

## **GOD'S PROMISES AND PRINCIPLES (MOSES' FIRST 80 YEARS)**

- Can someone share with us when they were born and where? (...)
- Where did you go to school? (...)
- Did you go to college? (...)
- What did you study? (...)
- What did you do after college? (...)
- If you are married, where and how did you meet your husband? (...)

-Everyone has a life story and today we are going to study how God ordains our life story to bring glory to Him and His perfect will for ourselves and for others.

-We all are part of a much greater story than just ourselves. In order to learn this, we are going to study one of the Bible's most famous people, Moses, and his life's story. It all starts in the book of Exodus.

-Let me give a little background of what has happened to God's chosen people, the Israelites, before we talk about the birth of Moses. I want to do this so we can understand what was going on in the time he was born and how God directed the events of his life.

-It all started with Abraham, about 7 generations earlier, who was chosen by God to leave his home and go to the Promise Land where God promised to make his offspring a great nation.

-Abraham then had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob and then Jacob had 12 sons. One of those 12 sons was Joseph whom his brothers became very jealous of. They sold him into slavery where he ended up in Egypt.

-Joseph finds favor with the prison official and interprets Pharaoh's dream at that time. He ends up being 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pharaoh in all of Egypt, all through God's provisions.

-There was a great famine in all the land and through God's mercy and plan, Joseph brought his father (Jacob) and all his brothers and their families to the land of Egypt to be taken care of and saved from starvation.

-The next 400 years the Israelites lived and prospered in Egypt, multiplying beyond the comfort of the new Pharaoh who began to rule.

-Here is where our story begins. Let's read our 1<sup>st</sup> verse together on our Verse Sheet to see what is happening: (Exodus 1:8-12 "Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, 'Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. *But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.*")

**-So, what is happening here:** (There arose a new Pharaoh, a king, who did not know Joseph. He did not know what Joseph had done for the kingdom there, how he saved them all from famine. Instead, he noticed that the Israelites were getting too many. He was afraid they would come and attack them so he put them into slavery.)

**-But, according to this verse, what happens to the Israelites under this harsh treatment?** (They multiplied and the Egyptians feared them.)

**-God's hand was on His people during this time just as His hand is on His children today.**

**-We are going to learn several God Principles today through this story that we can apply to our own lives. Let's start with the first one, it is #2 on our Verse Sheet, let's read it together:** (Principle 1: God is with you! Do not be afraid!)

**-Are there times, like the Israelites, that you feel oppressed or afraid? Maybe you hear a bad report for yourself or a loved one, maybe it's the loss of a loved one or friend, the loss of finances, the loss of independence, listening to the news, or so much more? (...)**

**-Just as God was there for His children even when they didn't see it, do you believe God is there with you? (...)**

**-He has been faithful to His people throughout history, being with them through difficult times, guiding them by faith and ordering their lives just as He is ordering ours now, even if we may not see it at the moment.**

**-Will you thank God for how He is ordering your life and how He is there for you even if you can't feel it? (...)**

**-Let's continue with our story of Moses. At this time of slavery is when he was born. Does anyone remember what Pharaoh told the Israelite midwives to do with every male baby that was born during Moses' time? (To kill them.)**

**-Did they do it and why or why not? (No, because they feared God.)**

**-Since the midwives wouldn't do it, he then told all the Egyptians to throw any male baby into the Nile.**

**-Can you imagine what that must have been like for a new mommy?**

**-Let us read from Exodus 2:1-4 about Moses' birth, #3 on our Verse Sheet:** (Exodus 2:1-4 "Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a *fine* child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.")

**-We can learn several things from these few verses:**

**-When you had your child, didn't you think he or she was the "finest" thing you ever saw? (...)**

- Moses was not only beautiful, but there was something special about him that his mother recognized.
- Did you recognize the special qualities that God has put in your own child's life or even in your own? (...)
- Each one of us is gifted with special qualities that are supernaturally and individually given to us by God. God has a plan to use them for His glory no matter our age or circumstances, just as He did for Moses and his mother.
- So, here this mother recognized something special in her son and decided to put him in the Nile, trusting God would watch over him.
- Do you trust God to watch over your family and situation like she did?
- Who walks down to the Nile to bathe? (Pharaoh's daughter)
- What did she do when she saw the baby Moses? (She had compassion on him and chose to raise him.)
- She heard his cry and fell in love with that baby. Miriam (Moses' sister) then came up to her and asked if she would like an Israeli woman to nurse the baby and Pharaoh's daughter said what? (yes)
- And who did Miriam get to nurse baby Moses? (His own mother!)
- Let's stop here for a moment, do you see the hand of God moving in hearts and souls here for His greater purpose? (...)
- Let's make it personal, do you see the hand of God moving in the hearts and souls of those you know that need His help and love?(...)
- If not, keep praying like Moses' mother was during this whole time.
- Trust God that He will work His plan because whether you see it or not, God is moving as we pray.

- Let's continue. Here is Moses' very own mother, a slave, taking care of her own son by the *orders* of Pharaoh's daughter. She dedicated her child to the Lord as she put him in the river and God intervened.
- God gave back to her, her own baby to train for 3-4 years before he went to live with Pharaoh's daughter in the palace.
- During this time, Moses' mother told him all about God and how much He loves him. She probably told him that God had great plans for him. She probably told him how God took care of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and he will take care of him too. She probably told him God brought them there and multiplied them and will do the same for him in the way God chooses to. She told Moses all about God.

- Let me ask us some questions here:
- Who are we telling about God? (...)
- Do friends need to hear this same message, that God loves them and is looking out for them today? (...)
- Does your family need to hear this? (...)
- Do you need to hear this? (...)
- Moses had those precious years with his mother. Can you be those precious years to someone else? (...)

**-Let's read our God Principle #2 on our Verse Sheet from this story, it's #4: (God is sovereign and His plans will not be overturned. He is ruler of all and is in control of all, do you expect great things from God?)**

**-Do you expect great things from God? (...)**

**-If you don't, start doing that. Moses's mother expected great things from God. She expected God, in His will, to protect and guide Moses and that is what He did, even when he left her to go live in the palace. Even when he did wrong things, she prayed and expected. We can pray that for our own family and friends.**

**-When Moses went to live in the palace, he had the finest of everything. He had the best food, the best clothes, and the best education. Here he was, a little Hebrew baby who would have been doomed to death, now growing up in a place all because of God's sovereignty.**

**-Moses learned things beyond what his original circumstances would have dictated. And when he turned 40 years old, God laid on his heart to check on his own people, the Israelites.**

**-Just because we may not see change in those we love in their young days, doesn't mean we need to give up praying for them. I'm sure Moses' mother watched him grow up in the palace and wondered if he would ever turn his heart back to his own people and to God. He was in a world that worshiped idols and gave him every worldly thing he could desire.**

**-But, when we ask God to intervene, in His timing and His choosing, He moves the hearts of those we love and care about. So don't give up!**

**-So, at 40 years old, he remembered what he was taught and God touched his heart to check on His people. He wanted to start protecting them and help them. But, as we will see, they weren't ready yet.**

**-Does anyone remember the story of what happened when Moses saw an Egyptian treating one of his Israeli people badly? (He killed the Egyptian and tried to hide him in the sand. The next day he went back to talk to the Israelites and they said "Who put you judge over us? Are you going to kill us like you killed the Egyptian?" He became afraid because he knew that the word was spreading and Pharaoh would hear of it soon. So, at 40 years old, Moses had to flee from Egypt for his life. He was living in the palace, under the protection of Pharaoh, and then had to leave it all to live in the wilderness for the next 40 years.)**

**-How many of you have ever had wilderness moments in your life? (...)**

**-Do you think God used those times to change you and make you who you are today? (...)**

**-Did you allow Him to make you better or are you bitter instead? (...)**

**-Are you willing to stop complaining and wishing things were different and live instead in the present and purpose that He has for you? (...)**

**-Let's see how Moses lived this out. He fled Egypt and went to the land of Midian. While he was there for 40 years, he was given a wife and had two sons.**

**-So even in times that may seem like a wilderness in our lives, God is still working and blessing, we just have to recognize them and not just look at the negatives.**

**-So how old is Moses after the 40 years? (80 years old)**

**-At 80 years old God told Moses he was ready to lead His people out of slavery!**

**-Do you think all those previous 80 years were a waste, why or why not? (No, because they prepared his heart to be humble and ready for God's leading. The bible said he was a very humble man.)**

**-Does anyone remember how God approached Moses in the wilderness to reveal those plans? (Moses saw a burning bush that was not being consumed by the fire. God called Moses out of that burning bush and told him to go to lead His people out of Egypt.)**

**-Do you think Moses immediately said, "Okay, I'll go!"? (No!)**

**-What did Moses do instead, from Exodus 4? (He gave God so many excuses. He said things like who am I? What if they don't believe me? I'm a nobody now! They'll think I am crazy when I tell them that You sent me. Besides, I can't speak right, I am slow in speech and tongue. And then Moses finally said, I'm sorry Lord, but please send someone else!)**

**-Have you ever done that, felt the Spirit's calling on your heart to say or do something but you came up with excuses?**

**-Have you ever said things like what if I say the wrong thing, I'm really not that important or knowledgeable, they probably won't like me, it will sound so dumb if I say that, I'm a nobody and they will think I'm weird, what if they don't believe me?**

**-Please, Lord, send somebody other than me! (I know I have.)**

**-But let's read what the Lord says, it is #5 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 4:11-12 "The Lord said to him , 'Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.'")**

**-What is the Lord telling all of us here? (That He gives us exactly what we need to say to that person who needs to hear it. Even if it seems dumb, it will be received by them just the way the Lord wants them to receive it as long as we are obedient and humble ourselves do what the Spirit tells us to do.)**

**-So Moses did all that the Lord told him to do. He went back to Egypt, met his brother Aaron, and they went to the elders of the Israelites and told them everything the Lord told him to tell them.**

**-Let's read our last verse together to see what happened: #6 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 4:31 "*And they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.*")**

**-What did the people do?** (They believed and bowed down and worshipped God!)

**-Let's read our God Principle 3 from our Verse Sheet together, #7:** (God deserves our worship and praise. Will you praise Him today?)

**-Does God deserve your worship and praise? Why?** (Each day God is working His perfect plan for our lives. Because of this, we should praise and worship Him for allowing us to be part of His plan. Even if we may not understand it, He is Sovereign and knows the beginning to the end.)

**-God greatest plan for creating you is to know Him personally and His great love for you through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, for you. He said that you were worth a Son to Him. Do you know Him?**

**-We pray that you all know Him. If you ever need someone to share Who He is and Who He can be for you, please talk to me about that.**

**-I hope we have learned from Moses' life that in times of uncertainty we need to have faith in God.**

**-Even when we have wilderness moments, God still takes care of us. It's not always easy, but the God of eternity is there, watching over us and helping us along the way.**

**-Think back on your life, where you were born, where you went to school, the path that led you to where you are today, God guided and kept you. If He didn't, you would not be here today. So, let's trust God in His plans for our lives and look to Him for guidance. He uses every circumstance in our lives to fulfill His plan. Let's pray that you enjoy your days and your time here where God has you.**

## **“GOD’S PROMISES AND PRINCIPLES” VERSE SHEET**

1. Exodus 1:8-12 **“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, ‘Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. *But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.*”**
2. Principle 1: God is with you! Do not be afraid!
3. Exodus 2:1-4 **“Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a *fine* child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.”**
4. Principle 2: God is sovereign and His plans will not be overturned. He is ruler of all and is in control of all, do you expect great things from God?
5. Exodus 4:11-12 **“The Lord said to him , ‘Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.’”**
6. Exodus 4:31 **“*And they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.*”**
7. Principle 3: God deserves our worship and praise. Will you praise Him today?