

PREPARATION OF MOSES

Lesson Aim: Know that God is willing to prepare you for the work that He wants you to do.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: Exodus begins where Genesis ends. It begins with Israel's prosperity and progresses to Israel's poverty in Egypt. God did not forget Israel; He prepared Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt. God works in all believers to prepare them to do a good work for Him, but they must obey Him to make it happen. "It is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13).

How did God preserve and prepare the Israelites for Moses to lead out of Egypt? Ex 1:1-21

God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to make a great nation from their descendants that would bless the whole world. He sent seventy descendants to Egypt where they grew into a large clan that numbered at least two million. How did God make this happen? First, He gave them 145 years of peace and prosperity in Egypt through the influence of Joseph (1:7). Second, He allowed them to be made slaves for 285 years, first under the foreign rule of the Hyksos that did not know Joseph (1:8-11) and then under the Egyptians (1:13-14). In spite of this, God blessed them with many children and they grew (1:12). Slave work developed them into a hardy people. Third, God gave them midwives that refused to kill their baby sons, defying Pharaoh's command, because they feared God more than Pharaoh (1:15-21). God preserved the Israelites and prepared them for their life in the wilderness when Moses would bring them out of Egypt. God has prepared a people for each believer that need his or her help. They may be in the land of their birth or in some foreign country. Both good things and the bad things are used by God to prepare these people for the help of His servant. Are you serving God among the people that He has prepared for you?

How did God prepare Moses as a child to be the leader of His people? Ex 2:1-10

First, God gave Moses godly parents that sought ways to spare his life against Pharaoh's command to cast their baby boy into the river (2:1-2; cf 1:22). Second, He arranged for Pharaoh's daughter, Hatshepsut, to find him in a little ark at the edge of the river among the reeds and adopted him, which allowed him to be trained as a ruler in Egypt. He later used that training to lead the Israelites for forty years. Third, God used Miriam to ask Hatshepsut if she wanted a nurse to care for the boy while a baby. Hatshepsut agreed and she paid Moses' mother to nurse him until he was old enough to be taught in the royal court of Egypt. Moses' mother, no doubt, took this opportunity to train Moses to fear God (2:3-10; 2 Tim 3:15). Moses continued to fear God while he lived in the royal house of Egypt and as an adult, he "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb 11:24-26). Jesus taught us not to despise little children (Mt 18:10). Instead, we are told to "train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov 22:6). Teach a child and you may change the world.

How did God prepare Moses as an adult to be the leader of His people? Ex 2:11-25

Moses had been trained in the plush luxuries of regal splendor for his first forty years, but now God took him to the other extreme where he would be trained for his next forty years in the simple life of a shepherd, learning the land, the care of sheep and dependence on God. He learned these lessons in the house of the priest of Midian. The training he received in the care of sheep would be useful later in caring for God's people as he led them through the wilderness. The training he received in dependence on God was not learned perfectly, but well enough so that he became one of the greatest leaders Israel ever had. By the time Thutmose III died (2:23), Moses was prepared to be God's leader for Israel. God was ready to use him to answer Israel's prayer (2:23-25). We must submit to God's training even when we do not understand His thoughts and ways (Isa 55:8-9). He is working in us to do a work through us that pleases Him. Trust Him and faithfully serve the people He has given you with love.