The book of Genesis ends with Joseph bringing his father and all his brothers to live in Egypt with him to save them from a famine. They all liked Egypt so much they stayed. 100 years later Jacob’s kids and great grandkids….etc….numbered in the thousands. 100 years after that they numbered in the 10’s of thousands, after 400 years they were a VERY great number.

As Exodus begins, Egypt has a new king (Pharaoh) who doesn’t know anything about Joseph and wasn’t real wild about all these foreigners popping up everywhere. He was afraid these Hebrews (sons of Jacob) would rise up one day and take over Egypt. So he made them slaves and had them working hard making bricks and building cities for him. But still Jacob’s kids kept having more kids. So Pharaoh did something terrible! He said that all new Hebrew baby boys should be thrown into the Nile river and drown.

But Exodus is about God’s promise to Abraham—that his children would be a great nation and they would have their own land and bless the whole world. For 400 years the Children of Israel seemed stuck in Egypt. Abraham’s descendants were multiplying, but they weren’t getting their own land and they were slaves!

Enter MOSES!
**Build a Pyramid**

The pyramids were constructed of massive stone blocks, stacked layer by layer. And so were ours — of slightly smaller sugar blocks.

**Supplies:**
- Sugar cubes
- Water
- Eye dropper
- Yellow food coloring
- Tray

Put down a tray on the craft table to build on and containing all the sugar cubes. When finished combine water with 10-15 drops of food coloring, and color the cubes, one by one, with an eye dropper.

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**Egyptian Puzzle Page**

Pyramid Puzzler

Dragging giant rocks across the dessert is thirsty work. At least the job is nearly finished. Only one block remains to be placed on the top of the pyramid. Once it is in place, how many blocks will there be making up the whole pyramid? Egyptian architects are very good at their jobs so all of the blocks are exactly the same size and there are no gaps or spaces inside the pyramid.

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**Israelite Slaves Make Bricks**

**Supplies:**
- Ice cube tray
- Chocolate pieces
- Chow mein noodles

**Directions:**
1. Melt the chocolate (mud) on low heat. To make the bricks the Israelites had to make mud...
2. In a bowl stir in the chow mein noodles (straw) to make the bricks strong, they would mix straw into the mud.....
3. Fill each of the cubes on the ice cube tray with the mixture and freeze. They would then fill wooden molds with the mud/straw mixture and set them out in the hot Egyptian sun to dry and harden.

Idea: Have the leader in charge speak to the kids as the "slaves" making the "bricks"
BABY MOSES CRAFT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: PSALM 32:7

“You are my hiding place.”

Baby Moses was always in God's care. When the Egyptian Pharaoh sought to kill all the Israelite baby boys, God had a very special plan for Moses. This craft looks at the well-known scene of baby Moses afloat in a woven basket and serves as a reminder to the children that even as a baby in a basket floating in a river, God is in control and will take care of them.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
- Printer + Paper
- Pencils, Felt tips
- Scissors

WHAT TO DO:
Print out the picture below. Color in the picture (remember to do both sides. Cut out the picture and fold the sides to hide the baby.

OLD TESTAMENT MEETS NEW TESTAMENT

Foreshadowing, (an advance sign or warning of what is to come in the future)

The escape of Moses, the deliverer, from death by the Pharaoh's decree foreshadows a future event where another king seeks to kill another baby, a deliverer, who is saved by escaping to Egypt.

Can you name that baby? Can you name that king?
MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES: PRAYERS FOR SAFETY

The theme is safety: thanking God for those who keep us safe and asking God to keep others safe.

Here is the prayer activity:

You will need: cupcake cases, mini pom poms (it really helps if you put one pom pom in each cake case before you start), a long box filled with water.

Talk about people who keep us safe, just like Moses’ mother tried to keep him safe from the Egyptians and then safe on the water.

• Are there any times when God has kept you safe?
• Who do you know who needs help to stay safe at the moment? (We had lots of suggestions e.g. homeless people, people who were going to have an operation, people who were going on a journey).

Invite everyone to take cake case with a pom pom in it and think about someone who keeps them safe or someone who needs help to keep safe. Either say thank you to God or ask God to help them. When they have prayed, ask them to float the case on the water as a sign of their prayer.

Did you know…..

The word in the Hebrew used for Moses’ watertight basket is the same word used for the ark Noah built. It means a floating vessel. Both arks were used to save a race of people, but in very different ways!

Create your own basket

Materials:
• Plastic drinking cup
• Craft sticks
• Masking tape or duct tape
• Yarn

1. Plastic cup cut down
2. Glue 1/2 craft sticks around outside cup.
3. Duct tape to cover rough edges.
4. Weave yarn around.
5. Put baby inside.
God Protected Baby Moses: Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 13 things that are different.
“I AM WHO I AM. TELL THEM I AM IS SENDING YOU”

When he was 40 years old, Moses had killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew. The next day he ran for his life to Midian, about 250 miles away. In Midian, Moses lived as a shepherd.

One day in Midian, Moses saw a burning bush—probably a mimosa or thorny acacia tree. It wasn’t unusual to see a bush on fire in the desert. But there was something different about this bush. It burned, but it didn’t burn up! God spoke to Moses there. He told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let his people leave. Moses was 80 years old!

Before the Activity:

- What are some things that are very hot?
- What reminds you of fire?

Today we are going to learn a story about how God spoke to Moses through a bush that was on fire but not burning up.

Items Needed:

- Water
- Clear plastic bottle
- Vegetable oil
- Food color
- Alka Seltzer
- Plastic funnel

Instructions:

- Fill the plastic bottle full with water using the plastic funnel.
- Fill the bottle almost to the top with oil.
- Allow the oil and water to separate.
- Add quite a bit of food color (use orange or red).
- Break the Alka Seltzer tablets into smaller pieces. Drop one or two into the water and watch the results. When the bubbling stops, you can add more tablets.

What happened:

Oil and water don’t mix very well. The food color dropped to the bottom of the water, and the Alka Seltzer created carbon dioxide bubbles. Each of the bubbles carried some of the colored water, with them up on their trip. When the bubbles popped, the water dropped back through the oil.

Bible Story Connection: (Exodus 3:1–4:17)

This activity reminds us of a lava lamp. We know that lava is very hot, and that reminds us of fire. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. The bush was on fire but not burning up, just like this activity looks like lava, but is not really hot.

After the Story/Activity:

- Is the “lava” in the lamp really hot? Why?
- Was the burning bush really on fire? Why or why not?

In life, sometimes things can look real even if they aren’t, like this lava. In the Bible, though, we know that it is all real. The Bible tells that the bush was on fire, but it wasn’t burning up. The bush was really on fire.
- Is this bottle hot? Do you think the burning bush was hot?
God Spoke to Moses
Connect the Dots and Coloring Page

Start at the number 1 dot and connect the next higher numbered dot until all are connected. Color the page after you’ve revealed the picture!
Let My People Go, Or Else!

Little Known Facts About The Plagues of Egypt

- After the frogs that plagued Egypt died, they were put in big piles and made a real stink. Exodus 8:14
- The pestering gnats were made from all the dust in Egypt. Exodus 8:17
- Moses and Aaron had to take a three-day journey to make a sacrifice to get rid of all the flies. Exodus 8:25
- Egyptian magicians turned water into blood, too, so Pharaoh was not impressed with Aaron’s “trick”. Exodus 7:22
- When the Egyptian livestock died, the Israelite animals stayed well. Exodus 9:7
- Moses and Aaron gave the Egyptians boils by throwing furnace dust into the air. Exodus 9:10

- Before the great hail storm, Moses gave the Egyptians enough time to get their slaves and livestock out of the fields. Exodus 9:19
- When God sent darkness, no one could see anyone else for three days. Exodus 10:23
- Before Pharaoh let the Israelites go after the last plague, he asked Moses and Aaron to bless him. Exodus 12:32

The plagues were a clear but painful way for Pharaoh and the Egyptians to get to know about the true God. The Egyptians worshiped many gods—gods of the river, of the sun, of the sky, of the crops. The 10 plagues showed them that the living God had more power than all of their so-called “gods” put together.
The Ten Plagues is one of the most exciting parts of the Passover story for children. Kids love acting out the plagues, and these finger puppets are just the thing to get them involved.

1. Print this page on regular paper.
2. Cut out each of the plague finger puppets.
3. Tape the bottom strip around the finger.

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**The Ten Plagues of Egypt Finger Puppets**

- Blood
- Frogs
- Boils
- Wild Animals
- Darkness
- Locusts
- Lice
- Hail
Old Testament meets New Testament

Foreshadowing: The Lamb of God

The lamb, who's blood was spread on the doorway to protect the Hebrew family from the angel of death foreshadowed a future event where someone took the place of the Passover Lamb forever. His blood would "redeem" us by paying the price for our sins on the cross.

- Do you know who the "someone" is?
- What special meal do we celebrate to remember His sacrifice for us?

The Exodus

After the ten plagues, Pharaoh let the Israelites go. Moses probably thought the battle was over, but in a way it was just beginning. Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army and all his chariots to capture God's people. With the Red Sea in front of them and the enemy cutting off retreat, the Jewish people were trapped. But God is never trapped. He pushed back the waters of the Red Sea, and the people escaped! Then their desert journey really began.

Parting the Red Sea Storyteller:

1. Cut out the large rectangle
2. Cut out the gray center pieces
3. Fold on the dotted line and stick the halves back to back
4. Fold and stick the arrow squares on top of each other
5. Now stick the second set of arrow squares on top of each other

Other as the arrows indicate.
1. This picture shows the Israelites on their journey through the desert. They have just heard that the Egyptian army is coming after them to capture them and take them back to Egypt. The only way forward is through the sea. They are scared and angry at Moses for bringing them here and they don’t know what will happen to them...

2. Moses came to God to ask Him what to do. God tells Moses to hold out His staff over the sea, and the sea is parted.

3. The people walk through on dry land with a wall of sea to the left and to the right.

4. God closes the sea over the Egyptians. The Israelites are safe. God has shown how powerful He is and that He loves and cares for His people.

Edible pillars of clouds and pillars of fire

God gave the people a pillar of fire by night and of cloud by day to guide them. There weren’t two pillars—just one that changed from fire to cloud and cloud to fire.

Make edible pillars of cloud and fire: To whip these up is really quick and easy. Use pretzel rods, cream cheese frosting, mini marshmallows, and cherry fire fruit roll ups.

The Ten Commandments in code: Can you translate the rebus written commandments?
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Lewinsville will not hold in-person Messy Church. So Messy Church is going virtual! And here's how:

1. A package containing the supplies for all the crafts and activities for the month will be sent to your home. These supplies will also contain the weekly mini Mess activities the monthly Messy Church theme.
2. Once a month we will hold a Zoom Messy Church on Sunday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending with a family worship service. All activities will be led by various members of the Messy Church leadership team and youth.
3. The link to the monthly Messy Church Zoom will be sent via email to participants.
4. The mini Mess publications will be sent weekly via email for parents and children to learn from and enjoy at home.

This fall (September-October) we will be offering a special hybrid class that combines Messy Church for children and youth with adult education:

"What's in the Bible (for me)?"

This class will be a chance for parents and children to come together to learn about the Bible.

- What is it? Why is it so important?
- What is it's one story? And how do all the other stories fit into the one?
- And most importantly, what does it have to do with me?

We will hold this class in the messy church style that includes materials and activities for families to do together as we walk through the one great story of the Bible.

Watch for more information coming in late August!