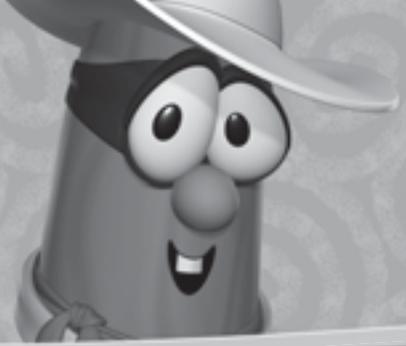


Moe and the Big Exit



What is the STORY about?

Moe is a good-natured cowboy living high on the hog out in Dodgeball City while his kinfolk are hard at work digging the Grand Canyon. Upset by the way his family is treated, Moe stands up to the zucchini foreman and sends him up the river. Feeling poorly about his actions, Moe heads for the hills. He eventually returns to Dodgeball City and tells the mayor to “let my people go!” The heartless mayor refuses, and a heap of trouble comes to town. With God’s strength and direction, Moe helps free his people from their bondage in Dodgeball City once and for all.

- *A Lesson in Following Directions*
- *Key Passage: Exodus 2-14*
- *Running time: 37 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Why was the mayor worried that there were too many workers at the Grand Canyon? (He was afraid the workers would take over the town of Dodgeball City)*
- *How did God speak to Moe in the woods? (Through a burning tumbleweed)*
- *Who was going to do the talking for Moe? (His brother, Aaron)*
- *Why was Moe successful in leading his people away from the mayor of Dodgeball City? (Because he followed God’s instructions)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Moses is found in Exodus 2-14. Read applicable portions from your Bible OR tell the story in this condensed version.

Moses was born to Hebrew parents during a time when the king of Egypt was being very mean to God’s people. To protect her baby boy, Moses’ mother placed him in a special basket and set him afloat in the Nile River. Pharaoh’s daughter discovered the basket and claimed the baby as her son. When Moses was grown, he went to visit his people, the Hebrews. He discovered that they were being treated badly and forced to work very hard as slaves. Moses broke the law by defending one of the slaves and ran far away.

God heard the cries of his people who were being treated badly. God spoke to Moses through a “burning bush” and told him to go back to Egypt with his brother, Aaron, to tell Pharaoh to free his people. When Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go, God sent a series of plagues to the Egyptians until Pharaoh finally set them free. Soon afterwards he changed his mind and sent his army to capture the slaves he had set free. God’s people were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. They were afraid, but Moses trusted God. The Lord God instructed Moses to raise his hand over the sea. When he did, a strong wind made the sea become dry ground so that Moses and his people could escape from the Egyptians. When Moses raised his hand over the sea a second time, the waters returned and none of the Egyptians survived. God’s people were free at last!

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PROVERBS 3:5 & 6** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
- **PSALM 118:14** “The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

The Story of Moses and The Exodus



ACTIVITY

Tell the children to form a circle around a pretend campfire to tell a Cowboy Campfire Tale. Instruct the children to retell the story of *Moe and the Big Exit*. The leader begins by saying that after Moe and his brothers were no longer around Dodgeball City, the mayor made Moe's people work very hard. He was afraid there were too many workers, so... (At this point, ring a dinner bell or a cow bell and instruct the next person to add a couple of sentences to the story.) Continue ringing the bell after every couple of sentences to change storytellers until the complete story has been told. Make sure that each child has a chance to contribute to the story.



What can we DO?

Ask the children to give examples of times when they had to rely on God in difficult situations. Encourage conversation with the following questions:

- *God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. How do you think God speaks to us today? (Through the Bible, our teachers and our parents)*
- *Aaron and Moses realize that the mayor will not "let the people go" unless they follow God's plan and rely on him. Have you ever had a hard time deciding if you should follow God's directions instead of your own?*
- *Moe thought he was too weak to lead his people, but God told him that he would give him strength. Has God ever given you strength to do something that you thought you would never be able to do?*

3 Things to remember about Moses

1. Baby Moses was placed in a **BASKET** in the Nile River
2. Moses **FOLLOWED GOD'S DIRECTIONS** in leading the Israelites
3. The **RED SEA** swallowed up the Egyptians after Moses and his people crossed through on dry land

KEY VERSE

(Psalm 28:7a) "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped."

KEY NUGGET

We need God's strength and direction to help us in our every-day decisions.

