

## DAY NINE - MOSES

*To do today: Color ornament #9, read the following story and choose which activities you would like to do.*

### Moses, the Great Lawgiver

The children of Jacob were sometimes called Hebrews, which means “from beyond,” because Abraham, their forefather, came from beyond the river. They were called Israelites or the Children of Israel, because Israel was the name the angel gave to Jacob. They were also called the Chosen People, because God chose them as the people from whom the promised Redeemer was to come. Although the Chosen People lived in Egypt for four hundred years, they kept their belief in the One True God and spoke their own language. On that account they were looked upon as strangers.

Since God had chosen the Israelites to be a great nation, He wished to lead them back into the Land of Promise from which Jacob and his sons had come a long, long time ago. In the following stories we shall learn of the wanderings and hardships of the Israelites, of their ingratitude to the Lord, and of God’s great mercy to His Chosen People.

### A Princess Finds an Infant Boy

After the death of Joseph the Children of Israel continued to live in Egypt until after their numbers grew so large that they filled the land. In the meantime a new king ruled over the country, and he forgot what Joseph had done for Egypt. He saw how the Israelites were increasing and said to his people: “The Israelites are becoming stronger than us. Come, let us make them our slaves, otherwise they will rise up against us.: But the more cruelly the Israelites were treated, the larger their numbers grew. Then the king commanded that all the little boys who were born of Hebrew parents should be thrown into the Nile river.

Now it happened that a lovely baby boy was born to one of the Hebrew mothers. For three months she hid him away in her own home, and when she could no longer keep him, she made a little basket of rushes, smeared it with pitch and in it carefully laid the baby boy. Then she placed the basket among the tall reeds on the bank of the river and told Miriam, her daughter, to watch near by to see what would happen. Very soon the daughter of the king came down to bathe in the river, and when she saw the basket in the reeds, she went with one of her maids to get it. When she opened the basket, she found in it a crying infant. She felt sorry for the child and said: “This is one of the babes of the Hebrews.” Just then Miriam came forward and asked: “Shall I call a Hebrew woman to nurse the babe? She answered: “Go.” And the girl went and called her mother. When Miriam’s mother arrived, the daughter of the Pharaoh said: “ Take this child and nurse him for me. I will give you your wages.” The mother gladly took the child and cared for him and when he had grown up, she brought him to the Pharaoh’s daughter. The princess adopted him for her son and called him Moses, which means, “Taken Out of the Water.”

**Now answer the following questions:**

1.) Why was the king afraid of the Israelites?

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2.) How did the people of Egypt treat the Children of Israel?

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3.) What did the king command in order to stop the number of Israelites from growing larger?

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4.) Why did the Hebrew mother hide her baby?

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5.) What did she do with him?

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6.) How long did the mother keep her little boy?

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The Hebrew mother loved her little boy very much. She could not bear to throw him into the river. When you were a tiny baby, your mother had to take care of you day and night that you might grow up well and strong.

Never forget to thank God for giving you a good mother. Love and obey her as He commands you to do. To hurt or disobey your mother would be to displease God, who gave us our good parents to take His place here on earth.

**Good things for you to read:**

“Mother and Son,” The Ideal Catholic Fourth Reader, page 90.

“The Mother’s Quest,” The Ideal Catholic Fourth Reader, page 138.

“Our Mothers,” The Catholic Youth, Book IV, page 285.

“Boys or Jewels,” Misericordia Reader, Book IV, page 136.

“The Household Fairy,” Misericordia Reader, Book IV, page 139.

“Moses, the Babe in a Basket,” The Catholic Youth, Book IV, page 175.

## *Called by God*

Although Moses grew up in the court of the king, he did not forget his own people. Often his heart was sad when he saw how the Hebrews were being treated by their Egyptian masters. One day he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Israelites. The man's cruelty made him so angry, that he struck the Egyptian and killed him.

When Pharaoh heard what had happened, he wanted to kill Moses. But Moses fled to Madian, where he lived for many years and where he married one of the daughters of Jethro. One day as Moses was feeding the sheep near Mount Horeb, he saw a bright flame coming out of a bush, and although the bush was on fire, it was not destroyed. When he went nearer to see the strange site, a voice called to him from the bush saying: "Moses, Moses."

He answered: "Here I am." And the voice said: "Do not come nearer! Take off your shoes, for this place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, for he dared not look at God. And the Lord said to him: "I have seen the sufferings of My people in Egypt and I have heard their cries. Therefore I will deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians. I will send you to Pharaoh to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt? They do not know me and will not believe that You sent me." And God said to him: "I will be with you. Go and call your people together and tell them that I have seen their great misery and have sent you to bring them out of Egypt into a land that flows with milk and honey and they shall hear your voice.

But Moses was still afraid that the people would not believe him. Then God said to him: "Throw your rod upon the ground." He threw it down, and it became a serpent. "Now take it by the tail," the Lord commanded. He took hold of it and it was again turned into a rod.

Again God said: "Put your hand into your bosom." Moses did so, and when he looked at his hand, it was white as snow with leprosy. "Now put it back into your bosom," said the Lord. And when he had put it back and taken it out again, it was as clean as the other hand. "Show these signs to the people," said the Lord. "But if they will not believe even these two signs, take water out of the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water that you will draw out of the river shall be turned into blood."

"Lord," said Moses, "you know that I am slow and uncertain of speech, and since You have spoken to me I am even slower than before." And the Lord said: "On your way to Egypt I will send your brother Aaron to meet you. Tell him all I have said. He shall speak for you to the people and you shall show them the signs I have given you."

Then Moses set out for Egypt and on the way he met Aaron, his brother, as the Lord said he would. When they arrived in Egypt, they called the Children of Israel together, and Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had said to Moses. Then Moses showed them the signs God had given to him, and the people believed that the Lord would deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians. And falling down, they adored Him.

**Now answer the following questions:**

1.) Why did Moses feel sorry for the Children of Israel?

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2.) Why did he leave Egypt?

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3.) What did he see one day when he was feeding the sheep?

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4.) Who spoke to him from the bush?

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5.) Why did the Lord tell Moses to take off his shoes?

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6.) What did the Lord want Moses to do?

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7.) Was Moses glad to go at once?

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8.) What excuses did Moses make?

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9.) Who was sent to talk for Moses?

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10.) What did the people do when they heard Moses' and Aaron's message?

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God told Moses to take off his shoes because the ground on which he stood was holy. We use many articles and signs of devotion which are holy. We call such articles and signs sacramentals. Always be careful to treat the sacramentals with respect.

## ***Do you know about the following sacramentals?***

### *The Sign of the Cross:*

Do you know what the sign of the cross means?

Do you make it carefully and correctly?

Show the class how to make the sign of the cross correctly.

### *Holy Water:*

When should you use holy water?

Learn the "Prayer before Sleeping." This is an old prayer that people often say when they sprinkle their beds with holy water before they go to bed.

### *Blessed Candles:*

Tell the class when and where blessed candles are used and what is their meaning.

Find in a Catholic Calendar on what day candles are blessed by the Church.

Read "Church Lights," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 184.

### *Blessed Palms:*

When are palms blessed?

For what are blessed palms used?

Read and tell the class the story of the first Palm Sunday in Wonder Stories, page 268.

### *Blessed Medals:*

Have you a blessed medal?

For what is a blessed medal used?

Find out what pictures and words your medal has on it.

### *Stations of the Cross:*

What are the stations of the cross?

Can you make the stations of the cross?

During what season of the year do people make the stations most often? Why?

Read the beautiful little story, "Buddy Makes the Stations," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 239.

### *The Rosary of Our Lady:*

Can you say the rosary?

What are the mysteries of the rosary?

Which is the month of the Holy Rosary?

On a Catholic calendar find on what day we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary.

### *Blessed Ashes:*

When are ashes blessed?

What is the meaning of the blessed ashes being put on the forehead?

Study the little poem, "Benediction," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 94.

There are many other sacramentals. Can you add others to this list?

## ***Good things for you to read:***

"October Stars," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 55.

"Holy Water," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 87.

"Blessed Candles," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 185.

"Immaculate," Rosary Fourth Reader, page 147.

### *God Gives the Ten Commandments*

In the third month after the Children of Israel had left the land of Egypt, they camped near Mount Sinai. Moses went up the mountain and the Lord spoke to Moses saying: "Let the people prepare themselves for two days and wash their garments. On the third day I will come down upon Mt. Sinai and speak to them." Moses told the people what the Lord had said, and on the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, while a thick cloud covered the mountain. Then a trumpet blew until the sound grew louder and longer, and the people stood at the bottom of the mountain very much afraid.

*Then the Lord spoke these words:*

- 1. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.**
- 2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.**
- 3. Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath Day.**
- 4. Honor thy father and thy mother.**
- 5. Thou shalt not kill.**
- 6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
- 7. Thou shalt not steal.**
- 8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.**
- 9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.**
- 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.**

For forty days and forty nights Moses remained on the mountain and spoke with God. And God gave Moses two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written upon them. \*When the Lord gave the Children of Israel the Commandments, they promised Him that they would keep them faithfully. The Ten Commandments are God's law also for us and all His people. Those who do not keep God's law commit sin and will be punished, just as Adam and Eve were punished for disobeying the law of God. But in order to keep the commandments, we must first of all know them. Recite the Ten commandments.

