

## Aim of lesson

To show that God cares about the suffering of his people and that he acts to save them, and to see how God prepared the man he wanted for this task.

## Bible background

Exodus 1; 2; 3 & 4:1-28.

## Outline of lesson

### The Promised Land

Ask the class questions about the promises which God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Bring out the promise of blessing and the promise of possession of the land of Canaan. Remind them that the whole family of Jacob is now in Egypt.

### A new king over Egypt

Read together Exodus 1:6-10 in order to set the scene. Then you may wish to give different members of the class a verse (11, 14, 16, 17 and 22) so that they can together build up a picture of what life was like in Egypt.

Turn to the workbooks and let the class fill in their word picture of life for the Israelites in Egypt. Ask them how they think God felt about this, then let them look at the references given and discover for themselves how God cares for his people and their suffering. Isaiah 63:7-9 may be a helpful passage for the class to read.

At this point, you may wish to discuss with the class how God feels today about suffering, cruelty and oppression.

### God prepared the man he wanted

The Israelites in Egypt might have thought that God did not care because they could not see him doing anything just then. However, he was already preparing the means of their deliverance, just as he is now setting in motion the events leading to the return of Jesus Christ and to the end of this world's problems.

God kept Moses safe, using different people – think of Exodus 2:2-8: his mother, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter

God taught Moses. What did he learn?

- he was taught 'all the wisdom of the Egyptians' (Acts 7:22);
- he had to learn not to do things his way (Exodus 2:11-15);
- he learned how to survive in the desert (Exodus 2:16-20);

God gave Moses encouragement, and support to do his work

- he was given a wife and family, and a supportive father-in-law (Exodus 2:21-25);
- he learned how to look after animals in the desert (Exodus 3:1);

God called Moses (Exodus 3). By now,

- he had humility – he would need God's help in the task (Exodus 3:11-12)
- he had realised that the Israelites would need to be taught about God (Exodus 3:13-15)

Work through the remaining questions together, discussing bringing out the lessons of:

- doing things God's way and not our own.
- God's care and protection even when Moses thought that he was on his own.

Also bring out some aspects of the character of Moses. He did not consider himself the best choice for the job.

## Digging deeper

### God through the ages

This exercise explores briefly God's name 'I am' or 'I will be'. Throughout the ages God has been with his people, especially Jesus, and his great plan is that he will be revealed in all his people.

## Relevance to our lives

Discuss with the class the last question in the workbook – 'What do you think you need to learn in order to be able to work for God?'. Ask each of them to think of a difficult situation that they have had to face, at home or at school. Discuss what lessons might have been learnt from each problem. You may like to lead the class into writing a prayer about their attitudes to the situations that they face.

## Prayer

Lord God, thank you for telling Moses and us that you care about suffering. Thank you for taking care of us. Please help us to learn the lessons you want to teach us.

## Other suggestions for activities

- The class could develop a drama based on a discussion between Moses' parents (Amram and Jochebed) showing both their wretchedness and their hope at the time of his birth.
- Make a newspaper set in the time that Moses fled from Egypt; include articles, with appropriate illustrations, on

- The current building programme which the Hebrew slaves were carrying out.
- Court news.
- The death of the Egyptian task master.
- The disappearance of Moses.