

Walking With God

Liberators: Moses

UNIT

1

Lesson
Four



Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...
Dear Lord, give us the courage to follow you in every way: as we make choices, when we have doubts, when others question our faith. May your Spirit fill us with the love and wisdom that are the source of courage. Amen.

Hye-Q

Abraham and Sarah left their home and followed God's will to a new life. What do you remember about their journey? Think about and discuss:

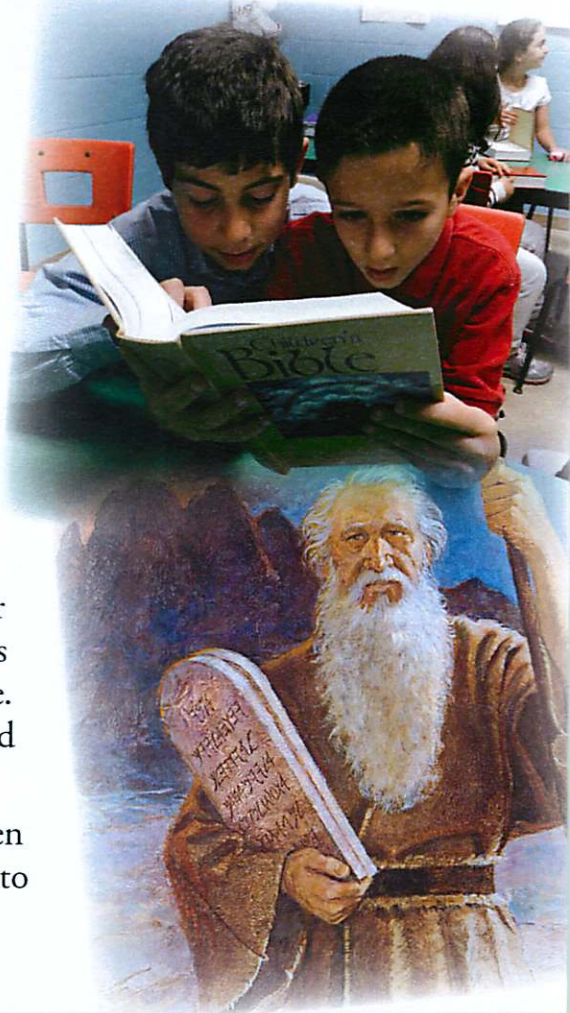
1. Why did Abraham and Sarah leave home and go to Canaan?
2. Did Abraham and Sarah have children when they left their home?
3. Were they afraid of the changes in their lives? Why or why not?

Daily Bread

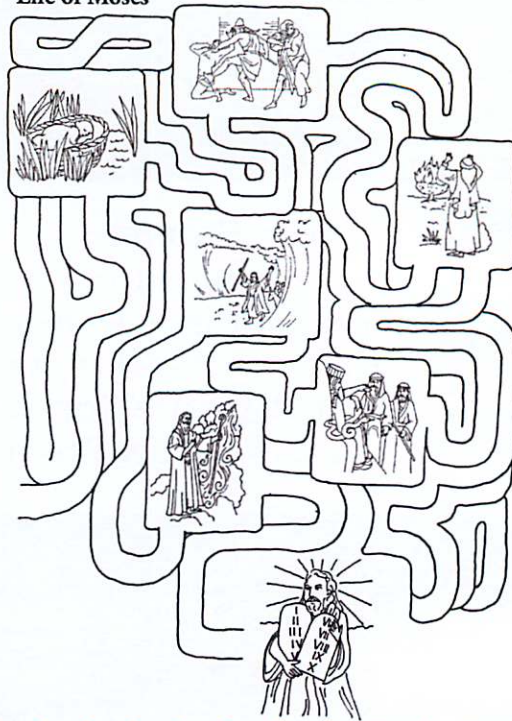
We have all heard the story of how Moses brought the Ten Commandments down from a mountain, but now you know that this was only *one* of the amazing things that Moses did for his people. God asked Moses to help free the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. In order to do this, he and his brother, Aaron, had to go through many hardships. Sometimes Moses actually did not feel confident that he could convince his people to follow him. He turned to God many times to ask for help. God gave him the tools to guide them, by creating miracles like parting the Red Sea and producing water from a rock.

Once the Jewish people were actually free from slavery, their troubles did not end. Life in the desert was very difficult. There was little food and water. They were worried that they might not survive. But Moses was a great leader to his people. He listened to them and tried to make sure that they got what they needed.

Being a leader takes a lot of courage and confidence. Even when people are complaining or criticizing you, you must stay true to your goal to do the best for the people you are leading.



Life of Moses



CELEBRATE WITH GOD



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

You have come upon the Ten Commandments before in your Sunday school classes. These were given to Moses by God after the Jews left Egypt and lived in the wilderness. The people still complained to Moses about their problems, so God asked everyone to come to the base of Mount Sinai so that he could talk to them. He asked Moses, alone, to come up the mountain. There, he gave him these commandments on two stone tablets:

1. You should not have other gods beside me.
2. You should not make false idols or images to worship.
3. Do not say or call on the name of God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not kill anyone.
7. A husband and wife must be faithful to each other.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not tell lies about your neighbor.
10. Do not be envious of your neighbor's belongings or your neighbor's wife.

In the Armenian Tradition

St. Gregory the Enlightener

Scene 1

Courage and faith are the reasons that Armenia became the first Christian nation in the world. There was a man who was part of King Drtad's court named Gregory. Gregory was a Christian. When King Drtad ordered Gregory to worship the statue of the pagan goddess Anahid, Gregory refused. Even though Gregory had worked for the King many years, the King became so angry that he ordered his guards to beat Gregory and to put him in a pit.

Scene 2

King Drtad thought that Gregory would surely die down in a pit. The secretary of the King's court wrote that someone felt bad for Gregory and brought him food by throwing a loaf of bread into the pit every day. Many people think it was the King's sister, Princess Khosrovitookht, who did that. The Princess and the King's wife, Queen Ashkhen, were beginning to believe in Jesus' teachings.

Scene 3

Thirteen years went by and one day, King Drtad became very, very sick. Everything was tried to cure him, but nothing worked. With God's prompting, Queen Ashkhen and Princess Khosrovitookht thought that Gregory could help and sent for him to be taken out of the pit. When Gregory prayed over King Drtad, the King immediately felt better.

Scene 4

The King asked Gregory to stay with him and, during that time, Gregory taught the King about the life and teachings of Jesus. Finally, King Drtad understood why Gregory refused to worship another god. Gregory told King Drtad that the love of Christ can make him feel well. The King recovered from his illness.

Scene 5

After that, King Drtad, Queen Ashkhen, and Princess Khosrovitookht went to the river and were baptized as Christians.

Scene 6

Gregory waited in the pit for many years in order to help them become Christians. King Drtad decided that Armenia would be a Christian country and, with the help of the Queen and Princess, they built the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin that is still there today.



Today we call Gregory, "Saint Gregory the Illuminator" or "Saint Gregory the Enlightener." Both "illuminate" and "enlighten" mean, literally, "to light up." But in a spiritual sense, they mean to help people understand in their hearts.

Did you know...!?

BIBLE BYTES

When Moses asked God who he was, God answered simply: "I am." The seventh letter of the Armenian alphabet, "eh," means the same thing. You often see it over the altar of Armenian churches. Sometimes people wear it on a chain around their necks, like a cross.

Well Versed

"God called to him from within the bush 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.'"
Exodus 3:4

Family Focus

Today's lesson was about courage and conviction. The children talked about occasions when courage is needed in their own lives. They learned about the life of Moses by doing a maze and hearing his story at each stop along the way. They also reviewed the Ten Commandments and acted out the story of St. Gregory and the conversion of Armenia to Christianity. You would have enjoyed their performance! Please feel free to stop by and join us in class any morning.

Living Your Faith

1. Talk to your children about the Ten Commandments and how many of the laws of our country and states are actually based on some of them.
2. Rent the animated movie, "Prince of Egypt." It is a children's film about the life of Moses.
3. Look on the internet with your family for photographs of ancient Armenian churches in and around Armenia. Since Armenia was the first Christian nation, it is also the location of the oldest Christian churches in the world.