

I.1

The Call of Moses

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Identify the following people: Moses, Miriam, Aaron, Pharaoh, Pharaoh's daughter, Jochebed, Amram, Zipporah, Jethro, Shiphrah, Puah, and Hyksos.
2. Describe the basic outline of the story of Israel's oppression and Moses' call.
3. Name the five books of the Pentateuch/Torah.
4. Locate Egypt and Midian on a map.

Read Exodus 1–6; EDB articles: "Exodus, Book of" and "Hyksos"

Geography Task Using maps on pages 14 and 48 of your Hammond Atlas, locate Egypt and Midian. What is the land of Midian called today?

Important Terms Pentateuch, call of Moses

- Written Work**
1. a. Why did Pharaoh persecute the Hebrews? Cite a reference.
b. Why do you think that he allowed the girls to live when he killed the boys?
c. How does the persecution of the Israelites by Pharaoh deepen your understanding of the persecutions of minorities that have taken place throughout history?
 2. According to Genesis 25:1–2, from whom were the Midianites descended?
 3. Draw a family tree showing Moses' parents, brother, sister, wife, father-in-law, and sons (his second son is mentioned in Exodus 18:4). To what tribe did Moses belong?
 4. a. How did Moses respond to Yahweh's call? Cite references.
b. How have you experienced a "call" in your life? Describe the experience.
 5. a. Describe the problems Moses faced in freeing the Israelites. Cite references.
b. How are these problems similar to the problems faced by those struggling for freedom and justice today?
 6. a. What character traits of Moses do you see in these chapters? Cite references.
b. Why do you think that God chose a person with these traits to lead Israel out of Egypt?

Exercise (Note that this is part of the required study, but does not always involve a written response.) As you work your way through the unit, choose a verse that you will memorize so that you are able to write it out with the proper citation (translation used and reference [book, chapter, and verse]). Suggestions are given for each lesson, but you may choose another that you like.

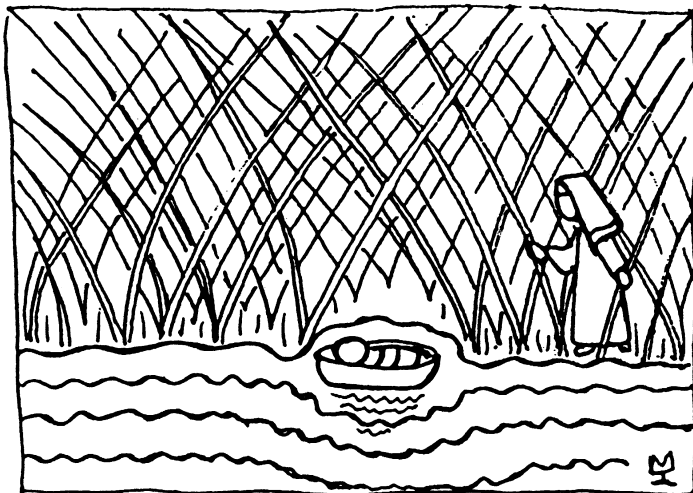
ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STUDENT

Memory Verse Suggestion I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. (Exodus 6:5; NRSV)

Further Reading *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §204.
Bruce Feiler, *Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land through the Five Books of Moses* (New York, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 2001).
Steve Mueller, *The Seeker's Guide to Reading the Bible: A Catholic Approach* (Chicago: Loyola Press, 1999).
Alviero Niccacci, OFM, "Egypt and Israel: An Overview," *The Bible Today* 43, 3 (2005): 147-52.
Ronald D. Witherup, "Choosing and Using a Bible: What Catholics Should Know," *Catholic Update* (July 2004).

Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; but only he who sees takes off his shoes—the rest sit down and pluck blackberries.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning



Exodus 2:3-4 Miriam watches over Moses.