

God Selects Moses

Scripture Focus

Exodus 1—4

Memory Verse

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

Topic

God’s purpose for life

Theme

God created and enables us to do good works for His glory.

Desired Student Response

Each student will do good works that he was created to do, giving the credit to God.



Teacher Preparation

- Do you ever feel inadequate for the work God has given you to do? It’s natural to feel that way. Jesus said that without Him you can do nothing—but with His enabling, much is possible (John 15:5). Moses initially made excuses and protested God’s choice of him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, yet God prepared and equipped him with the words, courage, and strength he needed. And the Lord is ready to help you! When God calls, He also prepares and enables.
- It’s mind-boggling to realize that long before we were born, God prepared works for us to do that would give Him glory (Eph. 2:10). One of your “works” is to trust in God’s enabling to help you impact your students’ lives through Sunday School and through the testimony of your life. As you teach this lesson, emphasize that God is preparing your students now to live for Him and serve Him—and that He will help them do all to exalt His Son’s name.



As Students Arrive

- Hand out attendance passport and sticker #1 (burning bush) for each student.
- Listen to the memory verse. After each student recites last week’s verse, give him a shoe print sticker.

Bible Timeline

Before Pack It Up, place the burning bush picture below 1446 BC on the Bible Timeline, displayed on a classroom wall. (Apply the picture with Plasti-Tak.)

Have the students remind you of what happened when Moses saw the burning bush. What was Moses being called to do? (To see a complete timeline, go to page 4.)



1. Old Testament Suitcase (pre-lesson activity)



36-SC01

Materials

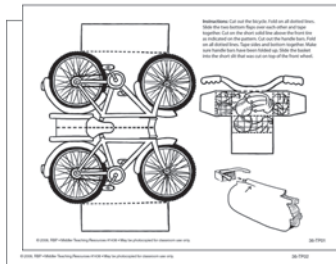
- File folders
- Pattern 36-SC01 (suitcase cover) from resource CD 1436
- Colored pencils
- Brass fasteners
- Yarn
- Glue
- Scissors

Steps

1. Before class, read steps 1–3 on page 122 and look at the photos to understand how the suitcase is put together. Make a sample project. Print a copy of pattern 36-SC01 for each student.
2. Explain to the students that they will be learning about five main events that took place in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Tell them that today they will be making a cover for their Old Testament suitcase that will eventually be filled with activities to remind them of those events and other important details.
3. Distribute a file folder to each student. Demonstrate how to fold it as described on page 122. (To save time, pre-fold the folders into suitcases.)
4. Distribute pattern 36-SC01 to each student to color, cut out, and glue to the front of his file folder (suitcase). Refer to step 3 on page 122 for adding the brass fastener as a latch to keep the suitcase closed.
5. Make sure each student's name is on his suitcase. Collect the suitcases and store them in a box (decorated, if desired) until next Sunday.



2. Trip Preview (10 minutes)



36-TP01—TP02



36-TP03—TP04



Option 1—Build a Bicycle

Materials

- Patterns 36-TP01 (boy bicycle) and 36-TP02 (girl bicycle) from resource CD 1436
- Tape

Steps

1. Before class, print a copy of patterns 36-TP01 (boy bicycle) or 36-TP02 (girl bicycle) for each student according to gender.
2. Instruct students to follow the instructions on the pattern to build their own bicycles.
3. Allow the students to play with their completed bicycles for a few moments; then discuss the following:
 - What are bicycles with two wheels designed to do? (*Transport one person, travel long or short distances, ride on roads and trails, pull a cargo trailer, carry small items in a basket or bag.*)
 - If I were going on a scuba dive, could I ride my bicycle on the bottom of the ocean? (*No. Bicycles weren't designed to go underwater.*)
 - Could I ride my bicycle down the aisles of a grocery store? (*No. Bicycles are made for outdoors, not for colliding with other shoppers.*)
 - Conclusion: Just as bicycles were designed for a particular purpose, so we, too, were designed by God for a specific purpose. We were created by God to do good works for God's glory.
4. Transition to Bible Destination with the following statement:
 - Today we will learn about a man whom God handpicked to do a good work that would bring Him glory.



Option 2—Dare to Make Chocolate Chip Cookies (skit)

Materials

- Patterns 36-TP03 and 36-TP04 (skit) from resource CD 1436
- Mixing bowl
- Mixing spoon
- Cookie pan/sheet
- Cereal spoon
- 500-piece puzzle (optional)
- Table

Teacher Tip ▶

Provide chocolate chip cookies for the children to eat after the skit.



3. Bible Destination (25–30 minutes)

Sing with Students ▶

Begin by singing any of the songs suggested for this lesson on page 8.

Steps

1. Before class, make four copies of patterns 36-TP03 and 36-TP04 (skit).
2. Choose three students to perform the skit.
3. Give the students a few minutes to read the skit before performing it.
4. Transition to Bible Destination with the following statement:
 - Today we will learn about a man whom God handpicked to do a good work that would glorify God. He also was given everything he needed to complete the God-given task.

Materials

- Poster 36-H (Exodus map)
- Teaching pictures 36-1 (baby Moses), 36-2 (adult Moses/slaves), 36-3 (shepherd Moses), and 36-4 (burning bush)
- Baby doll and blanket
- Basket with lid
- Large piece of blue fabric
- Tiara

Introduction

ASK: Remember how God used Joseph to save many people from starvation during a terrible famine? Who left Canaan to live with Joseph in Egypt? (*His whole family, including his father Jacob, now called Israel.*)

Joseph had seventy relatives who relocated in Goshen, the best land in Egypt. The Egyptians were friendly toward the people known as the “Children of Israel” (also known as Israelites, or Hebrews) because of their love for Joseph. Life was good—for a while.

I. The Children of Israel Increase and Are Enslaved (Exod. 1)

After Joseph died, his descendants continued to live there and have children. They multiplied until the land was full of them! Then a new pharaoh who didn’t know Joseph or the good things he had done became the king of Egypt. He was very worried about the growing number of Israelites. The king of Egypt announced to his people, “Look—we need to do something to keep these Israelites from becoming too strong for us. If war breaks out, they might join our enemies and fight against us!” So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves and put cruel slave drivers over them. They made the Israelites work very hard and forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses where the king could store his treasures and supplies.

DISPLAY: Show poster 36-H (Exodus map). Have a student point to the cities of Pithom and Rameses.

The Hebrew slaves were beaten and burdened by the work, but they did not die and decrease like Pharaoh had hoped. The more harshly the Israelites



36-H

were treated, the more they multiplied and grew! The Egyptians became even more brutal, forcing the Israelites to make mortar and bricks and work long days in the fields. They hoped the slaves would finally start to die off from working so hard, but they didn't. Then the king came up with a wicked plan to kill every male Hebrew child at birth! When the Hebrew nurses who cared for the babies didn't kill them, the king gave an order to all his people. Let's look up Exodus 1:22 and see what that order was.

READ: Exodus 1:22. (Have a student read the verse.)

What did Pharaoh say? He said, "Throw every Hebrew baby boy into the Nile River! Only the baby girls may remain alive." Those mothers must have cried to God as their newborn sons were taken from their arms and tossed into the river! But God had a plan to raise a leader to save His people.

II. Moses Is Born (Exod. 2:1–10; 6:20)

During this time a man named Amram and a woman named Jochebed—both descendants of Joseph's brother Levi—got married. One day Jochebed gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. (Hold a baby doll in a blanket.) She did *not* want her baby drowned in the river, so she hid him for three months.

ASK: How many of you have a baby brother or sister? Does the baby ever cry? Imagine trying to keep a baby from crying for three whole months!

When Jochebed could no longer hide her baby, she made a basket out of bulrushes (long, tough grass), or river reeds, and covered the basket with tar and pitch so it would float. Then she put her infant boy into the basket, closed the lid, and set it on the Nile River. (Put the doll in the basket and shut the lid. Set the basket on a piece of blue fabric.) She didn't know what would happen to her baby, but she trusted the Lord and left her son's future in God's hands.

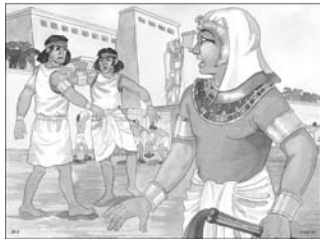
DISPLAY: Teaching picture 36-1 (baby Moses).

Miriam, the baby boy's sister, watched from a distance as Pharaoh's daughter, a princess, came down to bathe in the river that day. (Place the tiara on your head and stand near the "water.") When the princess spotted the basket floating among the reeds near the shore, she told her servant girl to get it. When the princess opened the lid, she was surprised to see a baby crying inside. (Open the basket and coo over the doll.) "Oh, this is one of the Hebrews' children," said the princess, feeling compassion for the baby. Then Miriam bravely asked the princess, "Should I go find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter nodded and said, "Go." Miriam ran home and brought her mother back. The princess was probably not aware that this was the baby's actual mother. "Take this child and nurse him for me. I'll pay you," said the princess. (Hand the doll to a helper or student.) Can you imagine how happy that mother must have been? Jochebed took care of her baby boy and taught him about the one true God until he was big enough to go live in Pharaoh's house. Then the princess took him as her own son and called him Moses. (Take off the tiara and set the doll aside.)



36-1



36-2

III. Moses Flees to Midian (Exod. 2:11–25)

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household with the best education, the best food, and the best clothes. But in his heart, Moses always felt bad that the Egyptians mistreated the Hebrews. After all, he never forgot that he himself was a Hebrew. One day he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. To save the slave's life, Moses killed the Egyptian when no one was looking and buried the Egyptian in the sand. The next day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you hitting your brother?" he said to one of them.

DISPLAY: Show teaching picture 36-2 (adult Moses/slaves).

The man looked at Moses and said with a scowl, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Are you going to kill me, too, like you killed the Egyptian?"

Oh no! thought Moses. *Everyone knows what I did!*

ASK: Can you think of a time when you thought you got away with something until someone found out? How long did it take before you got caught?

When we hide our sin, the Bible says we can be sure it will be discovered (Num. 32:23). Even if we get away with something for a long time, Who can see *everything* we do? (*God*; see Proverbs 15:3.)

Sure enough, Pharaoh discovered what Moses had done and tried to kill him, but Moses ran away and went to live in the land of Midian. There he got married and took care of his father-in-law's flock.

DISPLAY: Show teaching picture 36-3 (shepherd Moses).

Moses had no plans to ever return to Egypt. In fact, he was in Midian for the next *forty* years! But God had bigger plans.



36-3

IV. God Calls Moses at the Burning Bush (Exod. 3—4)

One day Moses was leading the flock to the back side of Mount Horeb when he noticed a bush completely engulfed in flames. But even though the bush was on fire, amazingly, the bush didn't burn up.

DISPLAY: Show teaching picture 36-4 (burning bush).

"I have to get a closer look at this!" said Moses. As he drew near, he heard the voice of God calling to him out of the burning bush! "Moses, Moses!"

"Here I am," Moses replied.

"Do not come any closer," God told him. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (Instruct students to take off their shoes.)

Quickly Moses removed his sandals and hid his face in his hands. He didn't dare look at God! What did God want to say to Moses?

READ: Exodus 3:7–10. (Have students read with you.)

God said that He had seen the misery of His people in Egypt and had heard their cries. Therefore He was coming down to deliver them out of the Egyptians' hand and to bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey, to a



36-4

place occupied by Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. God had heard the Israelites' cry and had seen how much the Egyptians oppressed them. He said to Moses, "Come now, for I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring My people, the Children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses gulped. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt?" Perhaps Moses was wondering whether he was on the top of Egypt's most-wanted list for killing that man forty years earlier. He certainly did not feel confident about going back. But God had chosen him to rescue His people.

God assured Moses: "I will be with you. And this will prove that I have sent you. When you bring the people out of Egypt, you will return here to worship God on this very mountain."

But Moses objected a second time: "If I go to the Children of Israel and say, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say, 'What is His name?' what should I tell them?" What was God's answer?

READ: Exodus 3:14. (Have a student read the verse.) **ASK:** Why did God want Moses to say that "I AM" sent him? What did God mean by that? (Allow responses.)

"I AM" means God is the same God Who existed even before He created the mountains and the world. He always has existed and always will. This is the eternal God who promised to be with Moses as he returned to Egypt to free the Israelites. And He is the God Who promises to be with us!

Then God told Moses to go with the elders (the wise men of Israel) to the king of Egypt, who owned and enslaved Israelites, and request a three-day journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the Lord God.

ASK: What do you think the king's response was? "No problem, Moses, have fun. See you when you get back." Right? (Wrong.)

The all-knowing, all-powerful God even told Moses what to expect. "I am sure that the king will not let you go," God said. "So I will strike Egypt with all My wonders . . . and after that he will let you go." God added that the Egyptians would give the Israelites lots of silver, gold, and clothing before they left Egypt.

God knew exactly what He was talking about. Yet Moses protested a third time: "Suppose they don't believe me or listen to me."

God replied, "What are you holding in your hand?"

"A rod," Moses replied. God told him to throw it on the ground. When he did, it became a serpent! Yikes! Moses ran from it, but God told him to pick it up by the tail. When he did, it became a rod again. This miraculous sign would convince the people that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had indeed sent Moses. God gave Moses two other signs to further convince the people (Exod. 4:6–9), but Moses had yet a fourth objection! "O my Lord, I am not a good speaker. I never have been. Even now I'm slow with words."

God reminded Moses that He is the One who makes man's mouth and who makes people who can speak or not speak, hear or not hear, see or not see. He promised to be with Moses and to teach his mouth what to say.

Did Moses agree and obey this time? No. He was reluctant a fifth time!

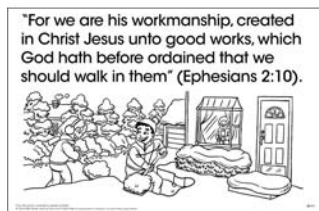
READ: Exodus 4:13. (Have a student read the verse.) **ASK:** Name a time when you've made excuses for why you didn't want to do something.

In spite of miracles and God's presence and help, Moses was pleading, "O my Lord, please choose someone else—not me!"

Now God was angry. He had handpicked Moses for the work, yet Moses was resisting the call. God was patient, however, and brought Moses' older brother, Aaron, into the plan. They would go together to speak to Pharaoh, and Aaron would do the talking. So Moses finally agreed. He met Aaron and gathered the elders together to show them the signs and tell them that God was going to deliver them from slavery. The people were so grateful that they bowed their heads and worshiped God.



4. Memory Lane (10 minutes)



36-V1

Just as God planned works for Moses to do for His glory, so God has created each one of us to be used for His purpose. Let's memorize a verse from the Bible that tells us what God planned for each of us to do.

Materials

- A Bible for each student
- Verse visual 36-V1 (Ephesians 2:10) from Teaching Resources packet 1436
- Colored markers (four different colors, such as red, green, blue, orange)

Steps

1. Before class, use a colored marker to place a different colored dot at the start of each section on verse visual 36-V1. Put a colored dot at "For," "created," "which," and "that."
2. Open your Bible to Ephesians 2:10, and show the students where to find it in their Bibles.
3. Choose a student to read the verse, then ask the following questions:
 - According to this verse, what were we created to do? (*Good works.*)
 - What are some examples of good things you can do? (*Help with dishes, open a door for someone, be kind to siblings, read God's Word, share your toys, obey the Bible.*)
 - Do our good works get us to Heaven? (*No; but our labors of love do reflect the goodness of God and show that we are His people.*)
4. Put the verse visual on the wall; ask students to describe the people in the picture and tell you what is going on.
5. Point to each word as you read the verse together.
6. Number students by the colored dots marked on the verse visual. Have the red team, for example, read the first phrase starting with "For." Then have the green team read the second phrase that starts with "created." The blue team reads the section starting with "which," and the orange team reads the phrase starting with "that." Everyone reads the reference together.
7. Repeat the verse twice, then assign students to recite a different colored section of the verse. Repeat until the students have read each section.

8. EXPLAIN: In order for God to fulfill His purpose for our lives, we need to do what He created us to do—works that are right and good. As you continue to work on memorizing the verse this week, put it into action. Do good works, and thank God for enabling you to do them.



5. Pack It Up! (10 minutes)

Teacher Tip ▶

Now is the time to review the Bible Timeline. Follow the instructions on page 13.



Lesson 1, Student Book

Materials

- Lesson 1 student book page for each student
- Pencils
- Bible

Steps

1. Distribute the lesson 1 student book sheet and a pencil to each student.
2. Guide the students in following the instructions on the front side of the sheet (page 5).
3. Use the following statement to transition to the flip side of the sheet (page 6), which will begin to introduce middler students to a history of the Bible:
 - When I say, “Open your Bible,” you open a book, right? The Bible is actually a book with sixty-six books inside of it. The Holy Spirit of God used Moses to write the first five books, and later used other men to write the other Bible books over a period of about 1,600 years.
 - But books didn’t look like this back then. (*Hold up a Bible.*) They weren’t typed on paper with all the pages sewn or glued together on the spine. Do you know what material the original Bible manuscripts were written on? For the answer, let’s work on the back side of your student book sheet.
4. Have students complete page 6. You could have them work in pairs. If time runs out, let them finish the page at home.



Next Destination



Distribute today’s take-home paper, *Truth Travelers*, and Insert No. 1 to each student. Encourage students to hang up the Old Testament Library poster and do the weekly devotions on the back of the paper. Tell them that next week they will discover nine miraculous ways that God showed Himself to be the only true God.