

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

September 2013

Moses: Learning To Lead God's Way

Lesson #1: Born of Faith

INTRODUCTION

How much do you know about your birth? (time, place, weight, etc.)

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: The Israelites were living in Egypt due to a great famine during the time of Joseph. According to Genesis 47:27, "Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number." Moses is the hero of the book of Exodus. And he is the mightiest name in all the Pantheon of Jewish heroes—above the likes of a David, or an Abraham or an Elijah. So the birth narrative of a nation's greatest son takes on an unusual interest value. Curiously the great man who is to captain Israel's ship of state and pilot her through not only a Red Sea, but other baffling "seas," himself baffles his enemies even in infancy when he is so little he's hidden by bulrushes! Every nation can recall sacred moments in its history when so much depended on so little. At this point Israel's destiny seems to hang breathlessly in the balance. Imagine that tiny ark among the river's reeds watched over by the loving eyes of one little sister. And God! And so it was to be centuries later when the doors of history would swing again on the tiny hinges of a baby's life, when his enemies would hound him and his family right into this same Egypt from his homeland (Matt. 2:13–23). Moses' name, as most Jewish names, has special meaning. It must come from the Hebrew word "to draw out" or "the one who draws forth" as Pharaoh's daughter had precisely done with the baby Moses from the river Nile. Prophetically and wonderfully this was to be Moses' role under the Will Divine: the drawer forth of his people.¹

Read Exodus 1:6 - 2:10

1. Why did the Egyptians despise the Hebrews during Moses time (400 years after the famine)?
2. How did the Egyptians express their disdain?
3. What actions showed the midwives' fear of man vs. God?
4. How did God reward their (civil) disobedience to the king of Egypt?
5. How did Moses' mother (Jochebed) show faith in her decision to save Moses from the Pharaoh's decree? (Heb 11:23)

Note: The Lord delights in taking the evil of men and using it for good. Here, God took an Egyptian edict meant to kill Hebrew boys and used it to rear a Hebrew deliverer in Pharaoh's own household!²

6. How did God reward her faith?
7. What difference does it make to God that we exercise faith? (Heb 11:6)
8. What is the relationship between faith and planning?
9. What is the difference between courageous faith and reckless faith?
10. How does an understanding of God's love and goodness bolster your faith? Josh 1:9, Psalm 138:7-8, Isaiah 43:2, Matt 7:7-11, John 3:16-17, Rom 8:28-29

APPLICATION

What's the condition of your faith? Do you trust God? Is your faith solid enough to withstand the tests of the future? What can you do to increase your faith in God?

¹ *The teacher's Bible commentary*. 1972 (F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (53–55). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Ex 2:8–10). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.