



Prepare to explain how Moses' five books laid a foundation for the rest of the Bible:

- **Genesis** reveals how God created everything from nothing, and how Satan tempted man to disobey, corrupting the world, bringing pain, punishment and death.
- **Exodus** reveals the all-powerful, all-holy God who is supreme over all spirits. God gave to His people the ancient law with the Ten Commandments.
- **Leviticus** reveals how God forgave people's sins through the blood sacrifice of an innocent victim.
- **Numbers** describes how people failed to obey God's laws. Thus, God did not allow that generation to enter into the Promised Land.
- **Deuteronomy** reveals that God punishes sin and blesses obedience.

Those ancient laws and events enable us to understand the great New Testament truths:

- Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God forgives repentant believers and gives them eternal life.
- Jesus asked His Father to send the Holy Spirit to live in believers and give them power to obey God.
- All believers receive gifts from God in the form of different abilities to serve one another within the body of Christ.
- Jesus will return to raise the dead, punish the unrepentant, transform believers' bodies, and take them into glory where we will see Him face to face, to glorify and enjoy Him forever.

## Moses Helped His People Know God

### Joyful and fearsome truths about the One Supreme God

Those who teach children should read study #99 for children.

**Prayer.** "Almighty and merciful God, help me to teach your people what you are like, by telling them how you revealed yourself to humanity through Moses."

**John 1:17.** "The Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Choose items that meet current needs and for which you have time.

### 1. Prepare your mind and heart to learn how God revealed Himself to His people, Israel.

About 4,000 years ago, God chose the descendants of faithful Abraham to be His holy people, Israel.

About 500 years later, God miraculously freed Israel from slavery in Egypt and established through Moses the Old Testament covenant of law. They learned to fear and obey the one holy, all-powerful God. Their experiences are examples for us today (1 Cor.10:6).

About 2,000 years ago, God replaced the *old covenant* of law with the *new covenant* of grace for all peoples, when Jesus' died and rose back to life for them.

- Find in Exodus 1 why Egypt's king feared the Israelites and planned to limit their numbers. (Later, similarly, King Herod would kill the boy babies in Bethlehem in his attempt to destroy the newborn king, Jesus.)
- Find in Exodus 2 how God saved baby Moses from death, and what happened when Moses tried to save his people by his own human effort.

- Find in Exodus 3 what the eternal God sent Moses to do.
- Find in Exodus 3 what God's holy Name is.

Prepare to explain why **we Christians reject fatalism**, the cruel, demonic idea that gods or stars know our destiny in advance, and we cannot change our fate of poverty, pain and failure. The eternal I AM lives outside of time; He made time, and it does not rule over Him. Jesus said, "The hour is coming" (man's view) "and now is" (God's view) when He will raise the dead to life or to judgment (John 5:25-29). He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).

He is everywhere in both time and space. God sees what we will do in the future, but He does not always cause us to do it. His foreknowledge does not cancel our freedom to make life-changing decisions. Jesus said, "The truth will make you free" (John 8:32). Free your flock from the cruel chains of fatalism! God knows us, loves us and listens to us. He will intervene in ways that will be good for us and bring honour to him. Genesis 1 reveals that our ancestors were men, never gods, spirits or animals, and that God made the stars to mark times and seasons, not to control our destinies

Prepare to explain why **we are free from demonic powers**. When Egypt's king would not free God's people from slavery, God enabled Moses to send plagues that revealed God's power over the false Egyptian gods (Exodus chapters 7–11). The Egyptians believed that their great river, the Nile, had supernatural powers. So God turned its water to blood! They worshipped the sun, so God darkened it. They worshipped animals, so God used cows, lice, flies and frogs to bring pain. Ask Jesus, the One all-powerful God, free your flock from the fear of false spirits!

## 2. Plan with co-workers activities to do during the week.

**Visit**, counsel and pray with believers who misunderstand the basic doctrines mentioned above.

If the flocks of leaders whom you train need this basic instruction, then help them to prepare to teach them.

## 3. Plan with co-workers the next worship time.

Explain how God prepared Moses to free from social bondage the ancient Israelites (above).

- Ask and discuss what Egypt's king did that was similar to Herod's slaying little boys in Bethlehem.
- Ask the believers to explain how God saved Moses, and how Moses tried to save his people by human effort.
- Explain why we reject fatalism, and why we are free from demonic powers (Part 1 above).
- Ask and discuss how God's Holy Name, "I AM", reflects His eternal being.
- Ask and discuss why God's foreknowledge, since He lives outside of time, does not destroy our freedom of choice. (He sees but does not cause what we decide to do in the future.)
- Ask and discuss what Jesus meant when He said that the truth will set us free.
- Explain how knowing the five books written by Moses may help people to understand truth about Jesus.
- Let the children present what they have prepared.
- Let believers give **testimonials** about how Christ has freed them from the paralyzing ideas of fatalism, and from being slaves to evil spirits and false gods.

To introduce the **Lord's Supper**, read Exodus 7:17. Explain that Moses' first miracle was to turn water to blood, a curse that was typical of the Old Covenant. Under its laws people obeyed or died; for the letter of the law kills (2 Cor. 3:6). In contrast, Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine to bless people (John 2:1-11). Jesus said of the Communion cup, "This is the New Covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20).

Form **groups** of two or three, to pray for one another and make plans to teach the basic truths about Jesus to friends.

**Memorize** together 1 Corinthians 10:5-6.