

God Rescues His People

Date: 7.19.2026 | God Calls Moses
Scripture: Exodus 2:23-4:17 & 27-31

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God hears His people and helps them.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God spoke to Moses and chose him to help rescue His people.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God heard His people's cries and called Moses to lead them out of Egypt, promising to be with him.

STUDENTS:

God revealed Himself to Moses as the eternal and faithful God, calling him to trust His power and obey His mission to deliver Israel from slavery.

ADULTS:

In calling Moses at the burning bush, God reveals His holy character, covenant faithfulness, and sovereign power. Hearing the cries of His oppressed people, He commissions Moses to participate in His redemptive mission, assuring him that His presence and authority are sufficient for the task.

MEMORY VERSE

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. Exodus 2:24-25



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

"I AM WHO I AM" - Yahweh is the most important name for God in the Old Testament because it was God's way of reminding his people, "I am your God. I have been your God. I will be your God. And I am the only God. This is what it means for me to be God. I am the self-existent, transcendent, independent Great I Am. I am the Lord." - Deyoung p.42

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

At the end of *Exodus 2:1-10*, we saw how God protected Moses' life in incredible ways. Even though Pharaoh had ordered the Hebrew baby boys to be killed (*Exodus 1:22*), God faithfully preserved His chosen deliverer through the courage of faithful women, the protection of Moses' mother and sister, and even through Pharaoh's own daughter. Moses was raised in Pharaoh's palace with all the privileges of an Egyptian prince. Still, after killing an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, Moses fled Egypt and spent forty years living in Midian as a shepherd (*Exodus 2:11-22*). While Israel continued to suffer in slavery, God was preparing Moses for something much greater.



The Israelites were miserable under Egyptian rule. They cried out to God for rescue because their slavery had become unbearable. *Exodus 2:23-25* tells us that God heard their cries, remembered His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saw their suffering, and knew what they were going through. Even when it seemed like God was silent, He had not forgotten His people. While Israel suffered in Egypt, God was working behind the scenes to prepare their deliverer.

Exodus 3 begins with Moses doing an ordinary, everyday task—taking care of sheep in the wilderness for his father-in-law. For forty years, Moses had lived far away from Egypt, likely believing his chance to help his people was over. One day, while leading the flock near Mount Sinai, also called “the mountain of God,” Moses saw something incredible: a bush that was on fire but was not burning up.

As Moses came closer to look, God called out to him from the burning bush. Throughout Exodus, fire is often connected to the presence of God (*Exodus 13:21-22; 19:18; 40:38*). In this moment, God revealed Himself personally to Moses. The “angel of the Lord” who appeared in the bush is described in a way that closely identifies Him with God Himself. In *Exodus 3:4*, the voice from the bush is

called both “the Lord” and “God.”

God told Moses, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground” (*Exodus 3:5*). There was nothing special about the dirt or the mountain itself. The ground was holy because God was there. Exodus teaches an important truth: God is holy, and His presence is what makes people and places holy. Moses immediately understood he was standing before the holy God, so he hid his face because he was afraid to look at Him.

Then God introduced Himself to Moses as “the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (*Exodus 3:6*). Even though Moses had spent many years away from his people, God reminded him that he still belonged to the covenant family God had chosen and promised to bless. God had not forgotten His promises.

God told Moses that He had seen the suffering of His people, heard their cries, and knew their pain. He called the Israelites “my people,” showing His love and covenant relationship with them. God declared that He had come down to deliver them from slavery and bring them into the land He had promised to Abraham’s descendants. Then God gave Moses an unexpected mission: “I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt” (*Exodus 3:10*).

But instead of responding with confidence, Moses was overwhelmed with fear and insecurity. Moses did not see himself as a hero or rescuer. He knew his weaknesses, failures, and sins. In fact, *Numbers 12:3* describes Moses as very humble. Throughout *Exodus 3–4*, Moses repeatedly questioned God and doubted his ability to do what God asked.

Moses asked, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” (*Exodus 3:11*). God did not answer by telling Moses how talented or capable he was. Instead, God gave Moses the only answer he truly needed: “But I will be with you” (*Exodus 3:12*). Moses would not succeed because he was strong enough; he would succeed because God Himself would go with him.

Moses then asked God what to say if the Israelites asked for God’s name. God responded by revealing His personal covenant name: Yahweh, often translated “the LORD.” This name points to God’s

eternal nature, His self-existence, and His unchanging faithfulness. God was showing Moses that He is the one true God who always keeps His promises.

God instructed Moses to gather the elders of Israel and tell them that the Lord had seen their suffering and would rescue them from Egypt. God also warned Moses that Pharaoh would not willingly let Israel go. It would take God's mighty power and miraculous signs to force Egypt to release His people. Yet God promised that Israel would not leave Egypt empty-handed; they would eventually leave with great riches from the Egyptians. These treasures would later be used in building the tabernacle, the place where God's presence would dwell among His people.

In *Exodus 4*, Moses continued making excuses. He worried that the people would not believe him, that he was not a good speaker, and finally begged God to send someone else instead. Each time Moses doubted, God patiently reminded him, "I will be with you." God even gave Moses miraculous signs, including turning his staff into a serpent, to demonstrate His power and presence.

Finally, when Moses pleaded for God to send another person, God graciously allowed Moses' brother Aaron to help him speak before Pharaoh and the Israelites. Even though Moses was fearful, God still chose to use him. Moses' calling and success would depend completely on God's power, not Moses' abilities.

Aaron met Moses at the mountain of God, and together they returned to the Israelites. They gathered the elders, told them everything the Lord had spoken, and performed the miraculous signs God had given them. When the people heard that God had seen their suffering and cared about them, they believed and worshipped the Lord.

This story reminds us that God sees, hears, and knows the suffering of His people. Just as God called Moses to rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt, God sent Jesus Christ to rescue sinners from slavery to sin. Moses felt weak, fearful, and unqualified, yet God used him because God's power is greater than human weakness. In the same way, salvation does not come through our own strength or goodness but through God alone. Jesus is the greater Deliverer who came to save His people through His perfect life, death, and resurrection. God's promises never fail, His presence never leaves His people, and His rescue plan is always accomplished exactly as He intends.

TELL THE STORY

Exodus 2:23-4:17 & 27-31



The Biggest Story Storybook Bible: God Raises Up a Deliverer

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for many years. Their work was hard, their lives were bitter, and their suffering seemed never-ending. Day after day, they cried out to God for help. *Exodus 2:23-25* tells us that God heard their groaning, remembered His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saw the people of Israel, and knew exactly what they were going through. Even though it may have seemed like God was silent, He had not forgotten His people for a single moment.

At the same time, the Israelites were suffering in Egypt, Moses was living far away in the land of Midian. After fleeing Egypt years earlier, Moses had settled there, married, and become a shepherd. For forty years, Moses lived quietly in the wilderness, caring for sheep. He probably never imagined that God was preparing him for something much bigger.

One day, while leading his flock near Mount Sinai, also called “the mountain of God,” Moses saw something strange. A bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up! Moses stopped and stared. “I need to go look at this amazing sight,” he thought. “Why isn’t the bush burning up?”

As Moses walked closer, God called out to him from the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

“Here I am,” Moses answered.

Then God said, “Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

Moses quickly obeyed. The ground itself was not special—the place was holy because God was there. Then God said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

When Moses realized he was standing before the holy God, he hid his face because he was afraid to look at Him.

Then God told Moses something amazing. “I have surely seen the suffering of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries, and I know their pain. I have come down to rescue them from slavery and bring them into a good land.”

God called the Israelites “my people,” showing that He had not forgotten His promises to them. Then God gave Moses a job he never expected.

“Come,” God said, “I will send you to Pharaoh so you can bring my people out of Egypt.”

Moses was overwhelmed. He did not feel strong, brave, or important enough for this mission. “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” Moses asked.

But God answered, “I will be with you.”

God did not tell Moses to believe in himself. God wanted Moses to trust that His presence and power were enough.

Then Moses asked another question. “What if the Israelites ask for Your name? What should I tell them?”

God answered, “I AM WHO I AM.” God revealed His special name, Yahweh, showing that He is eternal, unchanging, and always faithful to His promises.

God told Moses to gather the leaders of Israel and explain that the Lord had seen their suffering and would rescue them from Egypt. God also warned Moses that Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go easily. God would show His mighty power through signs and wonders so Egypt would know that He alone is God.

But Moses still kept making excuses. He worried that the people would not believe him. He said he was not a good speaker. Finally, Moses begged, “Please send someone else!”

Even though Moses was afraid, God was patient with him. God gave Moses miraculous signs to prove that God’s power would be with him. God even sent Moses’ brother Aaron to help speak for him.

So Aaron met Moses at the mountain of God, and together they went back to Egypt. They gathered the elders of Israel and told them

everything the Lord had said. Then they performed the miraculous signs for the people.

When the Israelites heard that God had seen their suffering and cared about them, they believed. They bowed down and worshipped the Lord because they realized God had not forgotten them after all.

This story reminds us that God sees, hears, and knows the struggles of His people. Just as God sent Moses to rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt, God sent Jesus to rescue us from slavery to sin. Moses was weak and fearful, but God's power worked through him. Jesus is the perfect Deliverer who came to save everyone who trusts in Him.

REBUILD THE STORY

1. What did the Israelites do because of their suffering in Egypt, and how did God respond to them? (*Exodus 2:23-25*)
2. What unusual thing did Moses see while caring for sheep near Mount Sinai? (*Exodus 3:1-3*)
3. What did God tell Moses to do when he came near the burning bush, and why? (*Exodus 3:4-5*)
4. How did God identify Himself to Moses at the burning bush? (*Exodus 3:6*)
5. What did God say He had seen, heard, and known about His people in Egypt? (*Exodus 3:7-9*)
6. What mission did God give Moses, and how did Moses respond at first? (*Exodus 3:10-11*)
7. What promise did God give Moses when Moses doubted his ability to lead Israel? (*Exodus 3:12*)



8. After Moses and Aaron spoke to the Israelites and performed the signs, how did the people respond? (*Exodus 4:29-31*)
9. Moses felt weak and unqualified for the job God gave him. Why do you think God often chooses unlikely people to accomplish His plans?
10. God told Moses, “I will be with you.” How can remembering God’s presence help us when we feel afraid or unsure?
11. The Israelites cried out to God during their suffering, and God heard them. What does this teach us about how God cares for His people during difficult times?
12. Moses helped rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt, but Jesus rescues us from slavery to sin. How are Moses and Jesus similar, and how is Jesus the greater Deliverer?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

In *Exodus 3–4*, God was bringing Moses into the story of the covenant He had made with Abraham and reaffirmed with Isaac and Jacob. God reminded Moses that He had not forgotten His promises or His people, even after hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt. The Lord saw the suffering of the Israelites, heard their cries, and chose Moses to lead His people out of bondage and back toward the land He had promised to the patriarchs. Moses felt weak, fearful, and unqualified, but God continually reminded him, “I will be with you.” Israel’s rescue would not happen because Moses was strong enough—it would happen because God is faithful to keep His promises and powerful enough to save His people.

Moses’ role as a deliverer points forward to Jesus Christ, the greater and perfect Deliverer. Just as the Israelites were trapped in slavery and unable to rescue themselves, every person is trapped in slavery to sin and separated from God. God did not abandon His people in Egypt, and He has not abandoned us in our sin. In His love and mercy, God sent Jesus to come down and rescue us. Jesus perfectly obeyed where Moses struggled, and through His death and



resurrection, He made a way for sinners to be forgiven and brought into God's family. Exodus reminds us that God always keeps His covenant promises, stays faithful to His people, and provides the rescue we could never accomplish on our own.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for using an ordinary, humble servant like Moses to accomplish incredible things for Your people, Israel. Thank You for being patient with Moses through his fears, doubts, and excuses, and for reminding him that Your presence was enough. Help us trust that Your power can work through us even when we feel weak or unqualified, and give us hearts that are willing to obey You. Thank You for being our Deliverer and Rescuer through Jesus, who saves us from sin and brings us into Your family forever.



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Exodus 5-10