

Questions and review of Moses

1. Moses, please tell us about when you were a baby.

Pharaoh was afraid there were getting to be too many Israelite slaves. He was worried we could form an army and attack his power, so he ordered all the Israelite baby boys to be killed. My mother tried to save me. She put me in a reed basket and floated this basket in the river where the Pharaoh's daughter was. Pharaoh's daughter saw me and saved me. She also asked my mother to help raise me. So I was raised in Pharaoh's palace, but my mother was there with me.

2. You were raised in Egypt, but you are not an Egyptian. What are you?

I am an Israelite. Do you remember the story of Jacob and his son, Joseph? Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat. Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph and they sold him as a slave to some Egyptians, who took him to Egypt. This happened a long, long time ago, before I was even born. The Pharaoh at that time was a good man and he gave Joseph important jobs. There was a big famine (no food) and all of Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to get food. They stayed there. There were 12 brothers and all of their families became the 12 tribes of Israel or the Israelites. The Israelite families stayed there for many generations, but, sadly, became slaves to the Egyptians.

3. What happened when you were growing up in Pharaoh's house?

Even though I was an Israelite, because I grew up in Pharaoh's house I was not a slave. Remember, Pharaoh's daughter found me and saved me when I was a baby, so I was not a slave. I lived with the royal family and went to school.

When I was a young man, I saw an Egyptian being mean to a Hebrew slave. (The Hebrews are the Israelites.) I killed the Egyptian and I had to run away and hide. I ran to another town and stayed with a family of shepherds. I got married and my wife and I had a son. I was a shepherd, too. Then God called me.

4. When you were a shepherd, how did God call you?

I was leading my flock of sheep across the desert and came to a mountain called Mount Horeb. There I saw a bush on fire, but the bush did not burn up. I went near the bush and heard God's voice calling me. "Moses, Moses!" he said. "Here I am," I answered. God told me he had heard the cry of the Israelite slaves and he wanted me to lead the slaves out of Egypt. (Exodus 3:1-6)