

# LESSON 12

## THE YOUNG MOSES

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Moses' Early Life

The author of Hebrews says that by faith, Moses was “hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child” (Heb 11:23). In the very early stages of Moses' life, while he still lived with his birth mother, he received many teachings about the Hebrew traditions of his people and the God of their fathers.

After Moses was weaned, he was brought to the palace and adopted as Pharaoh's daughter's son. He was given the best education and received training fit for people in courtly circles. He also did not lack in material goods and enjoyment. But he held on to the teachings of his childhood, and all the pleasures of the palace did not erase the values his mother taught him.

#### Moses the Adult

Knowing the history of God's promises to his fellow countrymen and having a strong sense of his own power and reputation at the Egyptian palace, Moses truly believed God's purpose for him was to deliver the Israelites from captivity.

One day, when he had grown up, Moses stepped into a fight between an Egyptian and a Hebrew, which resulted in him killing the Egyptian (Acts 7:23-24). He thought that by doing so, he was contributing to God's great mission for him. But actually, God's time to deliver that Israelites had not yet come.

#### Life in Midian

Moses fled eastward to Midian. Midian was named after one of Abraham's sons by his wife Keturah, after Sarah's death. The sons of Keturah were sent eastward away from Isaac while Abraham was still alive (Gen 25:1-6). Midian's borders were the Arabah Valley between Moab and Elath, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Red Sea. Its eastern border was uncertain.

Moses' life in Midian was a humbling experience for him that no doubt shaped him to become “very humble, more than all the men who were on the face of the earth” (Num 12:3). Moses, a prince of Egypt, had to live with his father-in-law, which would have been considered socially humiliating in the context of the patriarchal society of the time. His new occupation was shepherding, an abomination to the Egyptians (Gen 46:34).

His contentment with living in these circumstances (Ex 2:21) showed that Moses had lost hope in what he had believed was God's purpose for him—to deliver the people of Israel (Acts 7:25).

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 2:11-25

### BIBLE TRUTHS

1. God knows everything that we do in secret.
2. God has chosen us and given each of us a special purpose in life.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To always keep our conscience clear before God and not do shameful things in secret.
2. To realize that God has chosen us for a reason.
3. To search and carry out His will in our lives.

### MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord searches all hearts.”

(1 Chronicles 28:9b)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we know that You love us so much and have chosen us as Your special people. We are so blessed to know that You have great plans for our lives. Please help us understand Your will and give us courage to do it in Your time and Your way. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Because we can't see God, it is hard for students at this age to remember that God is always here around us. Remind your students that God is in our hearts and knows everything that goes through our minds. Even though we often forget this and think that we can somehow hide what we are doing from the God, He has promised us that on the Day of Judgment, everyone, great and small, will be judged for everything they have done. He has said that everything done in darkness will be made known. If your students are questioning whether some of their actions are right or wrong, let them understand that a sure sign of doing something wrong is being afraid of letting people know.

Most of the time, our secret actions will be brought to light. For example, Moses thought that no one knew that he had killed an Egyptian. Soon, Pharaoh found out and Moses had to run away to Midian. Encourage your students to always keep their conscience clear and their actions pure before God and man. Indeed, the judgment of God is something to be feared, but if we have not sinned, we will have nothing to fear when our actions are

made known.

Like Moses, each one of us has been called for a particular purpose by God. Most, if not all, of your students have been brought to church through the faith of their parents. Let them know that their birth and calling were God's will, like Moses'. Encourage your students to think about why God has elected them for salvation and what they need to do for God during their lives.

As teachers, we play the role of shaping them and instilling the rich hope of God's promises in them so that they are able to make choices that conform to God's purpose for them. These students will be the future of God's church. Is there an aspiring RE teacher or preacher? Do they have friends and family they need to bring to Jesus? Will they be the successful parents of God-fearing children?

While Moses' understanding of God's purpose for him was correct, his actions were not. The time and manner were not of God's choosing. Encourage your students to pray for God to direct their paths as they journey to fulfill God's plan for them.

### VOCABULARY

**taskmaster:** someone who keeps watch over the slaves and makes sure they work hard

**description:** words that explain what something or someone is

**rescue:** to save from danger or harm

**shepherdess:** a woman who looks after sheep

**shepherd:** a man who looks after sheep

**bully:** to hurt or scare someone who is usually weaker than you

**foreigner:** a person new to a land or country

**military:** having to do with the army; characteristic of a soldier

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned how the Hebrews had been slaves in Egypt for a long time and how they grew into a great nation. When the new Pharaoh came into power, he was afraid that they would become too powerful and join with another country to fight against the Egyptians. So, he commanded that all the Hebrew baby boys be thrown into the Nile River.

At that time, baby Moses was born into a Levite family. His parents hid him for three long months. They weren't afraid of Pharaoh's command. But after time, Moses just grew to be too big to hide anymore.

His mother made a basket and left him by the Nile River. His sister Miriam stood from far away to see what would happen to little baby Moses. God was also looking after baby Moses as he floated in his basket on the river. Pharaoh's daughter found Moses. Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter if she needed someone to take care of the baby. In fact, Miriam called Moses' mother to look after the baby for Pharaoh's daughter. God truly watches over us in the most unexpected ways. Baby Moses didn't die. Instead, he became a prince of Egypt—and he was looked after by his own mother!

[Teacher: Before you begin the lesson, please prepare a jar and slips of paper.]

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## BIBLE STORY

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**Introduction**

In today's story, we are going to learn what Moses was like after he grew up. Before we begin the story, think about what grown-up Moses would have been like. Use your imagination. What kind of person do you think he became? Was he smart? Proud? Happy? Was he cruel like Pharaoh? Brave like his mother? Was he kind or mean? Did he know how God looked after him? Did he live a lazy life in the palace because he was now an Egyptian prince? Write three short sentences to describe what you think grown-up Moses was like. [Pass out a slip of paper to each student.]

There is no right or wrong answer. When you are done writing, please fold your slip of paper and put it in this jar without writing your name. We will find out at the end of the class if you guessed correctly. [Set aside the jar and proceed with the story.]

**Moses Grows Up in the Palace**

After Moses lived for a few years in his own home, his mother took him back to the palace. There, he became the son of Pharaoh's daughter, which made him the prince of Egypt. Moses had the best teachers, and he learned about many important things, including military training. He was treated just like a royal prince.

He grew into a fine young prince. Even though he was a Hebrew, he didn't have to work hard as a slave like all the other Hebrews because he was the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.

**Moses Kills an Egyptian**

Moses had lived a very comfortable life in the king's palace. But he always remembered what his mother had taught him. He knew that he was really a Hebrew and not an Egyptian. As a Hebrew, he was one of God's special people.

One day, when he was almost forty years old, Moses decided to visit the place where the Hebrews worked as slaves. He saw that they all had to work very hard—a big difference from living in the palace! As he was going from place to place, something caught his eye. He saw an Egyptian treating a Hebrew unfairly. This Egyptian was beating the Hebrew, one of his own people!

Moses got very angry—what right did this Egyptian have to beat up this Hebrew? Moses looked this way and that. When he saw that no one was there, guess what he did? [Ask for class responses.] Oh no! He went up and killed the Egyptian. Moses quickly hid his body in the sand, hoping that no one had seen him. He thought he had done the right thing by saving the Hebrew, when in fact this was not the way God wanted Moses to save His people.

Boys and girls, do you think what Moses did was right? Why? [Ask for class responses.] Did Moses want people to

know what he had done to the Egyptian? (No.) When you know that you've done something you could get in trouble for, do you want other people to know? (No.) One way of knowing whether you're doing the right thing or not is to ask yourselves this: "Do I want other people to know about what I'm doing?" If the answer is "No," it's a very good sign that what you're doing is not right.

But Someone knows everything we've done, good or bad. That Person is God. One day, God will look at all the good things and all the bad things we have done. Will God be able to say "Well done, [insert student's name]! You have done many good things for Me," or will God say, "Oh, no. I can't let you into heaven because you didn't obey Me"? If you met with God right now, what would God say about you?

As we'll find out in our story, God wasn't the only one who saw what Moses had done. The next day, Moses went out again and saw two Hebrews fighting with each other. He asked the attacker, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

He replied, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?"

When Moses heard this, his heart sank and he was filled with fear. Moses thought he had done the right thing by looking after his own people, the Hebrews. He thought the other Hebrews would understand that God had chosen him to save the Hebrews from the cruel Pharaoh, but they didn't. When he saw that these Hebrews did not understand, he was very afraid. Killing the Egyptian was not what God wanted Moses to do.

He thought to himself, "People must already know what I did. I can't stay here anymore." What was Moses going to do now?

**Moses Flees to Midian**

It was true. People did know what Moses had done. When Pharaoh found out that his own adopted grandson had killed an Egyptian, he was so furious that he wanted to kill him. Moses had to run away—far, far away from the palace, his home, his family, and the places he knew best. He ran until he came to a place called Midian. There, he was a stranger who knew nobody, and nobody knew him.

He finally felt relieved when he got to Midian, thinking that no one would recognize him in this new place. The people here did not know that he had killed an Egyptian. After the long journey, Moses decided to sit down by a well to rest.

Far off in the distance, he saw seven women walking towards him with their sheep. These seven women were all daughters of the priest of Midian. As shepherdesses, they looked after sheep. They had come to the well to give the sheep water to drink.

As they were watering their sheep, some men who were shepherds also came to the well. They wanted to

water their sheep first and tried to bully the women away from the well.

### Moses Rescues Seven Shepherdesses

Moses saw how the men bullied the women, and he came to their rescue. When the men saw Moses, who was young and strong, with the women, they stopped bullying them and let them go. Moses then helped the women give their sheep water to drink.

When the women got home, their father Reuel was very surprised that they had come back so soon. He asked them, "How did you get home so early today?"

Normally the shepherds would bully the women when they went to the well, so they would get home later. The women answered, "A man who looked like an Egyptian came and rescued us. He even helped us to water the sheep."

Reuel asked his daughters, "Where is he? How come you left him? Go and invite him to come eat with us."

### Moses Stays in Midian

So the daughters went and invited Moses to eat with them, and Moses was happy to stay and live with them. Reuel gave his daughter Zipporah to him as a wife. Soon, Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom. Gershom means "a foreigner," as Moses had come to stay as a foreigner in the land of Midian.

Boys and girls, what was the big mistake that Moses made when he decided to kill the Egyptian? (He thought that no one would find out about it, since he saw no one there.) In fact, who was there watching him even though

he saw nobody? [Encourage students to respond.] God was there watching him.

Nothing is hidden from God. Many times, we think that we can do something bad because no one will find out about it. Wrong! God knows everything we do. Let's learn from Moses' mistake and remember that "the Lord searches all hearts," as the memory verse says.

God saved Moses from being killed as a baby and allowed him to become a prince in Egypt. He knew that God had called him to do something special—to save God's people from the Egyptians. However, God wasn't going to allow Moses to save His people by killing the Egyptian. God had other plans for Moses. Moses was going to save His people when God thought the time was right and in God's own special way.

God loves each one of us here and has allowed us to come to know Him in His church. Even though it might be our parents who bring us to church, it is God who has allowed us to be born into our families. Like with Moses, God has special plans for each of us, and it's important to ask God to show us what He wants us to do for Him. We might not know what His plans are yet, but we must remember to pray for God to show us how He wants us to work for Him so that we can receive His blessings.

So, did grown-up Moses match the description that you wrote down? Now, let's take turns drawing the slips of paper from the jar and find out what everyone wrote. [You can tape the slips on the board for students to look at after class. Take some time to discuss Moses' character and compare the similarities and/or differences of the students' predictions with the actual story.]

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **After Moses had grown a little older, where did he move to and who did he become?** He was brought to the palace to become the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
2. **When Moses was a young man, he went to visit the Hebrews. What did he see?** He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew.
3. **What did Moses do when he saw this?** Moses killed the Egyptian.
4. **The next day, what did Moses see?** Two Hebrews fighting.
5. **What did one of the Hebrews ask Moses?** "Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?"
6. **Why did Moses run away to Midian?** He was afraid that Pharaoh would find out that he killed an Egyptian and want to kill him for it.
7. **When he got to Midian, where did he stay?** At the house of Reuel, the priest of Midian.
8. **Do you think Moses would have killed the Egyptian if someone had been there? Why?** Answers may vary.
9. **The next time you are tempted to do something wrong, how will you remind yourself that God is always with you?** Answers may vary.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"The Lord searches all hearts." (1 Chronicles 28:9b)**

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 SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION
 

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**1. God knows everything we do and everything in our hearts, whether it is good or bad.**

1. Pray to God to create a clean heart (Ps 51:10). Teach the students to guard their hearts so that their actions may be pure before God (Pro 4:23). For example, when we have a bad thought, we have to stop ourselves from acting on it. Most of the time, a bad action starts from a bad thought. Name some bad thoughts that turn into bad actions [let students share]. How can we stop a bad thought before it becomes an action?
2. Reinforce that if they are ashamed of bringing up their actions or thoughts before other people, they will be ashamed before God. Ask students to apply this in today's story.
3. Teach students not to do good only for others to see. Rather, they should do good in secret so they can receive a reward from God (Mt 6:1-4). Write the name of each student on separate pieces of paper, mix them up in a jar, and have the students draw a name. The student whose name they draw will be their secret master. The student who has drawn the name will be the servant. Being a secret angel means doing good deeds in secret. The students will have to do one nice thing in secret between today's class and next week's class. They can ask their parents or teachers for help if it is necessary.

**2. God has chosen each of us for a special purpose; we have not chosen Him.  
He has chosen us to inherit His blessings.**

Encourage students to give thanks and cherish that they are God's special people, and ask them to start thinking about what God wants them to do during their lives. Encourage them to pray for God's guidance in the matter, so that His will for them will be made apparent so they can inherit the blessings God has in mind for them.

- a. Tell them that it's okay if they do not know yet. Regardless of how young they are, they can still fulfill God's purpose for them right now. For example, God wants us to obey our parents. So, we can start doing God's will by helping out at home, listening to our parents, etc. [Ask the students to brainstorm more actions.]
- b. Create a simple time capsule and have the students write down what God wants them to do, or what they can do for God, and put their thoughts in the time capsule. You can bury it somewhere around the church and dig it up at a later time when it is appropriate, so they can see if they fulfilled any of their goals.

 HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY
 

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1. True
2. False; Moses knew that he was a Hebrew, and he cared for his people.
3. False; not only did God know, Pharaoh and many other people knew, too.
4. False; the Hebrews did not know that God was going to use Moses to save them.
5. True
6. He wanted to kill Moses.
7. 7
8. Zipporah and Gershom
9. Answers may vary. Answers will indicate what issues need addressing. Guide students to take responsibility for the wrong they have done, to apologize to those they have wronged, to make amends where possible, and to repent.
10. Answers may vary. Answers may include: pray, read the Bible, talk with other brothers and sisters, seize opportunities in life, etc.

## ACTIVITIES

1

**Nothing Can Be Hidden****Objective:** To learn that nothing can be hidden from God.**Materials**

- Clear drinking glass
- Can of cola
- Several plastic buttons
- Spoon

Even when we try to hide our sins, or pretend they never happened, they have a way of showing up, like buttons in a glass of cola.

**Instructions**

1. Say to your students, "Have you ever felt that after doing something wrong, if you just keep it a secret, no one will ever find out? Do you know that no matter how hard we try to keep our sins a secret, they have a way of becoming known? Let me show you what I mean."
2. Pour the soda into the glass and say, "This glass represents you, and this soda represents a place where we hide our bad secrets, maybe deep inside our heart where we think no one will find out. These buttons represent sin."
3. Point to the buttons and say, "This button stands for that time you lied to someone, this button is that time you did not want to share with your friend, and this button represents that television show your parents told you not to watch but you did anyway. I am going to drop these sins into this glass of soda, and they will be hidden from our sight, just like hiding our sins."
4. Drop all the buttons into the cola.
5. Say to your students, "Can you see them? They are hidden. Nevertheless, we can only keep these sins a secret for a little while; eventually sin has a way of coming to the surface. Look, there they are. Sin cannot be hidden forever. Therefore, instead of trying to hide sin, we need to try our best to do what is right. The Bible says, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 Jn 1:9). He will cleanse us of our sins, just like this."
6. Remove the buttons with a spoon and say, "Now our heart (soda) is clean again."

2

**Keep It Clean****Objective:** To learn to keep our inner and outer environments clean.**Materials**

- Garbage bags
- Gloves

Both our inner and outer environments can become spoiled and polluted by garbage. To keep our inner environment clean, we must strive to live up to God's expectations every day and make the right choices no matter what the situation is.

**Instructions**

1. Take your students for a walk around the church property.
2. Bring along garbage bags and distribute gloves among the students.
3. Divide the students into teams, and have them set out to find as much garbage as they can.
4. Give them about 10 minutes, and see which team gathers the most garbage.
5. Emphasize to the students that while it is important to keep our outer environments clean, it is even more important to keep our inner environments clean.

**3 The Lord Searches Every Heart**

**Objective:** To memorize 1 Chronicles 28:9b.

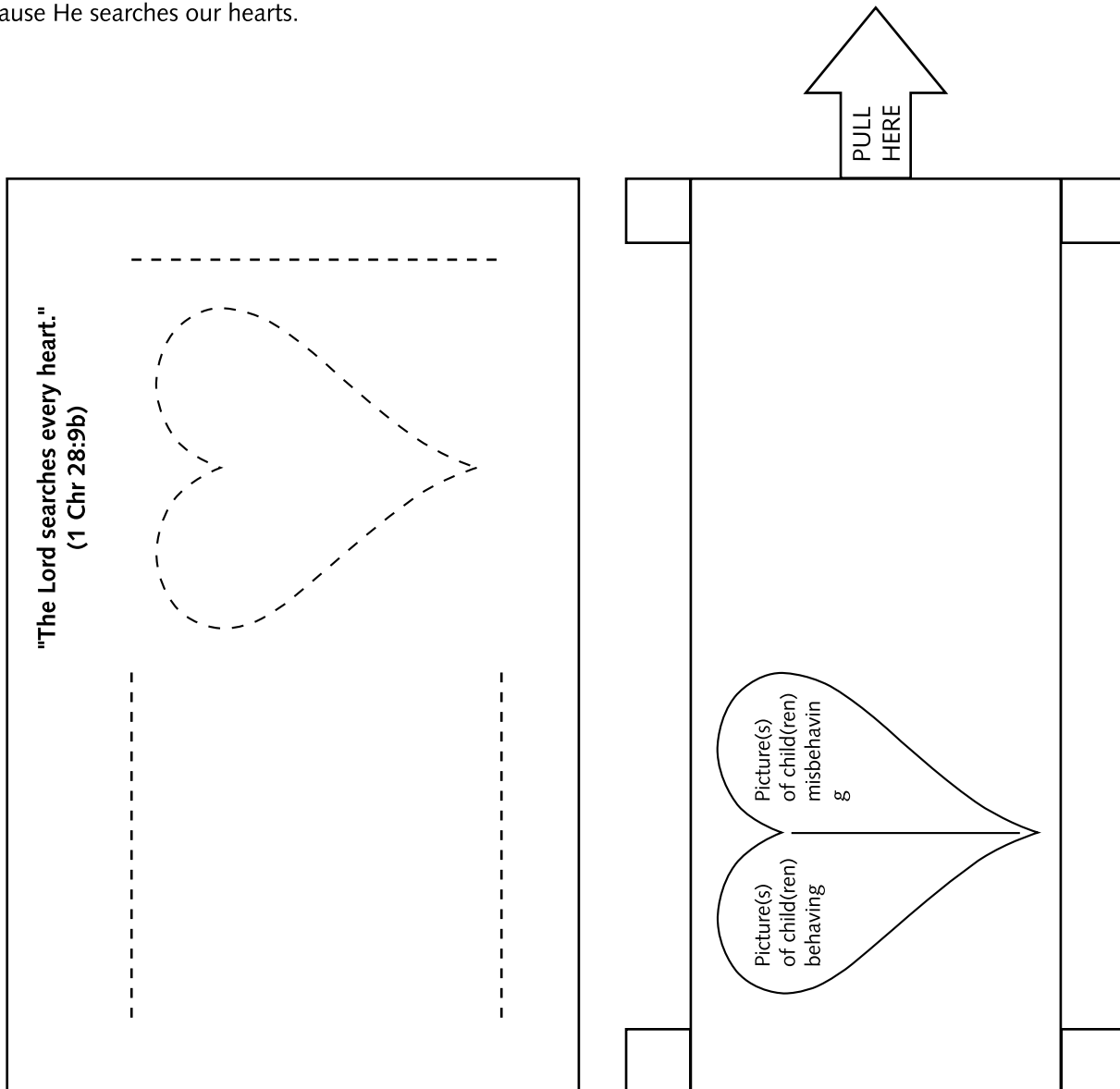
**Materials**

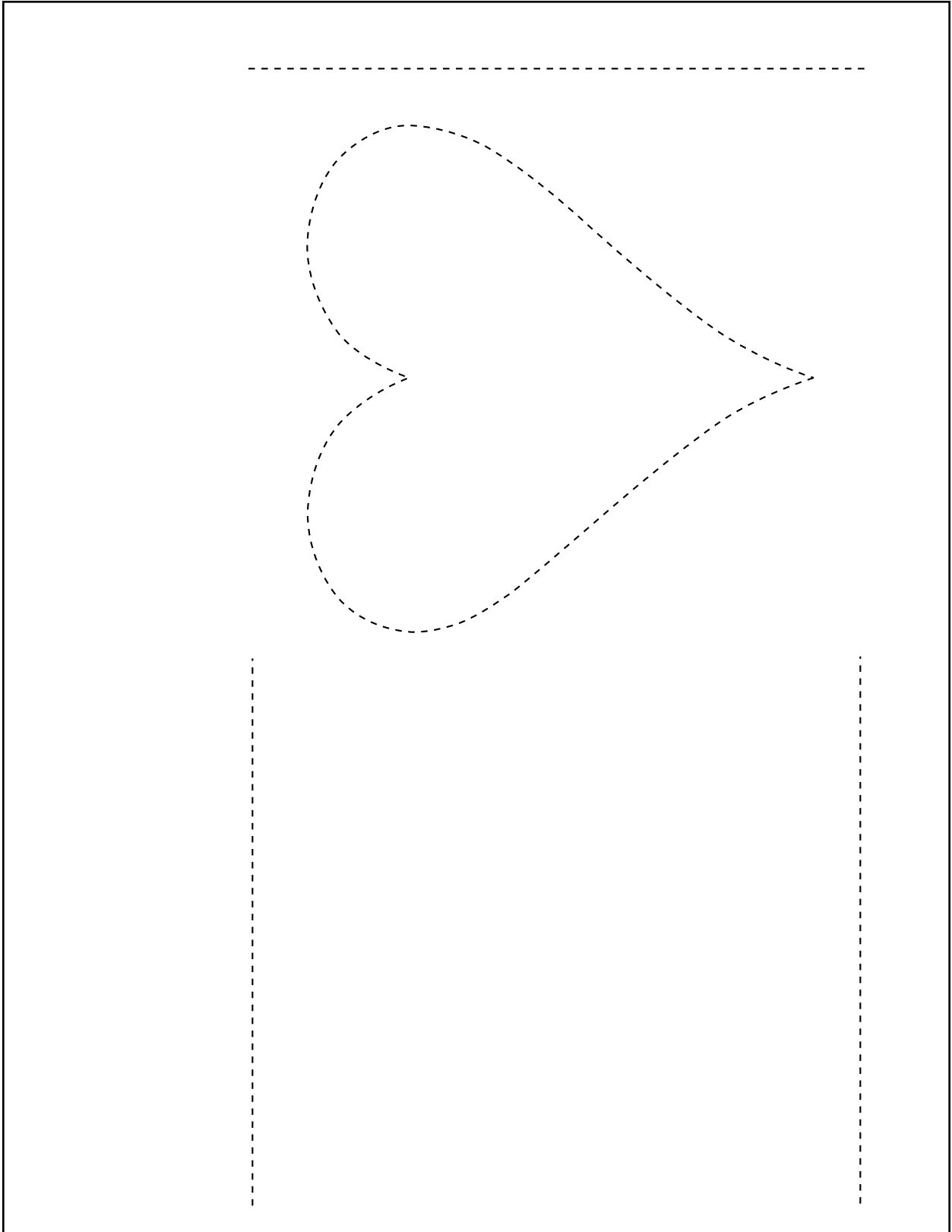
- Copies of the templates
- Markers
- Glue (optional)
- Constuction paper
- Xacto knife
- Scissors

**Directions**

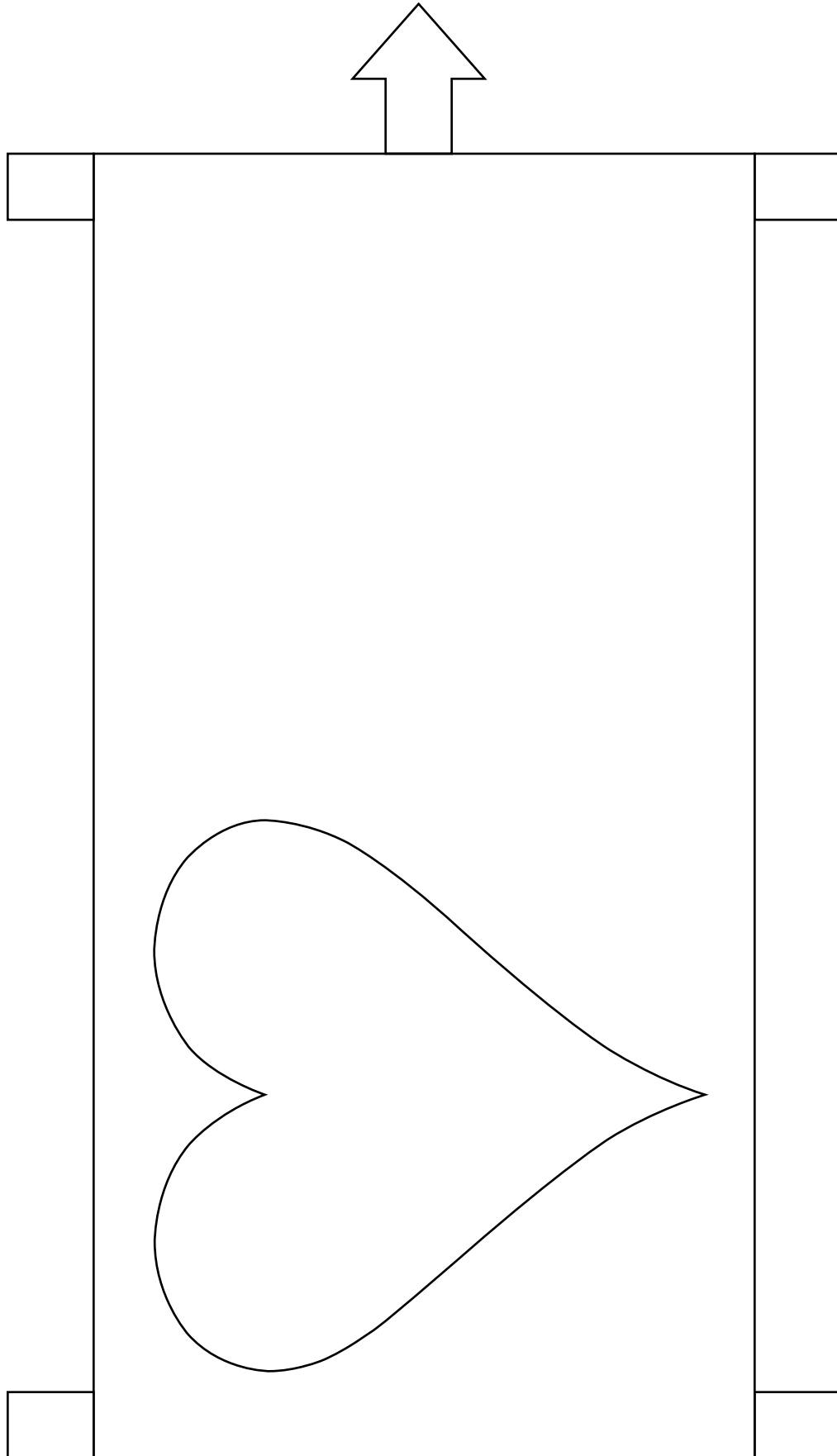
1. Cut out both templates and then glue them onto construction paper to reinforce them.
2. Using an Xacto knife or sharp scissor, cut along the dotted lines on template 1. The heart needs to be cut out.
3. Cut along the border of template 2, keeping the arrows and tabs intact.
3. Weave template 2 into template 1. The left tabs go in the upper and lower slits to keep the students from pulling the heart too far to the right. When the students pull the tab, the contents of the heart are revealed. The bottom heart shouldn't be seen unless it is pulled.
4. Ask the students to write **"The Lord searches every heart." (1 Chr 28:9b)** above the heart on the top layer.
5. On the heart, the students can write or draw children that are behaving/misbehaving. Alternatively, they can write good/bad things they have done.

Tell the students that even when we try to hide our sins, or pretend they never happened, God can still see them, because He searches our hearts.









E1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 12—The Young Moses

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truths:** 1. God knows everything that we do in secret.  
 2. God has chosen us and given each of us a special purpose in life.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To always keep our conscience clear before God and not do shameful things in secret.  
 2. To realize that God has chosen us for a reason.  
 3. To search and carry out His will in our lives.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Chronicles 28:9b)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

### True or False

1. Moses remembered what his mother had taught him about his people. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Moses enjoyed life in the palace. He didn't care what happened to his own people, the Hebrews. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Only God knew that Moses had killed the Egyptian. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The two Hebrews who were fighting understood that Moses was going to save God's people. \_\_\_\_\_
5. God was going to use Moses later to save His people. \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Answer

6. What did Pharaoh want to do when he found out Moses killed the Egyptian?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How many daughters did the priest of Midian have: 3, 7 or 10? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What were the names of Moses' wife and son? \_\_\_\_\_

### Life Application

9. What do you do when you know you have done something wrong?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Moses thought that God wanted to use him to save His people. Like with Moses, God has a purpose for us as well.  
How can we find out what God wants us to do for Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_