

**THEME FOR UNIT 10:** God Loves Us  
**UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 4:8

# MOSES LEADS THE PEOPLE

LESSON 3

## BIBLE BASIS

Moses leads the people through the Red Sea (Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22, 31).

## BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us leaders.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

God is love. 1 John 4:8

## LESSON AIM

Students will begin to thank God for leaders such as parents, teachers, and church leaders.

1

### LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Play follow-the-leader and identify leaders in children's lives



**Materials:** "Woolly Lamb" Teaching Aid 3

2

### BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures about crossing the Red Sea
- Review with questions



**Materials:** Bible, "Moses and the People" Teaching Aids 5, 6, 7

3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Practice the Bible memory verse with a poem
- Color a picture of Moses and the Israelites



**Materials:** *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 3, crayons

4

### LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story of children following a leader
- Play a game to name leaders



**Materials:** *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 3, ball



**This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.**



#### Today is Father's Day.

Some students may not have a father who is present in their lives. Adapt the lesson as needed to fit the various family situations in your class.

## Understanding the Bible

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, but it was not an easy task. Pharaoh, the Egyptian king, would not let the Israelites go though God sent many plagues to show that He was more powerful than any Egyptian god. Finally, God sent a plague that killed all the Egyptians' firstborn sons. Then Pharaoh ordered Moses and all the Israelites out of Egypt.

The Israelites' exodus began with God leading His people by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. Pharaoh decided to go after them. Exodus 14:8 states, "The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites."

The Egyptian chariots drew near to the Israelites. God's people were caught between the Red Sea and an army of Egyptians. One commentary states that "the Red Sea is a great body of water that stretches north-south for nearly twelve hundred miles." The Egyptian chariots had a framework of wood or wicker and woven rope with wooden wheels.

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today" (Exod. 14:13). The Lord instructed Moses to tell the people to "move on" (vs. 15). God parted the water at exactly the right time for the people to walk across; then He brought the water back at exactly the right time for the destruction of the Egyptian army and its chariots.

Exodus 14:31 states, "And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant."

The story of the Red Sea is so important because it is the once-and-for-all act by which God freed His Old Testament people from their slavery. It is the Old Testament counterpoint to the cross of Calvary in the New Testament. Calvary is the action by which God offers us freedom from slavery to sin through Jesus' death for us (see Rom. 6:17-22). Jesus is our Emancipator.

The Book of Exodus is named for the number one event of the book here in Exodus chapter 14. Exodus means "the road out."

Have you noticed how when people share a common, life-shaking event (like a fire or a funeral), they have a greater solidarity or connectedness to one another? First Corinthians 10:1-2 indicates that this is what the deliverance through the Red Sea did for those (probably more than two million) Israelites.

## Understanding Your Students

For preschoolers, the important focus of this week's Bible story is neither the violence nor the miracle, but the love God showed by providing Moses to lead the people. Your preschoolers can begin learning that God has given them leaders to follow also.

Most of your children are just learning what the word "leader" means, especially in a group. Because your little ones are starting to enjoy some independence, they find it difficult to be good followers except for short periods of time. But they like to know who their leaders are.

## CLASSROOM TIPS

Here are things you can do to increase awareness of the leaders God has given us.

- Help your children identify leaders in the church such as the pastor, usher, and choir director. Give a simple explanation of what these leaders do.
- Offer prayers for leaders who help the children such as the pastor, their parents, or grandparents.
- While you may want to talk about fathers being good leaders, show your sensitivity by talking about how mothers, grandfathers, uncles, and other male relatives and friends also help us and lead us. Be certain to talk about the fact that there are many great leaders from your students' African-American heritage. See page 4 for an example.

## WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- You may play a favorite song from the Diskit CD to gather the children for worship.
- Choose one of your children to bring the offering container and collect offerings. Thank God for the offering money that will help others know about Him.
- Have your children imitate your prayer posture. **Dear God, You help us in many ways. Thank You for our families and all the other people You give us to help us learn about You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



## BEFORE CLASS

In advance, you may want to ask your pastor or youth leader to help you greet your students. For example, **Good morning. This is** (Pastor \_\_\_\_\_). **God gave us our pastor to help us learn about God. Today we will learn that God gives us leaders.**

If your students are shy or afraid to meet new people, don't insist that they talk to the pastor. Let them know who the pastor is, and have the minister be available to play and talk with the children when they are ready.

Give your children an opportunity to give their offerings, mark their attendance, and then direct them to the first activity of the day.

## GETTING STARTED

The following activities will prepare the children for the lesson of God gives us leaders.



**Books:** Look at books about leaders such as teachers, firefighters, policemen, parents. **God gives us many kinds of leaders.**



**Moving and Doing:** Mark off a short distance on the floor with two beanbags.

Have a child leader jump from one beanbag to the other. The others will follow. Beanbags can be moved farther apart for more challenge. **Today in our Bible story, we will learn about a leader God used to help some people.**



**Play Dough:** Set out play dough and assorted shells. Encourage the children to press shells in the play dough to make "shell prints." Children relate shells to oceans. **We will learn about a great thing God did with water.**

# 1

## Life Need

5 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will play Follow-the-Leader and identify leaders in their lives.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about Moses leading the people through the Red Sea.

Have children sit in a circle. Bring out the "Wooly" puppet teaching aid. **Good morning, children. (Have Wooly whisper to you.) Wooly says he is very tired this morning. He had to follow his shepherd to a new meadow where there was lots of delicious green grass to eat. (Have Wooly whisper to you.) Then the shepherd led Wooly to a river that had cool water for him to drink. (Have Wooly whisper to you.) Wooly wants to know if you have ever followed someone.** Allow for responses. Put Wooly away.



Wooly Lamb  
Teaching Aid 3

**How many of you have played the game, "Follow-the-Leader"?** (Allow students to respond.) **Let's play that game now.** Help your children form a line behind you so they can follow you around the room. Do simple motions such as marching, skipping, raising hands, clapping hands, and so on. When you have finished, lead your class back to the circle.

**You were all very good followers. Just like Wooly's shepherd led him to green grass and cool water, I led you around the room and you followed me. I was your leader. Let's talk about leaders.**

**Who are some leaders in our church?** (Children may say you, their Sunday school teacher; the pastor; the usher; the choir director; and so on. As they respond, give a simple explanation of what each leader does.)

**Who are some leaders at your home?** (Children may say their parents, grandparents, siblings, and so on. Give a short explanation of how these people lead them.)

**Who are some leaders at your preschool?** (Children may say their teacher, the line leader, and so on.)

**Our Bible story today tells about a man named Moses. He was the leader of some people called the Israelites. As you hear the story, listen for how God used Moses, the leader, to do something amazing.**



# Bible Learning

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will discover how God used Moses to lead the Israelites across the Red Sea.

You will use Figures 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, and 5 from Teaching Aids 5-7 to tell the Bible story. In advance, punch out the figures. Attach velcro, included in your Creative Teaching Aids packet, to the back of the figures. Place figures in the order you will use them.

## Bible Story

**Our story comes from God's Word, the Bible. It is in the book of the Bible called Exodus.** (Show the children where Exodus is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to Exodus 14 as you tell the story.)

**The Bible tells us about a man named Moses.** (Place Figure 1, Moses walking, on the flannel board.) **He was the leader of the Israelites.**

(Place Figure 2, the people and animals, to the right side of Moses.) **These people are called Israelites. The Israelites had been forced to work very hard for the Egyptians. God had chosen Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to a new land.**

**Finally the Egyptians let the Israelites leave. Tromp, tromp. It was a long walk to the new land.** (Pat your knees.) **Soon they were by a big sea of water called the Red Sea.** (Remove Figure 1. Put Figures 3A and 3B, the water, side by side in the middle of the board.) **There was no way to cross the Red Sea! It was too far to swim across. There weren't any boats around.**

**Then they heard something. The Egyptians were coming after them! They wanted to make the Israelites come back and work.**

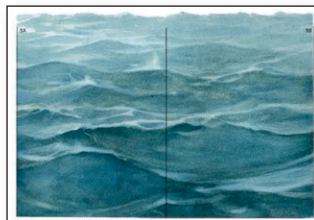
**The Israelites cried out to their leader Moses, "What will we do?" Moses said, "Don't be afraid. God will help us. He is leading us!" God told Moses to raise his stick and stretch his hand over the sea. Moses obeyed.** (Touch Figure 4 to Figures 3A and 3B.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figures 3A, 3B

**Separate Figures 3A and 3B.) God pushed the water apart and the water stayed! There was a dry path through the middle of the waters for the Israelites and Moses to walk through.**

(*"Walk" Figures 2 and 4 between 3A and 3B.*) **There was a big wall of water to their right. (Point to Figure 3B.) There was a big wall of water to their left. (Point to Figure 3A.) The ground was dry between those walls of water!**

**But the Egyptians were following the Israelites through the walls of water!** (Put Figure 5, the Egyptians, between Figures 3A and 3B.)

**Moses led the Israelites until they reached the other side of the sea. They turned around to see the Egyptians. (Cup hand over eyes.) Then God told Moses to stretch his hand over the waters again. (Touch Figure 4, Moses, to Figure 3A and cover Figure 5, the Egyptians, with Figures 3A and 3B.) Moses obeyed. God closed the waters over the Egyptians!**

**Moses and the Israelites were safe on the other side of the Red Sea! They sang and praised God. (Jump and clap.) They thanked God for His great power and for their leader, Moses.**



Figure 4



Figure 5

## Bible Story Review

- 1. Who was the leader of the Israelites?** (Moses.)
- 2. What couldn't Moses and the Israelites get across?** (The Red Sea.)
- 3. How did God help Moses lead the Israelites across the Red Sea?** (Moses obeyed God. He raised his stick and stretched his hand over the sea. God pushed apart the waters so the Israelites could walk through on dry land.)
- 4. When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, what did God tell Moses to do?** (To stretch his hand over the waters.)
- 5. What happened next?** (God closed the waters over the Egyptians.)

# 3

## Bible Application

10 minutes

**Objective:** Students will learn that God gives them leaders.

### Bible Memory Verse

**God shows His love for us in many ways. One way He shows His love is by giving us leaders. God gave Moses to the Israelites. We learned how God used Moses to lead the Israelites across the Red Sea.**

**Our Bible memory verse tells us about God. The verse is "God is love" 1 John 4:8. Let's say the verse together. Our Bible memory verse is also in our action rhyme. Let's say the rhyme together.**

**God is watching when I jump.**

*(Jump.)*

**He listens when I pray.**

*(Fold hands as if praying.)*

**God is love; I know it's true.**

*(Hug self; open arms wide.)*

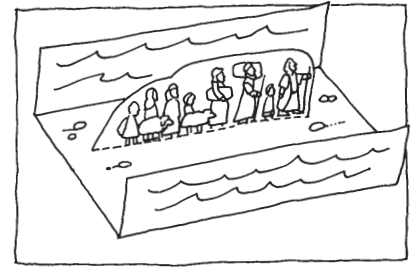
**He's with us every day.**

*(Join hands.)*

### Handcraft

Remove the handcraft project for Lesson 3 from each child's Make-It/Take-It. In advance, tear off the top margin and punch out around the top and sides of the people.

Fold each project back on the broken lines and then unfold it so the children can follow the crease lines in class. During class, your children can color their pictures.



Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 3

Then help them fold their projects back along the broken lines so the people and waves will stand up.

**When the people didn't know what to do, God told their leader, Moses, what they should do. God made the water move apart so the people could walk across the Red Sea and not get wet.**

**God gives us leaders too. Our moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, teachers and pastors help to lead us.**



# 4

## Life Response

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will play a game to name leaders and thank God for them.

Read aloud to your students "Follow the Leader" from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 3, back.

### Present-Day Story

One Sunday the Pastor came to the children's Sunday school class.

Pastor Johnson said, "Good morning, children! We are going to play a follow-the-leader game.

The children were happy. "Let's stand up and I want you to follow me," said Pastor Johnson.

The children followed Pastor around the room. They marched out of the classroom. They skipped as they went outside. The children were having fun following their pastor.

Pastor Johnson asked the children to sit down.

He told the children the Bible story of Moses, the leader of the Israelite people, and how they followed Moses. God helped Moses take care of the Israelites.

God also helps Pastor Johnson take care of the people at his church. He teaches the people to do what the Bible says.

"We are going to do one more follow-the-leader activity," said Pastor. "I want you to pray with me. Repeat after me. Dear God, thank You for giving us leaders. Thank You for being the best leader of all!"

### Closing Activities

**The children had their pastor to lead them.** Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures*. **In our Bible story, we learned that Moses was leading the Israelites to a new land. When they got to the Red Sea, they were trapped between the water and the Egyptians.**

**How did God help them?** (God told Moses, their leader, to raise his stick and stretch his hand over the sea. God pushed back the waters.)

Remind your preschoolers that God gives them leaders. He provides you to lead them each Sunday. **We are going to play a ball game to name other leaders God has given you.** Have children sit in a circle on the floor with their legs crossed and knees touching to keep the ball in the circle. Explain to the children how the game is played.

**We're going to roll the ball back and forth. When you catch the ball, name a leader God has given you. Then roll the ball to someone else.**

Begin the game by rolling the ball. Be sure to name a leader God has given you. As your class plays the game, check that each child has at least one turn touching the ball. If the children repeat each other's answers, that is fine.

Say a prayer with your class. **Dear God, thank You for the leaders You give us. Help us to follow them and obey them. We know this makes You happy. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Make sure that each child has his or her stand-up "Red Sea" Make-It/Take-It project and the *My Sunday Pictures* lesson card.

Say a personal goodbye to each child. **God gives us good leaders. Thank Him this week for your leaders.**



*My Sunday Pictures*  
Lesson 3 (front)



*My Sunday Pictures*  
Lesson 3 (back)