



Exodus 4

The children of Israel lived in Egypt and had to work very, very hard, for they were slaves. A slave is a person who is owned by a master who makes them work long hours, with not much food and no money. The master might whip the slaves and no one cared. It was a very sad thing to be a slave. God watched over his people, the Israelites, and God was going to help them. One day God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush. Do you remember that story? God told Moses to go and help his people, who were called the children of Israel.

Do you think Moses wanted to go to Egypt and speak to the mighty king of Egypt? This king was called a Pharaoh and he was very mean and stubborn. Moses told God he really didn't want to go, but God said he would send Moses' brother Aaron to help and God would be with them. Moses said, "What if the Israelites won't listen to me? How will they know you sent me?" God asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?"
(What do you think it was? Here is a picture - It's called a staff or a rod)



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Then God told Moses, "Throw your staff on the ground." This seemed strange to Moses, why would he throw his staff down? But Moses obeyed God, so he threw his staff down. What do you think happened? The staff turned into a long, slithery snake! Moses jumped back and God said, "Now take ahold of the snake's tail and pick it up."

Oh Oh! What do you think would happen if you take ahold of a snake's tail? It can turn around and bite you, can't it? Moses was afraid, but still he obeyed God. Moses trusted that God wouldn't let the snake hurt him. He was shaking when he reached down and grasped the snake by the tail. What happened? Did the snake bite him? No, God was showing Moses how powerful he was and that Moses could trust him, because God wouldn't hurt him. When Moses took the snake by the tail, the snake turned back into a rod again! Wow! God can do magical things, can't he?

God said, if the Israelites don't believe you, show them this sign. Throw your rod down in front of them and it will turn into a snake.



Moses said, "What if the children of Israel still don't believe me?" God said, "Put your hand inside your robe, then bring it out again." This was a funny thing to do, but once again Moses obeyed God. When Moses brought his hand back out, he cried out in fright! His hand was white and covered with awful, red, runny, sores! "I have leprosy!" Moses cried." Leprosy was a terrible disease that could kill a person. God said, "Now put your hand back inside your robe. Moses didn't want this awful looking hand to touch his skin, but still he obeyed God!

Moses had a lot of trust in God, didn't he? Do you think you could obey if God asked you to do something? God does asks us to trust and obey him. Do your parents have a Bible? This is a book that tells us what God wants us to do. God wants us to obey his words in the Bible. When you get older you can read the Bible and see how God wants us to act and what he asks us to do. Won't it be great to be able to read the Bible?

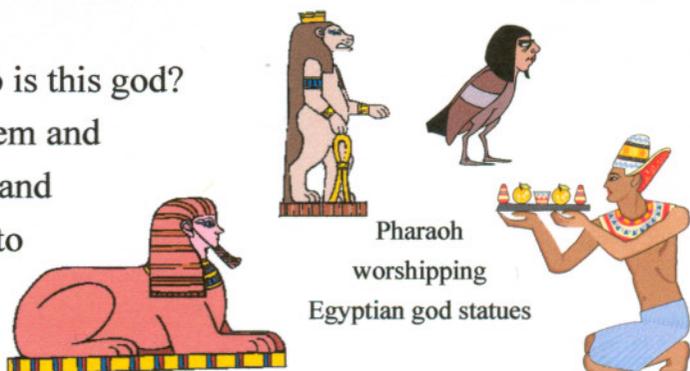
Moses put his hand back inside his robe as God asked. When he brought his hand back it was smooth and tan once again! God said, "Show this sign to the Israelites. If they don't believe the first sign, they will believe this one."



Moses went home and told his wife and two little boys to pack their things, for they would be leaving for the land of Egypt. They sadly said goodbye to their father, Jethro and started off on the long journey. As they traveled along they met Aaron and he went with them. After several days they reached the land of Egypt and found a place to stay with the Israelite people.

The next day Moses and Aaron showed the people the signs of the snake and the hands with leprosy. God also told Moses he could turn water into blood as a sign to the children of Israel. Now Moses and Aaron were ready to go to the palace to see the mighty Pharaoh. They bowed low and Moses said to Pharaoh, "The God of the Israelites said, let my people go into the desert so they may worship me."

Pharaoh laughed at Moses and Aaron.. "Who is this god? Egypt has many gods, we make statues of them and worship the god of the river, the god of flies and cow gods. Why should I let my slaves leave to worship some god I don't know?"



Then Pharaoh did a mean thing. He told Moses and Aaron that the children of Israel must be lazy and have too much time if they want to leave Egypt. Pharaoh said he would now make the children of Israel work harder than ever with less time to get their work done. This made the Israelite people mad at Moses. "Why did you come to us, you haven't helped us, you've made our work harder than ever," they said.

Poor Moses was very discouraged! He didn't know what to do, so he did the one thing that helps...he knelt down and prayed to God, asking for God's help.

Pharaoh wouldn't listen to him and now even his own people wouldn't listen to him.

Do you think God heard Moses' prayer and helped his people?

Yes, God answers prayers...but not always right away. God needed to teach Pharaoh about God's power. God told Moses he would be with him and Moses would show Pharaoh many magical signs before Pharaoh would let the Israelite people go.

In our next lesson we'll see what some of these signs are.

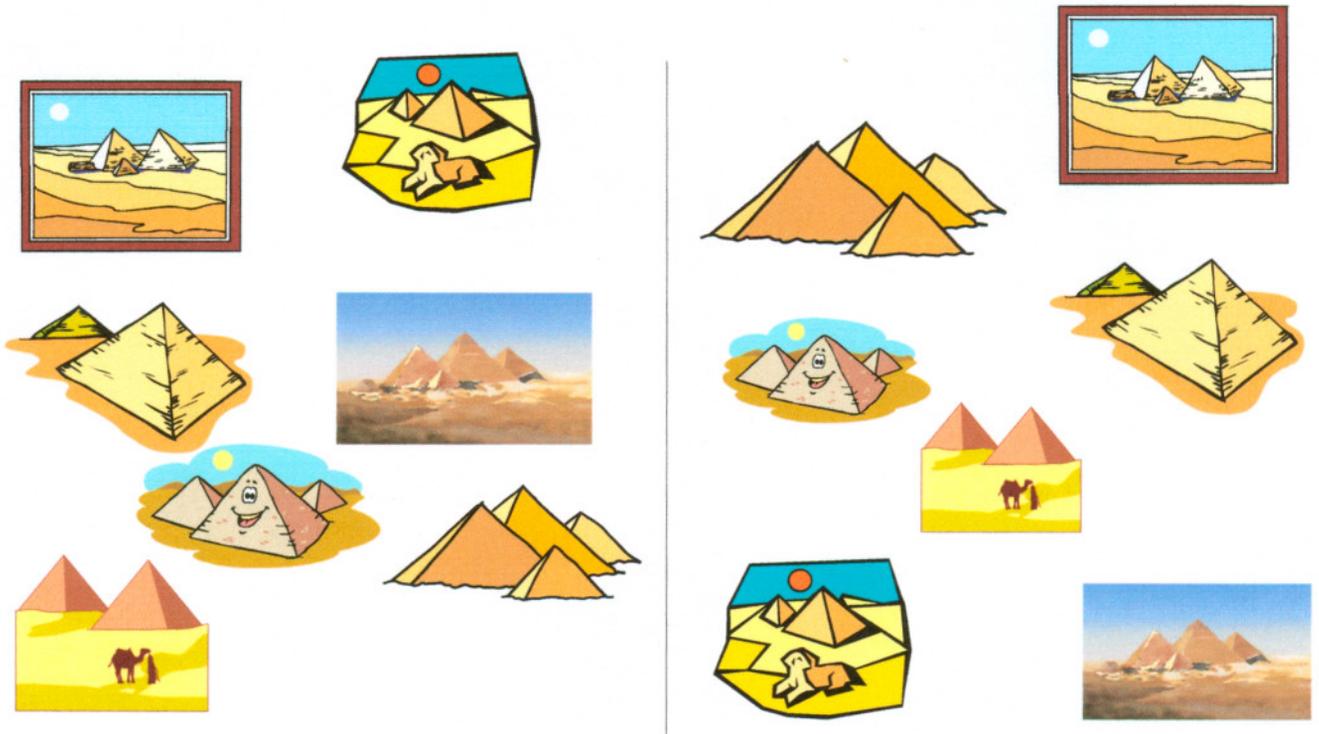


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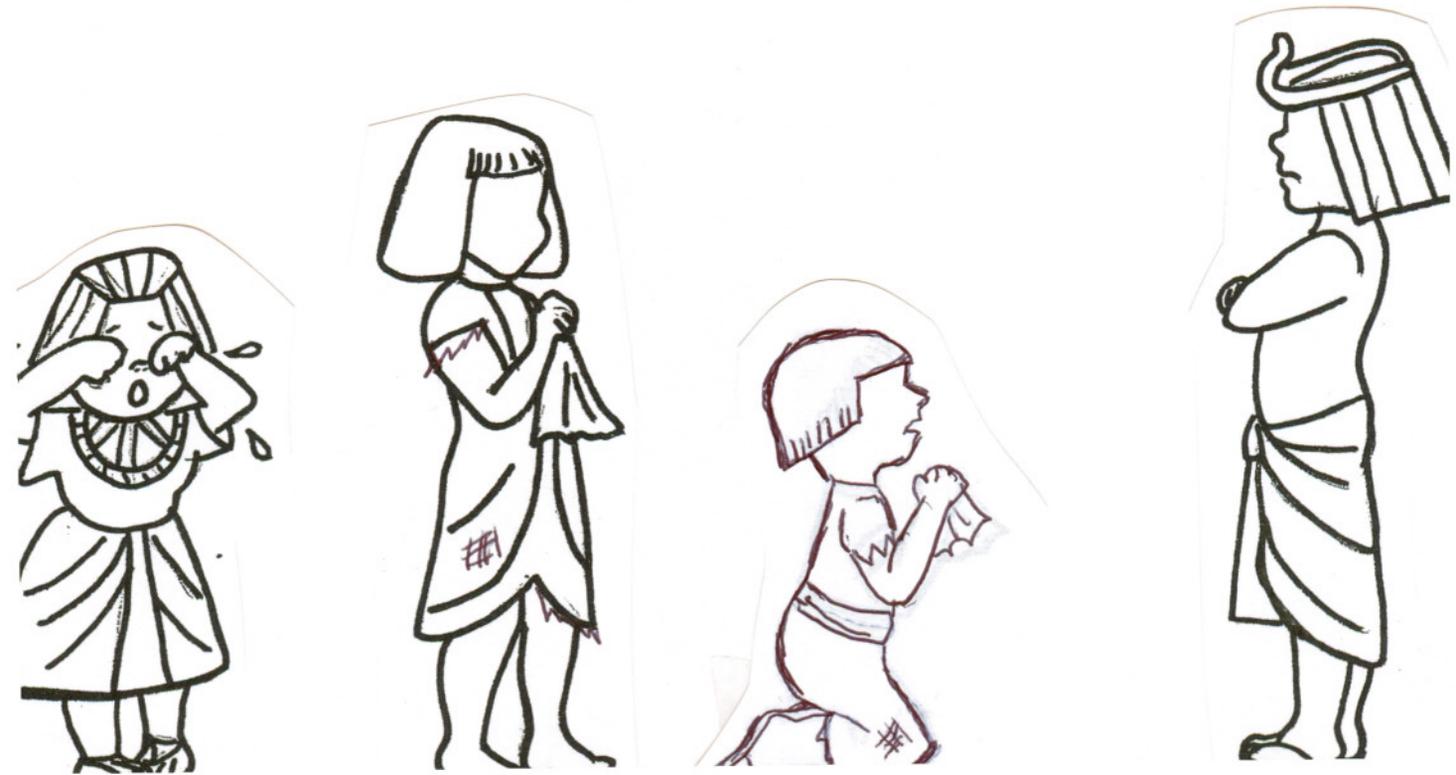
Question Page

1. What happened when Moses threw his rod on the ground?
2. What happened to Moses' hand when he put it inside his robe?
3. Who told Moses to do these things?
4. Did Moses trust God and obey him?
5. Did Moses' sister or his brother go to Egypt with him?
6. Do you remember the name of Moses' brother?
7. Was Pharaoh kind or mean to the children of Israel?
8. Did Pharaoh worship the true God? What kind of gods did Pharaoh worship?
9. Do slaves get to lay around the house and read or do slaves have to work very hard for masters who don't pay them any money or give them much food?
10. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go when Moses and Aaron asked him to?
11. Were the slaves happy with Moses or were they mad at Moses when they had to work harder than ever?
12. What did Moses do when he was very discouraged and unhappy?

There are many Pyramids in the land of Egypt. In the pictures below can you draw a line between the Pyramid on one side to the Pyramid that matches on the other side? Which Pyramid looks happy?

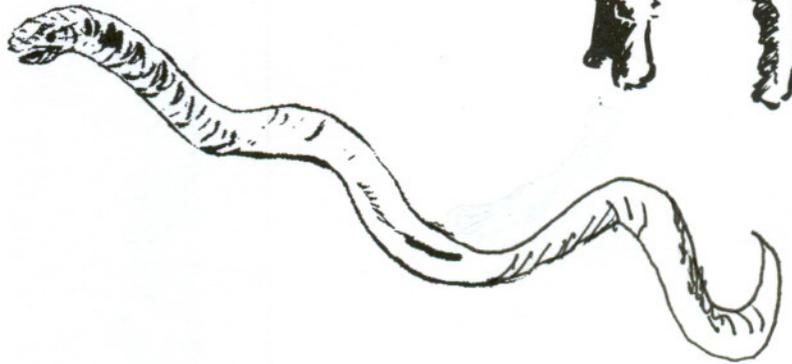
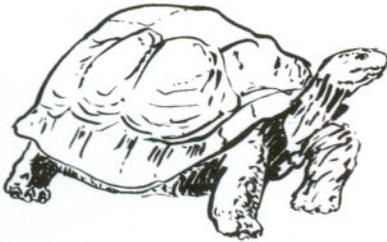
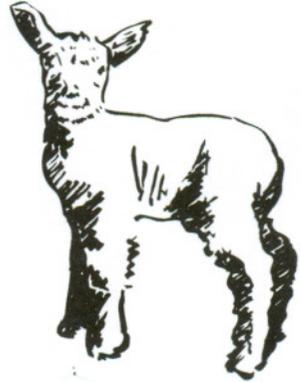
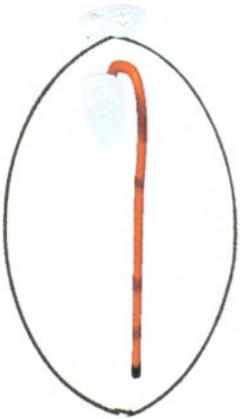


Pharaoh was very mean to the poor Israelite slaves. Can you draw a mean face on Pharaoh and sad faces on the slaves, then color the picture?



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Circle the thing that Moses' rod turn into and color the pictures of the different animals



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Color some ugly spots red and other colors to show how Moses' hand looked with leprosy
In the box draw a nice, tan hand without any ugly spots

