READY TO USE ALL-AGE SERVICE

# Moses

MEETING AIM

To discover that God chooses us for a mission, just as he chose Moses.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Exodus 3:1-4:23

BACKGROUND

This service is designed to be used with a congregation in a church building. However, with some adaptation, you should be able to use it on Zoom or other video-conferencing software.

The story of Moses is rich with stories of God’s faithfulness and humanity’s failings. While we often focus on the circumstances surrounding his rescue as a baby, this session instead looks at the way that God chose Moses to lead his people to freedom. Moses reveals much of his vulnerability, and yet God chooses to remind Moses that he will be with him at every point. Moses is not chosen because of his strengths, but because of what God can do in and through him.

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## WELCOME – 5 mins

As people arrive at the service, welcome them and ask them about their week.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES – 10 mins

**OPTION ONE: Strange tastes**

**You will need:** volunteers to share their strangest tastes

Before the service, ask two or three people to share the story of strange food that they really like. Invite them to join you at the start of the service and describe their strange liking. If possible, have some of that food ready to taste live onstage!

Display the following verse on the screen: “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him” Psalm 34:8.

Then vote on the strangest food!

**OPTION TWO:** Paper plane prayers

**You will need:** paper; pens

Give everyone sheets of plain paper and felt-tip pens. Invite them to draw or write prayers of thanks on the paper of things from this week, and then fold the paper into planes. They can do as many as they like! When everyone has finished, after the count of three, throw the paper planes and shout: “Thank you!”

## BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; pens

Make sure everyone has pens and paper. Ask them to draw six circles (perhaps three per sheet). Tell this story, if possible asking a volunteer to act out being Moses:

Moses, a Hebrew who escaped living in Egypt after committing murder, had made a new life for himself far away. He got married and has a son. But Moses knew that his people, the Israelites, and his family were still living in slavery back in Egypt.

**Emoji one:** How would you feel if you were Moses? Guilty? Relieved? Afraid of being caught? Ask everyone to draw a suitable emoji in one of their circles.

One day while Moses was shepherding sheep, he took them to Mount Sinai, otherwise known as “the mountain of God”. He saw a bush – it was on fire! Going over to investigate, he realised that it wasn’t burning up! He jumped back as he heard a voice.

“Don’t come any closer! Take off your shoes because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your family and your ancestors. I’m the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Moses was very scared. He covered up his face.

**Emoji two:** What would you do in Moses’ position? What would you be thinking?

God spoke again.

“I can see the way my people are suffering in Egypt. I can hear their cries and feel their pain. I’m going to bring them out of Egypt. I’ve got a new place for them to live. It’s got great land for growing food. So, I’m sending you back. Go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and bring my people, the Israelites, out!”

“I can’t do that!” Moses replied. “I’m not a great man! Why have you picked me?”

God promised to be with him.

**Emoji three:** How was Moses feeling right now?

“But what if the Israelites ask me who has sent me? What do I say?”

God explained everything to Moses. “I am who I am. Tell them I am has sent you. This is my name and from now on, this is what people will call me. Here’s the plan. Find the older leaders and explain all I have said to you. Tell them I’ve seen their suffering. Tell them I’ve got a new land for them which will provide plenty of food. Then, find Pharaoh and tell him that I have appeared to you and that you need to take the Israelites on a journey for three days into the desert to make sacrifices. Don’t expect him to agree, though. He’s a powerful man, but I am more powerful and I will make miracles happen that will make him let you go.”

But Moses was still unsure. “What if the Israelites don’t believe me?” he asked.

“See that staff in your hand? Throw it down on the ground,” God told him.

Moses did, and it turned into a snake.

**Emoji four:** How would Moses have been feeling at that point?

“And now pick it back up again.”

Moses picked it back up, and it became his staff again.

“This will prove to the Israelites that I have appeared to you.”

But Moses still wasn’t convinced that this plan would work.

“Put your hand inside your coat,” God said.

Moses did, and when he took it out, his hand was covered in disease.

“And now put your hand back in again.”

Moses did so, and his hand was healthy again.

**Emoji five:** How was Moses feeling now?

“The people might not be convinced by the first miracle, so show them the second,” God explained. “If they still don’t believe you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on dry ground. It will become blood. Then they will believe you.”

Moses, amazed by all the miracles, was still finding excuses! “But I’m not even a great speaker. I always speak too slowly and can’t find the right words to say. Surely there is someone else you can send who will do a better job. Please!”

**Emoji six:** How would God feel now?

God answered him: “Your brother, Aaron, is a good speaker. Take him! He will speak for you.”

So, after all those excuses and with Aaron by his side, Moses finally went!

## SMALL GROUPS – 10 mins

**You will need:** copies of the questions below; Bibles

Encourage people to discuss these questions in smaller groups. Give each group a copy of these questions:

• What is your favourite part of the story?

• Why do you think Moses was so insistent that he shouldn’t be the person to go?

• Moses made lots of excuses. What kinds of excuses do we make when God is asking us to do something?

• Is there any part of this story that is like your life?

Give the groups time to chat about these questions, referring to the Bible passage if they need to.

## REVIEW – 5 mins

**You will need:** roving mic (if needed)

Get some feedback on the questions from ‘Small groups’, using a microphone to hear people’s contributions if your meeting space is large.

## RESPONSE ACTIVITIES – 10 mins

Set these three activities up in different parts of your meeting space or in different breakout rooms.

**OPTION ONE:** Discussion

Ask a couple of people to lead a discussion about the story today and people’s response to it. You could review the questions from ‘Small groups’ as well as any questions that the people in the group may have.

**OPTION TWO:** Footprints

**You will need:** paper; trays of paint (large enough to put a foot in!); clean-up and cover-up facilities; pens

Invite people to take off their shoes, stand in a tray of paint and walk across the paper, cleaning their feet off at the end.

When this has been done, ask everyone to write next to the footprints where God might be sending them – this could be school, a club, work, neighbours or friends. Reflect on the fact that we are sent by God for a purpose.

**OPTION THREE:** Creative response

**You will need:** paper; pens; emojis from ‘Bible story’

Continue the emoji theme by encouraging people to share what they drew during the story. Ask them to imagine how they might feel if God were to call them today. Perhaps someone already has been called by God! How do they feel?

## CLOSING – 5 mins

Bring everyone back together and ask if anyone would like to share anything from the response time. Thank everyone for taking part and say an appropriate blessing to close the service.

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