

General Church Education



# Moses Appears Before Pharaoh

Exodus 5:1-23

## Lesson 5

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

## Moses Appears Before Pharaoh

### Exodus 5:1-23

### For Parents and Teachers

Moses, a humble man, took on the huge task of freeing the Hebrew slaves in Egypt and taking them back to the land of Canaan. First, Moses needed to be convinced that he was up to this task. The Lord showed him miracles and gave him a spokesperson in his brother Aaron who would accompany him on this journey. But Moses' first attempt to free his people was disheartening. Cruel Pharaoh only increased the burdens of the people who then turned on Moses and Aaron blaming them for their hardships.

The deeper lesson here portrays each of our lives. The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that Egypt stands for a natural state when we are focused on worldly knowledge or pleasures. This is the orderly state of childhood when we take pleasure exploring the world around us and storing up knowledge of the Word in our minds. This is pictured by the happy state of the children of Israel when they came to live in Egypt while Joseph was ruling. But when we "stay in Egypt too long" by continuing to concentrate on natural learning or physical pleasures for their own sake, then we can become slaves to these things and need deliverance. When bad habits gain a hold on us we are in a state of spiritual bondage. The Lord sends Moses or the Divine Law found in His Word to help us break away from spiritual slavery so that we can learn from Him and obey His laws.

### Ideas for Children

- The Lord's Divine Providence is working towards good even though it may not appear so immediately.
- The Lord does not harden our hearts; they grow hard if we do not let the Lord in.
- The Lord gave Moses three signs to use to let people know the Lord was with him.

### From the Writings

The Lord will rescue those who are willing to be led by Him by means of the Word. That the Word is holy and Divine from inmost to outmost, is not evident to the person who leads himself, but to the person whom the Lord leads. For the person who leads himself sees only the external of the Word, and judges it from its style, but the person whom the Lord leads judges the external of the Word from the holiness which is in it. *Apocalypse Explained* 1072

# Moses Appears Before Pharaoh

## Exodus 5:1-23

### Words to Understand

**Aaron**—Moses' brother

**tunic**—a loose, gown-like garment worn by men and women in ancient times

**leprosy**—a skin disease that produces white, scaly scabs

**taskmaster**—a strict or demanding person who assigns work to others

**quota**—the number or amount of a thing that is required

**idle**—lazy; not being useful or productive

**sacrifice**—to offer something to the Lord

**reduce**—to lessen in any way, as in size or amount

### Moses Asks the Lord for Help

Was hearing Jehovah speak from the burning bush an awesome experience for Moses? Yes, Moses wanted to obey the Lord but he did not feel wise or strong enough to do the great work the Lord had given him to do. Moses was also afraid that the children of Israel would not believe that the Lord had spoken to him. He told his doubts to the Lord. Then the Lord performed two more miracles. He gave Moses two wonderful signs. These would show him that the Lord would be with him to give him strength. They would also show the Hebrews the power of Jehovah.

In the first miracle the Lord told Moses to throw his rod, or shepherd's staff, on the ground. Moses obeyed and it became a serpent, or snake, and Moses ran away from it. This was another miracle, a wonderful thing done by the Lord. Then the Lord told Moses to pick up the snake by its tail. When Moses caught the serpent it became a rod in his hand again. The Lord gave Moses the power to do this sign whenever he needed to show people the power of the Lord that was with him.

Then the Lord gave Moses a second great sign. He told Moses to put his hand inside his tunic over his heart. Once again Moses obeyed the Lord and when he pulled his hand out, it had turned white with leprosy. Leprosy is a bad sickness of the skin. It makes the flesh turn white or gray and then the skin begins to fall off. It was a dreaded disease in Moses' time but it is rare today. Moses must have



been afraid when he saw his diseased hand. But the Lord told him to put his hand back near his heart. When he took it out again, the hand was healed and looked healthy like his other hand.

The Lord told Moses to show these signs to the Hebrews and if they still did not believe him then Moses was to take some water from the Nile river and pour it on the ground. The water would turn to blood on the dry land.

### Moses' Brother Aaron Helps

Even after these signs Moses was still not convinced that he was the right person for this job. Moses complained to the Lord that he was not a good speaker. He said, "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." But the Lord assured him saying, "Go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." When Moses was still having doubts, the Lord said He would send Moses' brother Aaron to speak to the people. Together they went to Egypt. **Read Exodus 5:1-23.**



### First Meeting with Pharaoh

Moses and Aaron bravely went to see Pharaoh. They told him that the Lord God of Israel had said: "Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness." Did Pharaoh know or respect the Lord? He knew that the Hebrew slaves were working for him and building the great cities of Egypt. Pharaoh also knew that if he let the Hebrews go into the wilderness to worship their God that they would not return to serve the Egyptians.

How did Pharaoh respond? Pharaoh was angry with this request. His heart was hard because he thought only of himself and was not willing to let the Lord in. So Pharaoh punished the slaves by making their work even harder than it had been. He told the taskmasters not to bring straw to the slaves any more. Do you remember how they made the bricks? They mixed chopped straw with mud, formed this material into brick shapes and baked them in the hot Egyptian sun. These bricks were actually quite strong building material in a land where it seldom rains. They are still used for building. But it was hard work to make bricks and now the Hebrews would have to make the same quota, or amount, each day while gathering the straw themselves. Pharaoh demanded, "Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced." Now the work was twice as hard.

The children of Israel struggled to make bricks for Pharaoh. Now some of them had to go out and look for straw wherever they could find it. When they could not make the daily quota, the Egyptian taskmasters began beating them. What happened when some of the Hebrews went to Phar-



ah and complained? He cruelly replied, “You are idle! Idle! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’” And he sent them back to work.

### **Moses and Aaron Are Blamed**

Now the Children of Israel were really discouraged. Who did they blame for their troubles? They blamed Moses and Aaron. So Moses went to the Lord and asked Him why He had let this evil thing happen to His people. It did not look like Pharaoh was going to let the children of Israel go back to Canaan. Moses wondered why the Lord had sent him to Egypt. His coming had only made the lives of the Hebrews worse!

Sometimes when we are discouraged or in trouble we may think that the Lord has forgotten us. Some people even think that the Lord sends problems or trouble to them. But this is never true. Only good comes from the Lord. The evil that had come upon the children of Israel was from the cruel Pharaoh, not the Lord. Do you wonder why the Lord would allow things like this to happen? Often we cannot see

the reasons clearly at the time, but then we look back at things that happen to us and often see the good that came from it. In this case, the Lord was going to show both the Egyptians and the Hebrews very powerful miracles.

### **Discussion Ideas**

- Think of a situation in which you felt you were treated unfairly. How can you deal with negative feelings? Could you turn the situation around by taking positive action?
- Each person sees a situation from their own viewpoint. Sometimes people want to stick to their own viewpoint. When is compromise important? When is it important to stand strong?



# Activity Overview | Moses Appears Before Pharaoh

## Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. John 15:12-4

## Songs

*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-praise-the-lord-ye-heavens-adore-him/>

*The Ten Plagues*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-ten-plagues/>

## Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Turn Aaron's Rod into a Serpent
- Activity 2 | Word Scramble Activity—Moses Appears Before Pharaoh
- Picture to color—Moses Appears Before Pharaoh (Exodus 5)

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Compare a moist sponge with a hard rock. When is your heart hard, like the rock? When is your heart soft, like the sponge? The Word tells us that the Lord will soften our hearts. He says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 26:36) He alone can do this when we read His Word and do what it teaches.
- Form bricks out of clay or play dough and build a house or pyramid.
- Compare the happy days when the children of Israel first came to live in Egypt with the time when they were slaves and treated poorly. Tell about their leader Joseph in the happier times and the leader who came to lead them out of slavery.

## Activity 1 | Turn Aaron's Rod into a Serpent

The Lord gave Moses two signs to show the children of Israel and Pharaoh so they would know the Lord had spoken to him. The first sign was that Aaron could throw down his rod and it would become a serpent. Then he could pick up the serpent by its tail and it would become a rod again. Create a simple project to illustrate this miracle.

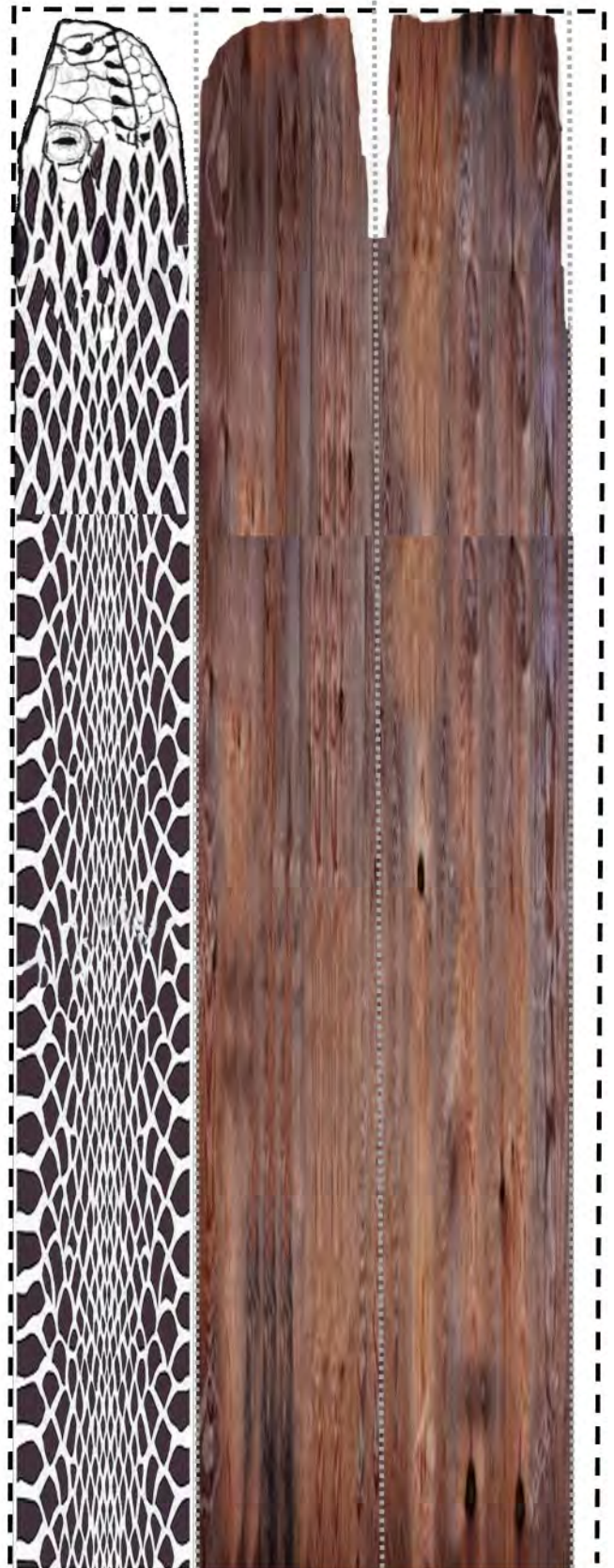
### Materials Needed

- scissors
- 4 rod and serpent sections to cut out (following two pages)
- tape

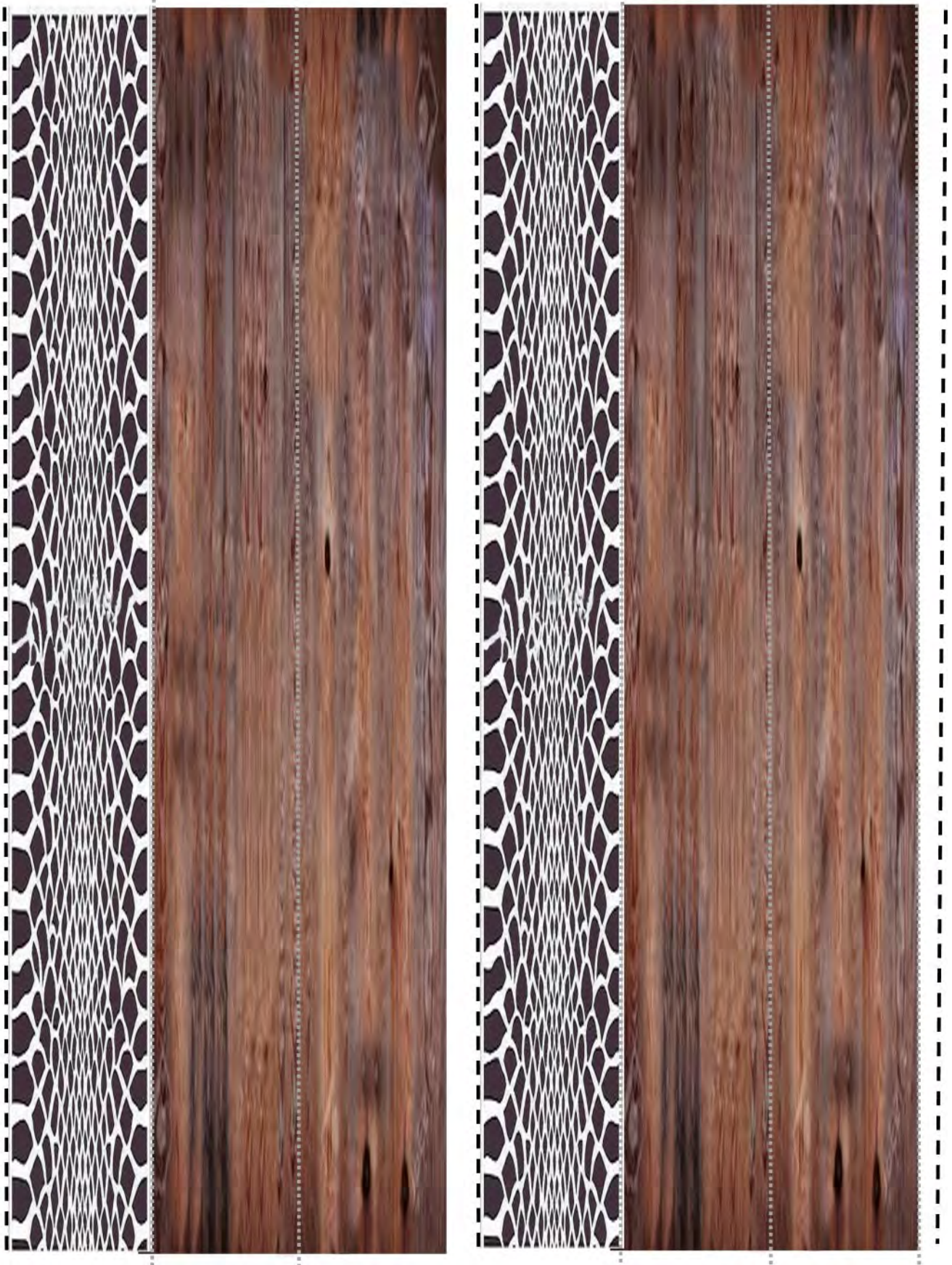
### Directions

1. Carefully cut around each section on the bold black dashed lines. Sections should look like this. Leave the “serpent” and the “wood” attached.
2. Fold the rod and serpent sections on the grey dashed lines. One fold is between the snake and wood, the other is half way through the width of the “rod”. When complete, the sections should form a triangular “rod”.
3. Place the sections end-to-end, overlapping slightly. Tape the ends together to form one long rod, leaving the ends open. Complete the rod by taping the sides of the rod together.
4. Trim around the head and ends of the rod. Pull them together and tape to close off the end of the rod.
5. Trim the ends of the snake tail section like the head and tape together.
6. Practice throwing down the “rod” and having it turn into a “snake” by getting it to land with the snake showing. Grab the snake by the tail and pick it up. Turn so that it looks like a rod again.









## Activity 2 | Moses Appears Before Pharaoh Word Scramble

Unscramble the words in the box and write them on the lines below.

Egypt	serpent	idle
quota	sacrifice	reduce
taskmaster	Pharaoh	bricks

1. riicceasf \_\_\_\_\_
2. hhaaorp \_\_\_\_\_
3. eldi \_\_\_\_\_
4. ceerud \_\_\_\_\_
5. skcirb \_\_\_\_\_
6. pstreen \_\_\_\_\_
7. ygetp \_\_\_\_\_
8. toauq \_\_\_\_\_
9. ssttkmraer \_\_\_\_\_

