marries one of the daughters and they have a son

### III. EXODUS 2:23-25 God Remembers His People

23a Pharaoh dies

23b The children of Israel call upon God for help

24-25 God hears their prayers and remembers His covenant with them

**Proverbs 11:30**

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

# MOSES' DECISION

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[0220]

Unscramble the key words and phrases from today's Bible lesson.

SMOES      \_\_\_\_\_

OHAHARP      \_\_\_\_\_

APACEL      \_\_\_\_\_

ULURXY      \_\_\_\_\_

RISALE      \_\_\_\_\_

VASSEL      \_\_\_\_\_

REFFUSING      \_\_\_\_\_

ROFTY      \_\_\_\_\_

ICDNOISE      \_\_\_\_\_

IFHAT      \_\_\_\_\_

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;  
and he that winneth souls is wise.*

**Proverbs 11:30**

# MOSES' DECISION

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[0220]

*The answer to this week's puzzle*

SMOES    M O S E S

OHAHARP    P H A R A O H

APACEL    P A L A C E

ULURXY    L U X U R Y

RISALE    I S R A E L

VASSEL    S L A V E S

REFFUSING    S U F F E R I N G

ROFTY    F O R T Y

ICDNOISE    D E C I S I O N

IFHAT    F A I T H