

## Moses

*Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:1-6 ESV*

Read the book of Exodus for the true Biblical story of Moses. Some things have been added to the movie.

The Hebrews were slaves of Egypt. When Moses was a baby the Pharaoh of Egypt was frightened that there were too many Hebrews so he ordered his soldiers to throw all the Hebrew baby boys into the river Nile. Moses' mother saved him by putting him in a basket waterproofed with tar. The Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and raised him as her own son.

Even when Moses was a baby, God had a plan for his life. Do you know that God has a plan for your life?

When God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt Moses felt like he wasn't worthy. He worried that the people wouldn't listen to him and that he couldn't talk good enough. God let Moses know that He wanted him to obey. Moses and Aaron warned Pharaoh of the coming plagues, but Pharaoh hardened his heart. The plagues kept getting worse until Pharaoh was finally willing to listen.

What will it take to turn people's hearts back to God today? Are you willing to listen to God?

Even though God performed many miracles to guide and sustain His people, they still grumbled and complained. Do you appreciate what you have in life or do you complain and long for something different?

The people were tired of listening to God and following Moses and wanted a golden calf to lead them. God wanted His people to listen to Him and follow Him. Can an idol made of gold protect or lead people?

The people were impatient and wanted to do things their own way. Even today many people want to believe in a god who will do what they want instead of following the God of the Bible and doing what He wants. The people celebrated their golden calf with revelry and self-indulgence. God wants us to worship and celebrate Him with humble and loving hearts. Do you have a humble, loving heart?

Because the people disobeyed God and doubted His power to lead them they were forced to wander in the desert for forty years. Moses, also, did not get to enter the promised land because of his disobedience. God commanded Moses to speak to a rock and water would come out. Instead Moses struck the rock twice with his staff. Sometimes people think they can believe anything they want to, but the Bible makes it very clear that God wants us to listen to Him and obey what He says.

God spoke to Moses and gave him a blessing for the people. *"The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."* Numbers 6:24-26 Even though God's people turn away from Him and grumble and complain, He wants us to return to Him and He wants to bless us.

Do you have a thankful heart or do you grumble and complain? God loves you and wants to bless you.

*Dear Lord, sometimes it is hard for us to follow when we don't know where You are leading. Help us trust in You. Take away our fears and anxiety. Forgive our hardened hearts and show us how to hear what You are saying to us. Give us a love of reading Your word, the Bible. Thank You for Your blessing. Teach us how to bring honor to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*