



# **Middle School & High School Sunday School Lesson-6 October 11, 2020**

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**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH**

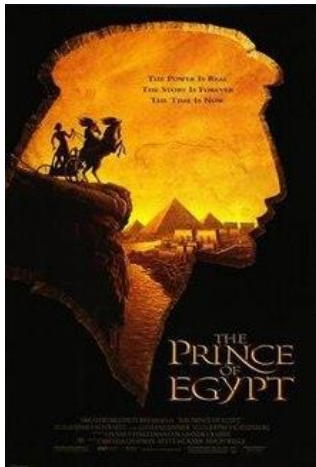


# Exiled : From Prince to Outcast

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## Bible Point:

Just as Moses embraced his identity as a Hebrew, even though he was treated like an outcast and no longer welcome in Egypt, we must let go of the world to become more like Jesus.



## Scriptures

Exodus 2:11–15; Hebrews 11:24–26; I Peter 2:9

# Review

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- ✓ The church is God's called-out people. We have been called "out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). We see a representation of that "calling out" when we examine the life of Moses as he led God's people out of Egypt.
- ✓ Moses was born under a pharaoh who had ordered the murder of all Hebrew male children two years old and under. They were to be drowned in the Nile River, but Moses found salvation on that same river when God ordered events for Pharaoh's daughter to find him floating in a basket.
- ✓ Similarly, we are spiritually doomed to death because of sin. However, if we choose to be born again through repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name, and Spirit baptism, we can go from being slaves to sin to being sons and daughters of God.
- ✓ This is not the end of the journey though. This is just the beginning. We may find new life as a prince, but it does not take long

# Hebrew Home Schooling

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- After Moses was drawn out of the Nile River, Pharaoh's daughter gave him back to his family until he was weaned. In the culture of the time, this process probably extended through his early childhood. Most likely he returned to the palace at around five years old.
- Much of Moses' foundational understanding about the world, then, was already in place when he entered the palace. By that age, most children have learned: family values, right and wrong, social dynamics, moral responsibility, and more.
- All this was shaped in Moses, not in Egyptian schools but in his Hebrew home. He would have heard faithfully every day the commands of Deuteronomy 6:4–5. (The Lord our God is one. You must love Him with your entire being.)
- Moses did not grow up learning about the polytheistic gods of Egypt; **he was trained to know and love the true God of his Hebrew people.** He was taught the necessity of loving God with everything in him.
- Understanding that she had only a short time to instill these values in him, Moses' biological mother no doubt worked doubly hard to ensure these values stuck.
- When Moses went back to the Egyptian palace, he went with a clear understanding of who he was and with a well-honed Hebrew value system.

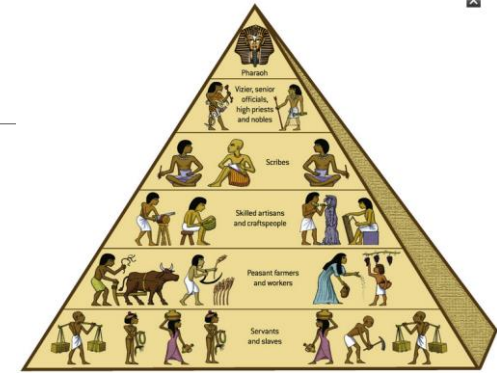
# An Egyptian Education

Upon leaving his birth family, Moses entered the palace.

- He learned in Egyptian schools.
- He studied Egyptian philosophy.
- He wore Egyptian clothes.
- He lived an Egyptian life.

However, **deep down inside, Moses was not an Egyptian**. Though he spent a significant portion of his life walking like an Egyptian, talking like an Egyptian, and dressing like an Egyptian, it was just a mask that hid his true nature.

Below the surface, something was brewing, and all the training Egypt had provided him would be uprooted by what dwelled within him.



# A Defining Decision

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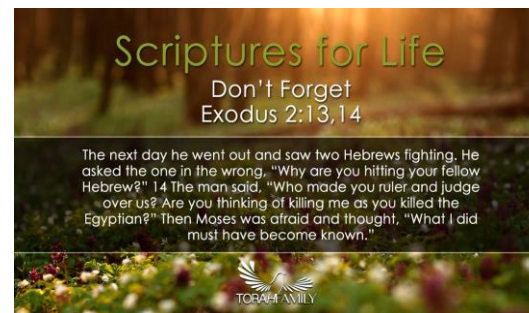
***Read Exodus 2:11–15.***

- No doubt Moses had grown up with an understanding that his people were enslaved. Pharaoh could not have hidden that from him.
  - Perhaps his adoptive Egyptian mother hid the cruelty of the slavery from him, choosing to dress it up in deceitful statements.
  - Perhaps the Egyptians kept him so busy in the palace that he had little time to be in the field with his native people.
  - Perhaps he was always aware of the cruelty and had a front row seat to it, but he had never chosen to act on it.
- At this time, though, something from within Moses rose to the surface, and he could no longer sit by quietly while his people were being abused.
- Moses evaluated the situation and, deciding there would be no witnesses, he took action and killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew.
- Moses buried the Egyptian in the sand, and, believing his actions would go unnoticed, he moved on with his life.

# A Redefining Revelation

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- The next day Moses happened upon two Hebrews who were quarrelling. He decided to break up the fight. Moses was struck to the core of his being when one of the perpetrators said, “Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” (Exodus 2:14, NKJV).
- In that moment Moses realized there was no hiding his actions. **He could never go back to the way things were.** Because he had taken a stand for the Hebrew people, he could never fit in at Pharaoh’s palace again.
- Prior to this, he had done a great job playing the part of an Egyptian. But he was not an Egyptian. He had never been an Egyptian. Then, with the revelation that his lifestyle could never be in harmony with Pharaoh’s palace, he did the only thing he could do to preserve his life: **he fled**



# A Personal Exodus

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- The Book of Exodus is aptly named, not just because of Israel's exodus from Egypt, but because of Moses' personal exodus from Egypt as well. In contrast to the Hebrew people at large, Moses had enjoyed relative peace with Egypt. However, that all came crashing down when he chose to walk in the ways of his people.
- ***Read Hebrews 11:24–26.***
- Moses' decision was not just about running for his life (though that was certainly part of it). His decision was due to the revelation that he had to choose living for God or living for Egypt. When faced with that decision, Moses chose God.
- We also face this same decision. In addition to being born again, there must be a personal exodus in our lives. **We must choose to reject the things of this world and embrace Jesus Christ.**
- That process may not be comfortable because, frankly, many will not appreciate our desire to live righteously. However, we must understand that the riches of Egypt are temporary while the suffering of Christ leads to eternal rewards.
- So how do we embark on this personal exodus?





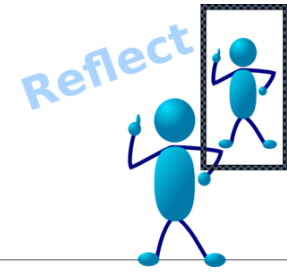
# Altering Worldview



- **First, we must embrace the Bible as the fundamental root of our worldview.** Yes, our world changes over time and culture shifts, but the Word of God is forever settled (Psalm 119:89). It does not change with the ebb and flow of culture.
- We must be careful to approach Scripture correctly rather than viewing Scripture through the lens of culture. Often, we take cues from the world around us to help us understand what Scripture says. For example:
  - The Bible says in the Ten Commandments, “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12, NKJV).
  - In our current culture, the entertainment industry and media often depict children and parents on an equal playing field, with children having an equal voice in their own lives.
  - As such, we may feel it is acceptable to challenge our parents’ authority.
  - Our world teaches we only have to honor our parents when we feel they are right.
  - However, Scripture teaches we are to submit to our parents even when we feel they are wrong, trusting God to bless us for our obedience.
- In the above example, if we view Scripture through the lens of culture, we will embrace our “right” to debate with our parents when they ask something of us that we feel is unfair. However, if we understand that Scripture is forever settled and not contingent on culture, we will accept our parents’ decisions with grace, even though we disagree.
- Ultimately, we can always find a way to justify our actions. But we must go to the Bible for direction on how to live rather than trying to find acceptance for how we want to live.

# Reflecting Our Commitment

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As we embrace our personal exodus and learn to fully love the one true God with all our being, **we must allow what is happening on the inside of us to be reflected on the outside.**

As Jesus changes our character at the spiritual level, the fruit of those changes should be seen at all other levels.

- **Mental change**—How we think should become patterned more closely to the fruit of the Spirit and the mind of Christ and less like the world's pattern of logic.
- **Physical change**—How we dress, how we entertain ourselves, how we carry ourselves, how we communicate with others, and every other aspect of our interaction with the world around us should reflect a life lived for Jesus. If there are no external changes in our lives (if we still blend in perfectly with the world around us), then we are not truly allowing Jesus to reform our character.
- **Emotional change**—We should learn to find stability in our relationship with Jesus, rather than riding the roller coaster of allowing our emotional state to be defined by things, such as social media, popularity, and so on. The opinions of others should pale in comparison to our desire to be pleasing to Jesus.

# Moses' Internal Struggle

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Can you imagine the internal struggle Moses must have had as he walked around Egypt? He was dressed like an Egyptian, talked like an Egyptian, and was treated like an Egyptian, but deep inside, he knew better. Something in him must have been unsettled as he watched the way his people were treated year after year. He must have known for a long time that he needed to do something, but he had to continually talk himself out of it. Finally, it all boiled to the surface, and he couldn't hold back who he was any longer. Although it was obviously a terrifying time for Moses (after all, he did run away), there had to be something freeing about it as well. By embracing his Hebrew heritage, he no longer had to pretend anymore. He wasn't caught between two worlds; he was free.



# Discussion Time

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- What do you think it was like for Moses growing up as an Egyptian?
- How difficult do you think it was for Moses to watch his own people suffer? Why?
- Do you think the Hebrews liked Moses before he was kicked out of Egypt? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Moses finally decided to defend his people?
- What does, “Coming Out of Egypt” mean to you?

# Called Out of Darkness . . .

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Just as Moses embraced his identity as a Hebrew, even though he was treated like an outcast and no longer welcome in Egypt, **we must let go of the world to become more like Jesus.**

For some, the hardest part about coming out of Egypt is the things in Egypt we enjoy. What are some things you are having trouble leaving behind? What are some things you can do to break away from those things?

Walking away from the world may be difficult, but it also sets you free in a way you have never experienced before. Embrace Jesus' freedom and leave Egypt behind!

