Preschool–Grade 6

Moses and Pharaoh

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God's power is greater than any other power, and when He speaks, we should listen and obey.
Bible passage: Exodus 7:1–13 (and Exodus 4:2–5, 4:14–17; 5:1–2). Read them before class.
Memory verse: "For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods." *Exodus 7:12 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, paper and pencils, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Under it, write "Which is greater?"

1. Opening game: Which Is Greater? (5–10 minutes)

Read each pair. Kids point up for the first one or down for the second one to show which is greater: a candle or the sun; a puddle or the ocean; a pebble or a mountain; a kitten or a lion. Then ask: *Is anything greater than God?* Read Jeremiah 32:17: "there is nothing too hard for thee." Say: "Today a king of Egypt finds out that the LORD's power is greater than all the power in his palace."

2. Bible story: Aaron's Rod Swallowed Them Up (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Exodus. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

The rod. At the burning bush, the LORD asked Moses, "What is that in thine hand?" Moses said, "A rod," a long walking stick. When Moses cast it on the ground, it became a serpent, and when he took it by the tail, it became a rod again (Exodus 4:2–4). God also gave Moses his brother **Aaron** to be his **spokesman**, the one who speaks for him (4:14–16).

Pharaoh says no. Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, "Let my people go." Pharaoh answered, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?" (5:1–2).

God's plan. Look up Exodus 7:6–7. Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. Moses was **fourscore**, which means 80, and Aaron was 83!

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Shew a miracle. Look up Exodus 7:9. God said Pharaoh would tell them, "**Shew** a miracle," which means show a miracle, to prove God sent them. Then Aaron was to cast down his rod, and it would become a **serpent**, a snake.

Before Pharaoh. Look up Exodus 7:10. Moses and Aaron went in and did just as the LORD had commanded. Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his **servants**, and it became a serpent.

The magicians. Pharaoh called the wise men and the sorcerers. The magicians of Egypt did the same thing "with their enchantments" (7:11). The Bible doesn't tell us how, and we don't need to know.

God is greater. Look up Exodus 7:12. Every man cast down his rod, and they became serpents, "but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods." God's power was greater.

A hard heart. Look up Exodus 7:13. Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he **hearkened** not, which means he did not listen, "as the LORD had said" (see 7:3–4). Pharaoh saw God's power with his own eyes and still would not obey.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Moses and Aaron were 80 and 83 years old. What does that tell you about who God can use?
2. Why do you think God let Aaron's rod swallow up the other rods?
3. Pharaoh saw a miracle and still did not listen. Why do you think his heart stayed hard?
4. What does it look like when a kid's heart is soft toward God? What does it look like when it is hard?
5. When is it hard for you to do what God says right away?

Recall questions

1. What did Aaron cast down before Pharaoh? *(His rod, Exodus 7:10)*
2. Who did Pharaoh call? *(The wise men and the sorcerers, 7:11)*
3. What happened to the magicians' rods? *(Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods, 7:12)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **cast down** means threw down, **every man his rod** means each man threw his own rod, a **serpent** is a snake, and **swallowed up** means ate them all up. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Pharaoh saw God's power and still hardened his heart. The Bible tells us: 'To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts' (Hebrews 3:15, KJV). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when God's Word or your parents tell you to do something, obey the first time, with a soft heart, not a hard one.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Exodus 4:2: What was in Moses' hand? *(A rod)*
2. Exodus 5:2: What did Pharaoh ask about the LORD? *(Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice)*
3. Exodus 7:7: How old was Aaron? *(Fourscore and three, 83)*
4. Exodus 7:9: What would Pharaoh say? *(Shew a miracle for you)*
5. Exodus 7:10: Before whom did Aaron cast down his rod? *(Before Pharaoh and before his servants)*
6. Exodus 7:11: Who did Pharaoh call? *(The wise men and the sorcerers)*
7. Exodus 7:12: What did Aaron's rod do? *(Swallowed up their rods)*
8. Hebrews 3:15: What should we not harden? *(Our hearts)*

For more, use the **word search, crossword, maze or worksheet** (vbshq.com/bible-stories/moses-and-pharaoh).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, there is nothing too hard for You. Your power is greater than anything. Keep our hearts soft so we hear Your voice and obey You. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks how the magicians did it: the Bible only says "with their enchantments" (Exodus 7:11) and doesn't explain it. Say that God told His people to stay away from enchanters (Deuteronomy 18:10) and to trust Him, and point back to verse 12: God was greater.

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