

Moses

We are going to look at the calling of Moses, one of Israel's most important leaders, by looking at bits of the account we find in the Bible in a book called Exodus.

Read the 'Moses: Back Story' comic strip.

Would you say Moses was more like an Israelite (also called Hebrews) or an Egyptian? Why? (Think about his background, family, education, status, lifestyle etc.)

The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

How do you think he was feeling?

Do you think the Hebrews would want Moses to be their leader? Why?

"One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand"

Why do you think Moses was so angry about the way that the Egyptians were treating the Hebrews?

Do you think what Moses did was sensible? Why?

Moses had tried to help his people the Hebrews but it all went wrong. He had lost their respect and also the respect of the Pharaoh.

Moses then had to flee Egypt as everyone had turned against him and Pharaoh was even trying to kill him! His attempt to help his people, the Hebrews, had not gone well!

He ran away into the wilderness where he got a job as a shepherd, but while he was out looking after the sheep something strange happened.....

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight— why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

In the desert where Moses was working it was not unusual for a dried-out bush to catch fire but there was something a little bit different about this bush, what was it?

Moses had to stop what he was doing to see what was happening and when he did God spoke to him. Knowing what he did in Egypt how do you think Moses would have felt when he knew that God was speaking to him?

God had to do something strange to get Moses' attention. How much are you listening for God and how would you feel if He spoke to you?

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the ancestors of Joseph, and Abraham's Hebrew forefathers. Knowing what you do about Moses' split background why do you think it is important that God calls himself "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob"?

Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?

God shows his compassionate and loving heart in hearing the cries of his people wanting to save them from their slavery. God says that He will rescue them but then tells Moses that he is sending him to do it. Why do you think God involves Moses in His plan?

We have already seen how passionate Moses was about saving the Hebrew slaves but we also saw how badly it went. How do you think Moses would feel about God sending him back there to try again?

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses went back to Egypt, the place where so much had happened for him, went back to the palace and demonstrated God's amazing power to the Pharaoh and lead the Hebrew people out of their slavery, through the Red Sea and into freedom.

Moses had to sacrifice a lot to follow God. He had to face his fears, face his enemies, face the things he had done wrong and risk his life on many occasions. But in the end the man that had run away into the desert scared, ashamed and rejected by the people he loved came followed the call of God and became a hero for his people.

God does not pick the best, holiest or most talented people to follow him, he calls anybody who is willing to follow and calls them into an adventure more amazing than anything they could have dreamed of.

Moses clearly didn't think he was the right man for the job. Remembering all that has happened, including Moses sins and failures, do you think he was the best man for the job? Why?

Sometimes we don't think we are good enough to do something. What was God's response to Moses' concerns?

How would you feel if God said He was with you?