



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Your details

Name: Eleanor Williams (now St Mary's Burwell)

Church: All Saints, Milton, Cambridge

Bible book	Exodus
Theme of session	Moses and the People of God
Notes	There is a chapter on Moses in the book <i>Messy Church</i> , but we wanted to spend longer on the story, so we developed these resources to supplement those in the book, to be used over two sessions: one on Moses' early life and one on the 'exodus'. Session 1 concentrates mainly on Exodus 2–4, while Session 2 continues the story through Exodus 5–11, but with the main focus on Exodus 12 and 13. There are some very good Passover craft ideas and resources for Jewish families on the Internet.

Session details

Session 1: The Story of Moses — From the bulrushes to the burning bush

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Collage of Moses in the bulrushes	Colour in picture and add collage bits.	Colouring sheet of Moses in basket, which can be found on the Internet. Blue paper strips for river. Green paper strips for bulrushes.	Talk about Moses being born, and how he needed to be hidden and kept safe.
Younger participants	Flame picture	Stick bits of twig on to black card and add flames of red/yellow/orange paint.	Black thick paper or card. Red/yellow/orange paint. Small pieces of twig. PVA glue.	Talk about how God met with Moses to prepare him for the job of leading his people out of slavery.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Boys/Older participants	Clay cartouche and hieroglyphic name	Shape air drying clay into a cartouche shape. Use hieroglyphic alphabet to write your name on the clay.	Air drying clay, rolling pins, clay tools, mats. Cartouche template or design to copy, and hieroglyphic alphabet, both of which are available from the Internet.	A cartouche was a bit like a name tag, often used on coffins of pharaohs. Egyptians believed it was really important that a person's name was written down so that they were not forgotten. Talk about how God had not forgotten his people, even after many years in slavery in Egypt, and how God knows our names.
Girls	Egyptian headband and bracelet	Thread coloured pasta on to ribbon, elastic or cord to make Egyptian-looking bracelets and headbands.	Pasta shapes with holes large enough for threading. Spray paint and food colouring to colour the pasta. Ribbon, elastic or cord.	Talk about how the people of Israel lived in Egypt for a long time and these are the kinds of things Egyptian people wore.
Word-based	Word search	Fill in word search.	Use one of the online tools for making word searches and add your own list of words.	Use key words from the story and talk.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Food-based	Edible Moses in a basket	Mix melted chocolate with bits of shredded wheat and use to make a basket in a paper case. Use ready-made fondant icing to make a baby Moses for the basket.	Chocolate. Shredded wheat. Bowls for melting and mixing. Paper cases. Fondant icing and food colouring to give different flesh colours.	Talk about how God looked after Moses by keeping him safe and providing a safe home for him where his own mother could look after him.
Opens up great art	Egyptian collar and bracelet	Colour in collar and bracelets with felt tips. Then attach to cord so they can be worn.	Print off the patterns from http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/egyptian_crafts.html . This is a lovely detailed design that all ages will enjoy colouring in. Felt tips. Cord or thick wool.	Talk about Moses' life with the Egyptian princess, and how God provided for him.
Quiet	Burning bush quiet area	Invite everyone to take off their shoes and spend a few moments in quiet, and then write 'prayer' on a piece of paper and leave it near the 'burning bush'.	Branches/twigs standing in a container. Strips of red/yellow/orange crepe paper tied to the branches. Electric fan to make the crepe 'flames' move to look like burning bush. Sandy coloured fabric on floor in front. Cards with instructions.	A space to be quiet and still, and pray for people in need of God's help.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Really messy	Floating Moses in a basket in water trays with crocodiles	Colour the paper circles all over with brown wax crayon. Overlap these where the slits are cut and staple. Float 'jelly baby' Moses in the water and see whose basket sinks first!	Paper circles approx. 4–5 in with 4 x 1-in slits cut from the edge towards the centre, spaced evenly round circle. Brown wax crayons. Staplers. Jelly babies—remember to get some vegetarian ones. Water trays and plastic toy crocodiles.	Talk about God looking after Moses and how the basket would have protected him from the river and from crocodiles!

Session 2: The Story of Moses — The great escape

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Frog hand puppet	Fold green paper plate in half. Add eyes, tongue and legs to make a hand puppet.	Use green paper plates or paint beforehand so there is time to dry. Or stick on pieces of green paper. Cut out shapes for legs, tongue and eyes. Lots of websites have templates.	Talk about all the different plagues—the strange and terrible things that happened when Pharaoh said 'no'.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Moses figure	Assemble the Moses figure with cloak, hair, beard and staff.	Cardboard tube. Felt, cut into semi-circle for cloak. Pipe cleaners. Wool for hair and beard. PVA glue. See this website for details: http://crafts.kaboose.com/cardboard-tube-moses.html .	Talk about how God called Moses, who was afraid, but God told him: 'I will be with you.' God is a God who hears and answers when we cry to him for help, and he uses people like us in his special plans.
Older participants	Cardboard pyramid	Draw brick shapes on the pyramid template, then cut out and glue together.	Pyramid template. PVA glue. Bible verse printed on pyramid or on pieces of paper to stick on. (We used Isaiah 41:10.) Sand—optional. See this website for details: http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/egypt/paper_pyramid_craft.htm .	Talk about the hard work the Israelites had to do, maybe building pyramids! But God had not forgotten them and heard them when they cried out to him.
Boys	Building a pyramid from clay bricks	Use air drying clay and tools to make bricks and build into pyramids.	Air drying clay, clay tools, mats.	Talk about the Israelites being slaves and having to make bricks and how hard it was.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Word-based	Word search	Fill in word search.	Use one of the online tools for making word searches and add your own list of words.	Use key words from the story and talk.
Food-based	Parting of the Red Sea cupcakes	Decorate cupcakes with blue and yellow icing and fish sweets.	Small cupcakes either bought or baked. Blue and yellow icing in tubes. Small fish sweets.	Talk about how God protected his people and brought them safely through the Red Sea.
Explores global aspect of faith	Passover Seder plate	Decorate paper plate with pictures of the different foods eaten in a Passover meal.	Paper plates. PVA glue. Images of different foods eaten in a modern-day Passover Seder meal. Search the Internet for 'Passover meal craft' for images/their significance.	Talk about the different foods that people eat at Passover and what each signifies.
Quiet	Red Sea quiet area	Get everyone to draw round their feet on paper, cut them out and place them on the path God cleared through the sea. They could follow where God leads and walk with bare feet through the sea.	Lay out a large yellow/beige piece of fabric with two strips of blue cloth on the top to represent the parted Red Sea. Paper, pencils, scissors.	This quiet area offers the opportunity to engage with the story of the long journey the Israelites had to become the people God wanted them to be as they learned to follow and trust God.
Really messy	Making bricks	A time to get really messy trying to shape dirt and water into brick shapes.	This activity may be best done outside. Dirt or sand. Strips of wood to shape mud or sand into brick shapes. Watering cans to add water.	Talk about the heat, the beatings and the desperation of the slaves, who had to make their quota of bricks each day.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

Celebration suggestion

Session 1—Songs (sing along to CD/live music)

- ✿ 'God's people [aren't super brave super heroes]' from: John Hardwick CD, *34 Songs For All Occasions*; John Hardwick music book, *50 Songs For All Occasions*; John Hardwick DVD, *Action Packed Praise*, with actions/signs. For details, see <http://www.johnhardwick.org.uk/>.
- ✿ 'You are further than the furthest star' from *Great Big God* CD, Vineyard Records. For actions/signs, see <http://www.greatbiggod.com/>.

Session 2—Songs

- ✿ 'God's people', as above.
- ✿ 'God you're good to me' from *Great Big God* CD, Vineyard Records, as above.

Session 1—Talk and Prayer

Tell the story from Exodus 2–4. The people of Israel were slaves in Egypt and prayed to God for help. God had a special plan for Moses, who would one day lead the people out of Egypt. God kept Moses safe when he was a baby. When he was grown up, God showed him a special sign—the burning bush—and said: 'I am God. Go and lead my people to freedom.' Moses was afraid but God told him: 'I will be with you.' God is a God who hears and answers when we cry to him for help, and he uses people like us in his special plans.

If possible, use items from the burning bush area and have a few moments of quiet, remembering that God said 'I am God.' Then pray a simple prayer asking for God's help for the people and situations we are concerned about.

Session 2—Talk and Prayer

Tell the story from Exodus 5–13. God heard the prayers of the people of Israel who were slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to help them, but when Moses went to Pharaoh, he said 'no'. And then strange and terrible things started happening. Finally, after a long time of pleading, Pharaoh let them leave. Before they left, they ate a special meal together to remember how God had helped them and saved them. God led them through the desert, and when they came to the Red Sea, they could not get across. And they were being chased by the Egyptians, because Pharaoh had changed his mind! Moses prayed to God, then raised his stick, and the waters parted so they could cross safely. God is the one who helped them. They travelled into the desert and God led them.

Pray:

- ✿ for people who are trapped and like slaves now;
- ✿ for help for those who feel afraid and in trouble and want God to help them;
- ✿ for us to follow where God is leading us on our journey.



Authorised Mess — EXODUS

General suggestions

We used part of the DVD *The Prince of Egypt* (available from Amazon) for Session 1 but found the part dealing with the death of the firstborn was quite scary for little ones, so we did not use the DVD for that. *The Big Bible Storybook* published by Scripture Union (<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/ProductFolder/TheBigBibleStorybook/9177.id>) has some great pictures more suitable for younger children.

Meal suggestion

Session 1

- ☀ Sausages, mash and gravy, so everyone can make Moses in his basket on the river!
- ☀ Gingerbread men or shortbread and ice cream.

Session 2

- ☀ Our version of a Passover meal - lamb meatballs, mini pitta breads, with dishes of humus, raisins, hardboiled eggs, cut up cucumber, tomato, apples, lettuce.
- ☀ Chocolate flakes, Smarties, sprinkles, ice cream.

Faith in Homes suggestion

- ☀ A prayer card with a simple summary of the story and a prayer to use as a family.

Primary School RE idea

The Passover Seder plate activity could be used to explain the story of the 'exodus' and to talk about how Jewish families worship together now.