

The Story of Moses

¹Once upon a time there was an evil Pharaoh in Egypt. He wanted his people to be the greatest & the mightiest nation. But he noticed that there were a lot of Hebrew people and he was afraid that they would take over Egypt one day... He made them slaves and treated them very badly. He gave an order saying, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews has to be cast into the river"

²Around this time a woman named Jochebed had a son, she loved him and she hid him for three months. When she could not hide her son any longer, she put her baby in a basket float down the river Nile. His big sister, Miriam, was following the basket, to see what would happen to him.

³About this time the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river. She saw the basket, and she sent her maiden to get it. The baby was crying. She knew that it was a Hebrew child, but she wanted to keep him. When Miriam saw that Pharaoh's daughter wanted to keep the baby she came to her and suggested a nurse. It was the child's own mother...

⁴So Jochebed got to have her baby back until he was weaned. She was able to teach him about God ways and the Hebrew. When it was time, she took him back to the Pharaoh's daughter. The Pharaoh's daughter named the child Moses and she was raised him as her own son.

⁵One day, when Moses was a grown man he went out and saw how hard they had to work for Egyptians. He saw a mean taskmaster beating a Hebrew. This made him so angry that he hurt the Egyptian and he died. Moses realised that he would be punished so he ran away to the desert & he came to the land of Midian.

⁶One day Moses was sitting by the well, when seven daughters of the Midian priest Jethro came to give water to their sheep. Then some shepherds came. They were mean to the daughters & they scared away the sheep. Moses helped the women. He drove away the troublemakers & helped to water the flock.

⁷When the women told their father Jethro, he was very thankful to Moses. He asked him to stay with them to take care of the flock. Moses married Jethro's daughter Zipporah & they had a son.

⁸One day Moses came to the mountain of God. He saw the bush in flames, but it did not burn. Moses was very curious, he came closer... Then he heard a voice, it was God. God said to Moses... "Moses, I have heard the cry of my people in Egypt and I know how badly they have been treated. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt and to set them free!"

⁹So Moses went to the Pharaoh, with his brother Aaron. He said to Pharaoh, "You've been mean & cruel to my people. Let my people go, as God has commanded." But Pharaoh did not want to let Hebrew people go. So God sent a plague, He made all the water of the Egyptians turn into blood. But Pharaoh would not let the Hebrews go.

¹⁰So Moses went to Pharaoh again and again he said, "You've been mean & cruel to my people. Let my people go, as God has commanded." But again, Pharaoh would not let the Hebrews go. God sent more plagues upon the Pharaoh and his people...

After the first plague, the plague of blood God sent more... The plague of frogs, Gnats, Flies, Disease in their cows and goats, boils, hail, locusts and darkness. But still, Pharaoh would not let the Hebrews go.

¹¹Finally, God spoke to Moses and told him to prepare the Hebrews because the very worst plague was going to come – the Death of the Firstborn. God told them to kill a special lamb to eat, and to use some of the blood to mark the doors of the Hebrews as a sign that they belonged to God. He told them to eat quickly, with sandals on their feet and their staff in their hands. God said "Remember this day, and celebrate it, this will be the Lord's Passover, and I will deliver my people from slavery to freedom.

¹²So God sent the plague, and every firstborn – both man and beast died. When Pharaoh saw the power of God, he said to Moses, "Go, take your people and go!" All the Hebrew people took their belongings & left Egypt for the new land that God had promised them. There were six hundred thousand men with their families and their animals! The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light. Eventually they reached the sea.

¹³It didn't take long before Pharaoh's heart hardened again. He gathered his army and he chased after the Hebrew people. The Hebrews were frightened, but Moses reminded them that God was with them. He would fight for them.

¹⁴God told Moses to raise his staff over the water. As he did, God made a path through the sea so that Hebrews could walk through on dry land, with a wall of water on their right and a wall of water on their left.

The Egyptians went after them but God held them back with a pillar fire. On the last night of the crossing, God confused the Egyptian army. Then when all the Hebrews were safely across God told Moses to stretch out his staff over the water and the sea went back to its place. All the Egyptians were swept away.

¹⁵And when the Hebrews saw the great power the God displayed against the Egyptians, glorified God and put their trust in Him. They celebrated the mighty things He had done for them and they promised that they would always remember how God had brought them out of slavery and to freedom.