Preschool–Grade 6

Moses and Pharaoh

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God's power is greater than anything, and we can obey Him.
Bible passage: Exodus 7:8–13. Read it 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, a long stick or a yardstick (to show a rod), paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Exodus 7:8.

1. Opening game: The LORD Commanded (5 minutes)

Kids stand up. Give an action, like "Touch your toes" or "Hop two times." If you start with **"The LORD commanded,"** kids do it. If you leave those words off, kids stand still. Play for a few minutes. Say: "Good listening! Today we will hear about two brothers, Moses and Aaron. The Bible says they 'did as the LORD commanded them' (Exodus 7:6). And we will see that God's power is greater than anything!"

2. Bible story: Aaron's Rod (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Exodus 7, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

God's people, the children of Israel, lived in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, would not let them go (Exodus 5:1–2). So God sent Moses and his brother **Aaron** to talk to Pharaoh (7:1–2). Moses was 80 years old, and Aaron was 83 (7:7)!

God told them what would happen. Pharaoh would say, "**Shew a miracle**" (7:9), which means "Show me a miracle." Then Aaron should take his **rod** and throw it down in front of Pharaoh. *(Hold up the stick.)* A rod is a long walking stick. God said it would become a **serpent**. A serpent is a snake.

Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did just what the LORD had commanded. Aaron cast down his rod in front of Pharaoh and his servants, "and it became a serpent" (7:10). *(Lay the stick down on the floor.)*

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The story continues: Then Pharaoh called his wise men and the **magicians** of Egypt (7:11). They threw down their rods too, and their rods became serpents too (7:12). Now there were lots of serpents on the ground!

But then something happened that showed God was greater. **Read Exodus 7:12 from your Bible:** "For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods." Say: "Aaron's rod **swallowed up** all their rods! God is greater than anyone!"

Did Pharaoh listen to God then? No. Pharaoh's heart was **hardened**, and he did not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said (7:13). His heart was hard and stubborn. But God was not finished. God was going to bring His people out of Egypt (7:4–5).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who were the two brothers God sent to Pharaoh? *(Moses and Aaron, Exodus 7:1–2)*
2. What did Aaron throw down in front of Pharaoh? *(His rod, 7:10)*
3. What did the rod become? *(A serpent, 7:10)*
4. What did Aaron's rod do to the magicians' rods? *(It swallowed them up, 7:12)*
5. Did Pharaoh listen? *(No, his heart was hardened, 7:13)*

4. Memory verse: Swallow It Up (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **cast down** means threw down, **every man his rod** means each man threw down his own rod, a **serpent** is a snake, and **swallowed up** means ate them all up. Say the verse together twice in these three parts: *For they cast down every man his rod, / and they became serpents: / but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. Exodus 7:12.* Then add motions: pretend to throw a stick down, wiggle one arm like a serpent, and open and close both arms like a big mouth for "swallowed up." Everyone says "Exodus 7:12" at the end.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen to God. God wants our hearts to listen to Him. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! God's power is greater than sin! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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: obey right away, the first time you are told, like Moses and Aaron did "as the LORD had commanded" (Exodus 7:10).

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Moses and Pharaoh word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/moses-and-pharaoh-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the Moses and Pharaoh craft (vbshq.com/crafts/moses-and-pharaoh-craft), or **God Is Greater:** each child folds a paper in half. On one side they draw something big and strong (a mountain, a lion, the sea). On the other side they write or say "God is greater!" and draw a big heart for God's love. Let a few kids show their pictures.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are greater than anything. Thank You for loving us. Help our hearts to listen to You, and help us obey You the first time, like Moses and Aaron did. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about the magicians: say, The Bible doesn't tell us how they did it. It tells us that God is greater: "Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods" (Exodus 7:12). Keep the focus on God, and don't act out or explain tricks.

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