



## Revelation of God and An Unlikely Leader

By Joy Walker Miller

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

In Exodus 3 and 4, Moses is taking care of his responsibilities for his family when an angel from God comes to him in “flame of fire out of a bush” (verse 2). When God observed Moses paying attention to this unexpected sight, God calls to him. God then asks Moses to remove his shoes, for he is on holy ground. God calls Moses into his life’s work: freeing God’s people from oppression. Moses is full of fear, courage, and uncertainty, all at the same time. In order to help Moses feel qualified to do this work, God gives him unique tools and knowledge. The greatest of these gifts is God’s divine name. God also gives Moses miraculous power. God asks Moses to do unusual things and talk openly to God in this story. After talking with God and being given his purpose and the tools he would need, Moses returns to Egypt to deliver God’s people from slavery.

### Tell The Story

#### *Ideas*

1. Read the story from a children’s Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above
3. Read: *In God’s Name* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (special thanks to StoryPath for this recommendation)

### Discuss The Story

#### *Take Action*

In this section of Exodus, we see Moses prepare himself to encounter God by removing his shoes. He listens to his feelings and is frightened and brave while knowing God is with him through both feelings. We can also see that Moses asks God for what he needs to do the work he has been called to accomplish.

- How does God get your attention?
- Has God ever tried to get your attention and you’ve missed it until later?
- Think about how you might prepare to meet God. What do you do? Is there a new way you might want to try?
- Remember a time when you have been scared and courageous at the same time. Do the two feelings go together? How so?
- Is there a way you know God is with you?
- What kinds of tools does God give you to do the work that is before you?

#### *Activity Ideas*

- Where the weather permits, take your shoes off and have a firepit outside. If it’s too cold in your location, then invite your community to remove their shoes inside and observe a candle. Pray for God to prepare you for the work you have before you.
- Make a list of ways to be aware that God is calling you or asks you to pay attention so that you don’t miss it. Post the list somewhere so you can see it frequently.
- Pray and ask God for the tools you need to do the tasks that are set before you. Do this as an individual, family, and community.



## God Affirms Moses's Call and Commissions Aaron

By Allison Sandlin Liles

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

This week in chapter 6, God speaks to Moses again about the work in store for him: freeing God's people from oppression. God understands Moses fears this job and knows that the Pharaoh's heart is hardened. So God reminds Moses that he is part of a long line of faithful people through whom God has worked. God has heard the "groaning of the Israelites" and has a plan to rescue them. This will not be a secret rescue mission either; it will be public and powerful. Chapter 7 begins with God commissioning Aaron to be Moses' partner in this mission. The two of them go to Pharaoh to "perform a wonder" to prove they are representatives of God. Aaron throws down his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it turns into a snake. Then one of Pharaoh's representatives does the same thing! Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he refuses to let God's people go.

### Tell The Story

#### *Ideas*

1. Read the story from a children's Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above

### Discuss The Story

#### *Take Action*

In this section of Exodus, Moses tells God that he's worried about addressing Pharaoh because he's not a strong speaker. God hears Moses's fear and then commissions Aaron as Moses's teammate in the rescue mission.

- When have you needed the support of a friend or family member to do something too frightening to do alone?
- Who have you helped find courage?
- If you were to face a difficult situation, how might people best encourage you?

#### *Activity Ideas*

- Aaron is not only Moses's older brother, but he also speaks the words Moses is afraid to speak. Sometimes Aaron is known as a "mouthpiece" for Israel. If you were going to be a mouthpiece for God's people, what would you say? Write a story about being a mouthpiece.
- Who do you know that might need an encouraging friend? Write a note, decorate a kindness rock, or call someone who could use extra support this week.



## Hardened Hearts and the Plagues

By Allison Sandlin Liles

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

This week we learn a lot about the Pharaoh. Pharaoh the title given to kings in Egypt and this particular Pharaoh is the first full-scale bad guy in the Bible. He and the Egyptians represent everything that is opposite of God and the Israelites. This part of Exodus begins our showdown story of God confronting evil and trying to save the chosen people of Israel. Who will win?

Because the Pharaoh will not free the enslaved Israelites, God sends a series of plagues to Egypt. The plagues are like weapons or tools God uses against one of the greatest oppressors in the entire Bible. Some of the plagues are annoying, others are agonizing, and some are even deadly. One thing stays the same though: after each plague we are told that the Pharaoh's heart hardens, and he will not let God's people leave Egypt.

### Tell The Story

#### *Ideas*

1. Read the story from a children's Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above. What might you use to represent the plagues?

### Discuss The Story

#### *Take Action*

In this section of Exodus, we read about plagues God sends to the Egyptians because their Pharaoh refuses to free the Israelites.

- Do you like bugs or reptiles? Would you let them walk on your arm? Would you like them to cover your body?
- What plague would best get your attention and cause you to change your mind?
- Have you ever disagreed with someone, and your harsh words or actions seem to make things worse? What is a different way you might have sought resolution?
- What does it mean to you to have a hardened heart?
- There is a lot of destruction in these chapters. Spend time wondering what this tells us about God. Is God behaving benevolently or violently? Merciful or mean?

#### *Activity Idea*

- The second plague involves frogs coming up out of the river and jumping into people's homes! Follow these instructions to create a jumping frog of your own out of paper:  
<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Jumping-Frog>



## Remembrance and Gratitude

By Elizabeth Walker

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

These verses are the dramatic end to the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt. The eighth plague, locusts, and the ninth plague, darkness, join the cycle of the previous seven. Through Moses, the LORD brings hardship, pestilence, and pain upon the people of Egypt, and Pharaoh offers hearty pleas for mercy and empty promises. The LORD repeatedly hardens Pharaoh's heart and the enslavement of the Israelites continues, until verse 11, which begins the warning of the final plague. In keeping with the pattern of previous plagues, Moses shares the LORD's brutal warning that all firstborns in the land of Egypt, "from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the female slave who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the livestock." In light of this impending plague, the first Passover was instituted, including a perpetual ordinance in order that the Israelites would always remember "the passover sacrifice of the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared [the Israelites] houses." At the end of the passover, the tenth plague, the Israelites were finally freed from Egypt and the exodus begins.

### Tell The Story

#### *Ideas*

1. Read the story from a children's Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above
3. Read a picture book that connects to the story such as *Once Upon a Memory* by Nina Laden (thanks to StoryPath for this recommendation).

### Discuss The Story

#### *Take Action*

Talk about the story together. In the Passover, the LORD calls upon the people of Israel to remember this period from their history each year. The practice of remembrance and gratitude that is modeled in this passage and in the yearly observance of Passover is one that can be life-giving and life-sustaining.

- Create a Rule of Life, a guide or foundation which commits you to practices (spiritual, physical, and emotional) that ground you in and guide you into deeper relationship with God.
- Revisit this Rule at regular intervals, yearly or more often. Consider what experiences from your past led you to this rule, what things are going well and not going well with it now, and if there are changes that are needed. Your Rule of Life is a living document and can be changed or adjusted.
- This exercise can be done individually or as a family or community.



## Freedom: Crossing the Red Sea

By Allison Sandlin Liles

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

The Israelites are finally allowed to leave Egypt. God shows them the way through the desert by leading them within a cloud during the day and a fire at night. Before the Israelites can get very far, Pharaoh changes his mind. Again! He regrets losing his free labor force and decides to pursue them. Just as the Egyptians are about to overtake the Israelites at the Red Sea, God drives back the sea's waters with a strong east wind that blows all night long. The bottom of the sea becomes dry, allowing the Israelites to walk across it into freedom. Once the Israelites are safe on the other side, God returns the Red Sea to normal and shakes off the Egyptians into water.

### Tell The Story

#### *Ideas*

1. Read the story from a children's Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above
3. Read: [The Longest Night: A Passover Story](#) by Laurel Snyder (special thanks to [StoryPath](#) for this recommendation)
4. Watch a video of the Godly Play version of this story. "[The Exodus](#)" covers this section as well as previous weeks of the Good Book Club.

### Discuss The Story

#### *Take Action*

- Have you ever been in a body of water where your feet can't touch the bottom? Were you nervous the first time?
- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Pharaoh's army chasing after them? How would you feel walking across the dry land while surrounded by walls of water from the Red Sea?
- Do you think it was difficult for the Israelites to trust God to keep them safe?
- Have you ever looked back at a situation in your life and felt that God was protecting you? Describe what happened to someone in your household.

#### *Activity Idea*

- We cannot part an ocean or a lake like God, but we can part water in a bowl! Fill a small bowl with water and shake some black pepper so that it floats on the water. Stick your finger into the water. Does anything happen? Now add a drop of dish soap into the water and stick your finger in again. Did anything happen this time? The pepper should move away from the dish soap, like the water moving away from the center of the Red Sea.



## Gifts of God

By Sarah Bentley Allred

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

In Exodus 14, God “drove the sea back by a strong east wind” so that Moses could lead the people through the water, where Pharaoh’s army could not follow. The people were so joyful that they began to sing, dance, and praise God. On the other side of the Red Sea, the Israelites found themselves in the wilderness with nothing to drink and nothing to eat. Some wanted to go back to Egypt. God provided food in the form of quail and manna (“it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey” Exodus 16:31). And God showed Moses how to provide water for the people by striking his staff against a rock.

### Tell The Story

#### Ideas

1. Read the story from a children’s Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above
3. Watch a video of the Godly Play version of this story. The Godly Play Story “[Ten Best Ways](#)” covers most of Exodus 15-17:7 and some additional material.
4. Read a picture book that connects to the story such as [Hungry Bird](#) by Jeremy Tankard, [The Water Hole](#) by Graeme Base, [What Do You Do With a Problem?](#) by Kobi Yamada, and [Is This Panama? A Migration Story](#) by Jan Thornhill (thanks to StoryPath for these recommendations).

### Discuss The Story

- When have you felt so joyful that you felt like singing and dancing?
- Have you ever experienced something new and wished you could go back to something familiar? What did you do?
- Has God ever provided for you in a time of need?
- Has God ever shown you the way in a difficult time like God showed Moses?

### Take Action

In Exodus 15-17, the Israelites are in a new land looking for ways to meet their most basic needs: the need for food and water. In this story, God works through Moses to provide for the people. God can also work through us to provide for people in need.

- Make a list of what humans need to thrive.
- Do you know anyone who is struggling to have their needs met?
- Is there a way you (or your family) could help?

### Activity Ideas

- Make a card for someone feeling lonely.
- Find a local refugee resettlement organization and ask what donations they need.
- Clean up a creek or river.
- Take food to a food pantry.
- Carry bottled water in your car to hand out to those experiencing homelessness.



## God's Expectations: The Ten Commandments

By Allison Sandlin Liles

Offered through a partnership of [Building Faith](#) and [GrowChristians.org](#)

### Introduction

This week the Israelites experience their first military battle warfare. Remember God fought the Egyptians for them during their exodus from slavery; this time they are tasked with relying on God as they fight themselves. Moses sends Joshua to lead the army while Moses stands on a hill, lifts his arms to the sky, and prays for God to lead them to victory. We are told that Moses prays for so long that he can no longer hold his arms in the air! Following the successful battle, Moses receives excellent advice from his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro advises Moses to ask for help when he needs it because this job is too big for one person to do alone.

In chapter 19 we learn that the Israelites arrived in the wilderness of Sinai where they camp near the mountain. While the people set up tents, Moses climbs up the mountain to talk with God, walks down the mountain to relay God's word to the people, and then climbs up a second time to share the people's response with God. God instructs the Israelites to prepare themselves to connect with the LORD. They must purify themselves and wait. The language used to describe God's appearance is like a loud thunderstorm and a volcanic eruption combined into one dramatic event. We know something big is about to happen—and it does! God offers a set of short behavior rules that we know as the Ten Commandments. The first four rules teach the Israelites love to God and the final six rules teach the them how to love one another. These are the basic requirements of the covenant being established with God and Israel.

### Tell The Story

#### *Ideas*

1. Read the story from a children's Bible (for example) or a full-text Bible if children are older
2. Act out the story based on the introduction above
3. Watch a video of the Godly Play version of this story: "[Ten Best Ways](#)" (if you didn't view this in Week 6)
4. Read a picture book that connects to the story such as [Press Here](#) by Herve Tullet (thanks to [StoryPath](#) for this recommendation).

### Discuss The Story

#### *Take Action*

- How might you describe God's presence? Does is sound like thunder? Or feel like a gentle breeze?
- Imagine you are Moses and Aaron walking up Mount Sinai while it rumbles and shakes and is surrounded by smoke. What might you be thinking as you climb higher and higher?
- Which of the ten commandments are hardest for you to follow?
- What rules in your household are hardest for you to follow?

#### *Activity Idea*

- Hold your arms straight out in front of you and keep them outstretched until your arms grow tired and starts to shake. Every time Moses' arms fall, Israel faces losses on the battlefield. Thankfully friends appear and hold Moses arms up in prayer. Think of other simple actions you do to help nourish your relationship with God.

*See page 2 for additional information.*

- Make a list of areas in your life where you might ask for help. What responsibilities could you share with other people?
- Read Exodus 19:16-19. Think about the sounds that came from Mount Sinai. Blow a trumpet and play **sounds of thunder**, and imagine climbing up to meet God.
- Create a list of ten commandments for your household that help you better love God and love one another and display it in your home. Will you use any of the commandments God gives the Israelites or create brand new rules?