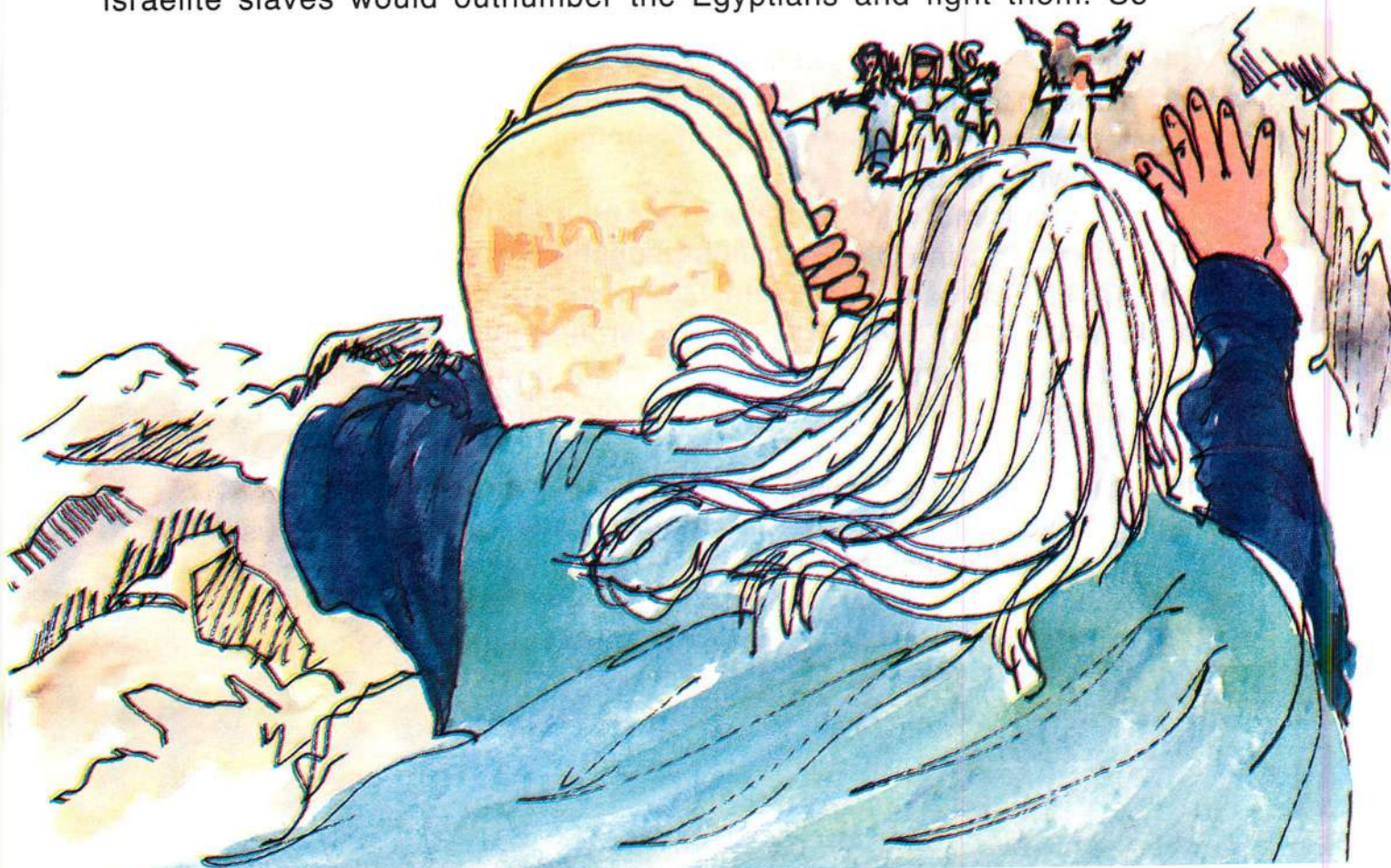


Moses

Moses, the Man Who Couldn't But Did!

Hello, my name is Moses. Did anyone ever ask you to do something you didn't think you could do? You didn't want to do it. You tried to get out of doing it. But you loved the one who asked you. And you trusted that person. So finally you said you would do it. And the person who asked you said, "I'll be there to help you if you need me." That's what happened to me. God asked me to do something. I didn't think I could do it. I didn't want to do it. But I did it with God's help.

My story starts in Egypt. My people, the Israelites, were slaves there. The ruler of Egypt was called Pharaoh. He was afraid the Israelite slaves would outnumber the Egyptians and fight them. So



he decided to have all the Israelite baby boys killed. I was a baby boy and would have been killed if God hadn't saved me. My mother made a basket boat and hid me in it in the river weeds, hoping the soldiers wouldn't find me. But someone did find me — Pharaoh's daughter! She wanted to raise me as her son and gave me back to my own mother to help take care of me. When I was old enough, I came to the palace and was treated like a prince.

So I grew up as an Egyptian but I never forgot I was an Israelite. When I was a young man, I saw how badly the Egyptians treated the Israelite slaves. Once I saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. I lost my temper and killed the Egyptian. I was afraid Pharaoh would find out, so I ran away.

I went to a place called Midian and became a shepherd. I married a Midian woman and had a family. But I never forgot my people were still slaves back in Egypt. I didn't know it, but the Israelites were praying to God to help them. One day while I was up on a mountain tending the sheep, I saw something very unusual. I saw a bush that seemed to be on fire, but it did not get burned up! I was afraid, but God called to me from that burning bush. He told me that I would help him get the Israelites out of Egypt.

Can you imagine how I felt! Me, of all people! I was supposed to go to the new Pharaoh and tell him our God wanted his people to be free! I told God I was not the right person for this job. I couldn't speak well. My people might not believe that God had sent me. Surely God could find someone better for the job. But with God's help, all things are possible. God told me I could do it and he would always be there to help me. I knew God loved me and my people. And when you love someone and that person loves you, you trust him to know what is best.

There is much more to my Bible story than I'm telling you here. Lots of exciting and interesting things happened to me when I went back to Egypt. You can read about them with your family at home this week. You'll read about how a stick turned into a snake, how a river turned to blood, how the sea opened up and closed again, and much, much more. But with God's help I did get my people out of Egypt.

After they were free from Pharaoh, the Israelites wandered around for 40 years trying to get to the safe place God promised us. God constantly took care of us; he even fed us when there was no food. But the people got tired of wandering and they started doubting God. I knew that God would make all things right for his people. I

went up on a mountain called Sinai to talk to God about what to do next. While I was up there, the people decided to try worshipping things instead of God. They built a golden calf and behaved very badly. Worshipping a false god was terribly wrong.

Meanwhile, God knew that the people had forgotten the promise they made to God. God knew a new agreement had to be made between him and the people. He knew the people needed rules to live by so that everyone would be happy together. So God gave me a new contract to take back to the people. This agreement was called the Ten Commandments. It was a special contract called a covenant. It was written down on two stone tablets and I took them down the mountain to show them to my people.

This is what the tablets had written on them:

1. You are to have only one God.
2. You are not to worship false idols.
3. You are not to use God's name in any way that is not respectful.
4. You are to keep one day of the week holy and use it to worship God.
5. You are to honor your father

- and mother.
6. You are not to commit murder.
7. You are to respect the promises of marriage and remain faithful to your husband or to your wife.
8. You are not to steal.
9. You are not to lie.
10. You are not to want something for your own that rightly belongs to someone else.

These rules were the terms of the contract, the rules of the covenant, between God and man. God would help us have a good and happy life if we would follow these rules.

When I came down from the mountain and saw what the people were doing, I became very angry and broke the tablets. But the people were sorry they had not trusted God. So I went back to the mountain and God gave me the Commandments again.

This is still not the end of my story, but it is all I'm going to tell you for now. Just remember these important things:

God loves us.

We love God.

God never asks us to do anything we can't do, and he will help us.

God talks to all of us if we let him.

You can talk to God any time, any place, anywhere.

If you live by God's rules, you will have a happy life.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE STORY?

Write the names of the people, places or things that fit the clues:

False Sinai Mother Moses God Covenant Worship Pharaoh's daughter Israelites Pharaoh

1. Made a basket boat _____
2. Found an Israelite baby _____
3. Ruled Egypt _____
4. Spoke from a burning bush _____
5. Led his people out of Egypt _____
6. A special word that means agreement or contract _____

7. A mountain _____
8. A way to show love of God _____
9. Not a true God _____
10. God's people of the Old Testament _____

Rules, Rules, Rules!



"I hate rules!" shouted John as he came into the house slamming the door behind him. "Don't slam that door," called his mother. "There's another one!" said John with his teeth clamped tightly in anger. "Boy, you're having an awful day," said his sister.

John's anger grew inside him until it started pushing out tears. He ran to his room so no one would see him cry. Crying helped to get the anger out. Soon he calmed down and was able to think clearly about what had happened.

His sister knocked on the door. "May I come in?" she asked. "I guess so," John said as he quickly wiped his face with his shirt.

"I brought you some cookies and milk. Mom said it's okay. We're eating late tonight so it won't ruin your appetite." Mary always seemed to do the right thing. John started eating a cookie. After a few minutes, Mary asked, "Why don't you tell me about what happened?"

"We had a substitute teacher today. She let us choose sides and play kickball at lunchtime. We were all playing nicely when she started butting in and changing everything. She said the boys were only allowed two misses when they kicked, but the girls were allowed three. She said there could only be two outs instead of three. She changed other things too. We got all mixed up. Our teams started fighting over everything. Tom and Terry got into a big fight. Before we knew what was happening everyone was jumping on everyone else. And Billy punched me in the mouth. Our whole class got sent to the office. The principal said we couldn't play kickball for a month as a punishment. All because of that substitute changing the rules!"

"Billy really hit you?" Mary asked. She knew that Billy was John's best friend and couldn't believe he'd hit him.

"Yes," said John, starting to cry again. His lip had been cut, but it didn't hurt as much as knowing that it was his best friend that hit him. He felt Billy cared more about a kickball game than he did about being friends.

"You know, John, Billy is probably feeling just as badly as you are right now. Except for the cut lip. He's probably thinking, how could I have hit my best friend?"

"You think so?" asked John hopefully.

"Sure. You know what else? You learned something very important about rules. You learned that everyone involved in the game has to know the rules and agree that they are good and fair for all. If the rules aren't good and fair, people can't play and have fun. Rules are a contract, an agreement among people so that life runs smoothly, safely and happily for all. When people break rules, someone can get hurt. I don't think you really hate rules. You just don't like it when the rules you know are changed and you don't think they are fair anymore. Sometimes rules have to be changed. Sometimes changing the rules might seem like a good idea, but it doesn't turn out that way. Some rules are so good they last forever."

"Like the Ten Commandments?" John asked. He had been

studying about Moses in Sunday School and what Mary was saying about rules sounded a lot like what his Sunday School teacher said about the Ten Commandments.

“Yes,” Mary said. “The Ten Commandments are good rules. They’ve lasted a long time.”

“I guess I broke a few of them today. I pushed a couple of kids and I slammed the door. I hurt people and I wasn’t nice to mom. What should I do now?”

“First say you’re sorry about the door to mom. Then call the kids you pushed and tell them you’re sorry. But let’s think of a rule that got changed that you like.” Mary was smiling.

“What rule?” John was puzzled.

“The one that says you can ride your bike to school now,” Mary reminded him.

“Oh, yes. That’s right. I’m sure glad mom and dad changed that rule about not riding my bike past our block. I really like riding my bike to school.” John was all smiles now, too. “Thanks for the cookies and milk. I’m going to talk to mom.”

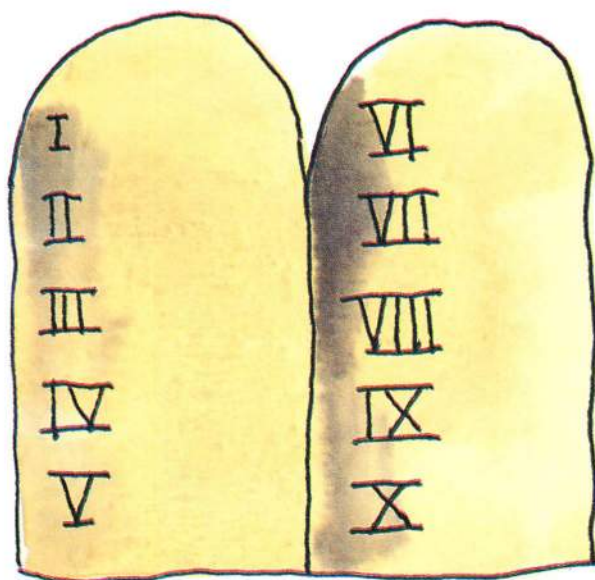
“See you later,” said Mary as John ran off.

Can you think of some rules you like, some you don’t like, and some you wish would be changed? What would happen if:

There were no more traffic rules?

There were no more rules for spelling?

There were no more rules for being polite?



Vocabulary

Bible: The collection of books about God and his people.

Asdvadzashoonch: The Armenian word for Bible.

Soorp Keerk: Another Armenian word for Bible.

Samuel: The name of a person in the Bible who heard God's call.

Hannah: The name of a woman who asked God for something special.

Eli: The name of a priest in our story.

extol: To give very high and special praise.

steadfast: Always lasting, strong, steady, confident.

faithfulness: Loyalty, trustworthiness.

endures: Lasts, withstands.

The vocabulary words above will come up in the lesson for today. If your class is made up of average and below-average readers, you might want to list the words on the board and read them to the children before the stories are read. This will help them pronounce the words.

Children can make a vocabulary sheet, vocabulary cards, and add to them as the year progresses. From time to time, these can be referred to so that the children will retain this knowledge.

Session 2—Moses

Key Concepts

1. Moses was called to respond to God's gift of love by leading God's chosen people out of bondage in Egypt.
2. A new covenant between God and man was formed called the Ten Commandments.
3. By following the Ten Commandments, we can live happy lives.
4. Sometimes following the Commandments may not be easy, but God's love will help us.

Objectives

Students will

1. Read the story of Moses and identify key people and places.
2. Match the Ten Commandments with brief explanations of each.
3. Begin to memorize the Ten Commandments.
4. Relate the necessity of rules and the importance of good rules by reading the second story and answering questions about rules in their own lives.
5. Make sandcast Ten Commandment plaques.

Background for Teacher

The nation of Israel was enslaved in Egypt (after the people had moved there at the invitation of Pharaoh during the time of Joseph) because the later Phar-

aohs feared the Israelites would outnumber the Egyptians and take over the nation. Moses was born of Israelite parents in Egypt about 1520 B.C. At that time the Pharaoh ordered the execution of all Israelite children in order to keep their number down. Because of this terrible decree, Moses was hidden by his mother in a basket among the bulrushes of the riverbank. He was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter who wanted to keep the baby as her own child. She secured the assistance of none other than Moses' own mother to nurse and raise the baby until he was old enough to be brought to the palace and taught the things a prince should know. Thus, the first 40 years of his life were spent in Egypt in luxury. But he never forgot his ancestry.

Moses' first attempt to help his own people ended in failure. When he saw an Egyptian soldier beating an Israelite he became so angry he killed the soldier and hid the body. The next day he encountered two Israelites arguing. He approached them but they said they feared he would kill them as he had killed the Egyptian. Realizing that there had been witnesses to his crime and that Pharaoh would find out, he fled from Egypt. He went to Midian where he spent a 40-year period as a shepherd.

In Midian, Moses lived in the home of a priest named Jethro and married his daughter Zipporah. As shepherd of his father-in-law's flock, Moses got first-hand knowledge of the surrounding area of the Gulf of Aqaba. Little did he realize that through this same area he would one day lead the great nation of Israel.

One day Moses was confronted with a burning bush that did not get consumed by the fire. An angel and then God himself spoke to him. God had heard the prayers of the Israelite slaves in Egypt and was going to help them get free and reach the land of milk and honey he had promised their forefathers. He was going to use Moses to accomplish this. Moses' call to God was indeed significant in Christianity as it was yet another revelation of God to man.

God told Moses to deliver his people, the Israelites, from Egyptian bondage. However, when Moses protested because he felt inadequate, he was assured of divine support, as well as the help of his brother Aaron, to get the people out of Egypt. Aaron, who had remained in Egypt, was an able spokesman for his people, and respected by them. Moses, assured of support and desirous of fulfilling his relationship with God, returned to Egypt to deliver his people.

The new Pharaoh promised, but did not honor his promise, to let the Israelites go. Moses, through God's will, worked a number of miracles to convince the Egyptians of God's power. All attempts to reason with Pharaoh failed so God brought 10 plagues on Egypt to force Pharaoh to free the Israelites. He finally let them go after the 10th plague whereby the firstborn of Egyptians were killed by God's angel.

The Israelite children were passed over because they had marked their doors with blood as Moses had instructed. The Israelites left quickly, not even taking time to leaven (add yeast to) the bread. At the Red Sea Moses created another of God's miracles by parting the sea so they could pass through and closing it again on the pursuing Egyptians who had changed their minds about letting them go.

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, south through the wilderness of Shur. While in Shur, he became the great law-giver through whom the Israelites' relationship with God was revealed. It was here that he received the law which included the Ten Commandments from God; this law was God's new covenant with his chosen people.

Under Moses' leadership the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until they were able to return to their land of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua. Moses would never reach Canaan himself, but after bestowing a blessing on each tribe, he went up on Mt. Nebo where he saw the Promised Land before he died.

In the Bible the story of Moses begins in the book of Exodus and ends in Deuteronomy. Bible dictionaries and a good children's Bible will give you a synopsis of the story of Moses.

When teaching the lesson, stress the fact that Moses was responding to God's love for him personally and the people of Israel in general. God was answering their prayers through Moses. Also stress the covenant relationship between God and his people and that this relationship was encompassed in the Ten Commandments.

It is not necessary that class time be spent in memorizing the Commandments, but the children should be expected to learn them within a few weeks. Perhaps a brief drill could be incorporated into future sessions or a "star chart" could be made for the bulletin board and stars be given for each Commandment learned by each child. But time spent on memorizing the Commandments should not take away from future lessons.

Materials Needed

- A map of Egypt and Moses' exodus
- Pencils
- Salt-dough (see recipe in text; prepare before class)
- Aluminum foil — a sheet about a foot wide for each student
- Yarn — a piece about a foot long for each student
- Water

Optional: an oven or toaster-oven

Interest-focusing materials can be (one or more):

- A pile of sand (the desert)
- A picture or pictures of things Egyptian
- A bunch of river rushes — cattails, foxtails or any other river and swampy rushes

Procedure

Getting the room ready: Before class, have on display one or more of the interest-focusing materials, as well as the Moses map. Be sure to have the foil and salt-dough ready, enough for all. If you plan to bake, make arrangements for using the church oven or bring in a toaster oven (check for electrical outlet).

1. As the children enter the class, greet each one and spend some time reviewing the previous week's lesson.

When children are settled in their places, light the candle and begin class with a prayer. Use the Lord's Prayer, the one below, or make up your own.

Prayer suggestion: Lord, we are happy to be here together so that we can get to know you better. Help us be able to hear you when you call us. We are happy that you give us your love and we pray that we can always show you that we love you too. Amen. (5 min.)

2. Draw the class' attention to the interest-focusing materials and the map and ask if they can guess who today's story will be about. If no one guesses, tell them it is about Moses, a man who was called by God to do something very special for God's people.

Have the children open their texts; read the first story to them or have them read it in turn. Go on to the activity in the text. (10 min.)

3. Text Activity: "Do You Remember the Story?" This is designed to help the children recall the story facts. Have the children work independently and silently at matching the clues and the events. Go over answers together when all are finished. Children may look back in the text to find answers. (10 min.)

(Answers: Mother, Pharaoh's daughter, Pharaoh, God, Moses, Covenant, Sinai, Worship, False, Israelites.)

4. Read the next text story, "Rules, Rules, Rules"; have each child take a turn. Discuss as suggested at the end of the story. Also talk about the Ten Commandments and what the world would be like if these rules for living didn't exist. Lead the children to state that rules like the Ten Commandments help us live good, happy lives and help us come closer to God by living up to our end of the contract. (15 min.)

5. Make salt-dough commandments or substitute the activity under "Extending the Lesson" and assign the text activity for homework. Clean up five minutes before end of class. (15 min.)

Salt-dough Recipe

1 part salt (i.e., 1 cup salt)

2 parts flour (i.e., 2 cups flour)

1 part water (i.e., 1 cup water)

Combine salt and flour, add water gradually, and knead dough until firm, about 8 to 10 minutes. This can also be done in a food processor, but process only long enough to make dough smooth. Using rolling pin, roll to thickness of about 1/4 inch. Make figures you desire. Put on cookie sheet and bake at

325 degrees until hard, about 30 minutes. Apply varnish to the figures to make them shine and to preserve them.

To Make Ten Commandments Tablet Model

Roll dough out about ¼ inch thick and cut into rectangles of desired size, about 3" × 5". Round off one of the shorter ends of each rectangle to make them appear like tablets. Each child should have two tablets. Using a sharp pencil to press deeply into the dough, have the children make the (Roman) numerals I-V on one tablet and VI-X on the other. (Or, if you wish to remember that the first four commandments define our relationship to God and that the remainder delineate our relationship to our fellow man, number the first tablet I-IV and the second V-X. If you wish to make these tablets wall hangings, punch a hole in the top of each tablet with a straw. After completing the baking and varnishing, a ribbon or piece of yarn can be strung through the hole for hanging on a wall.

6. Hold up your class Bible and tell the children that the story of Moses can be read in the Old Testament starting in Exodus. Show them this in the Bible. Point out that reading Moses' story in a children's Bible might be better for them at this age. (5 min.)

Closing prayer: Hayr Mer.

Homework: You may assign any of the activities as mentioned above or assign reading Moses' story in their Bible at home this week.

Extending the Lesson

Memorizing the Ten Commandments.

Materials Needed

- Copies of the Ten Commandments with ample space between each Commandment to cut them apart
- Scissors
- Paste
- Large pictures cut from magazines — must be as large or larger than the Commandment sheet.
- Large pieces of cardboard on which to assemble the puzzles so they can be flipped over. (Your text book can substitute here.)

Have copies of the Ten Commandments on a sheet for each child. These copies should have a large amount of space between each Commandment so that the children can cut them apart.

Have the children paste the sheet of Commandments on a large picture the same size as the sheet. This may be a picture that you have provided or a magazine picture of the child's choice.

Cut the Commandments apart and mix their order up. Place a large piece of cardboard on the desk or table. These individual pieces of cardboard should

be a little larger than the sheet of Commandments.

The children now try to assemble the cut-up Commandments in the correct order. If they have done them properly, when they flip the assemblage over with the cardboard and remove the cardboard, the picture should look right. This provides a self-checking device for insuring the proper sequence of the Commandments.

Vocabulary

Moses: A Hebrew name meaning "drawn out." He was named Moses by Pharaoh's sister because she drew him out of the water.

Pharaoh: The title of the ruler of Egypt.

Midian: A country near Egypt. The Midianites were descended from Midian, a son of Abraham.

Sinai: A mountain near Egypt where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

covenant: A contract, an agreement, a testament between God and his people.

Session 3—Paul

Key Concepts

1. Sometimes people who don't know Jesus can come to know him and love him.
2. Paul was against Christianity, but was given God's gift of love.
3. Paul responded to God by becoming one of Christianity's greatest teachers, spreading the Good News far and wide.
4. The story of Paul's conversion and ministry is found in the Bible.
5. God's love changes our lives.

Objectives

Students will

1. Read the story of Paul's conversion and answer questions on the facts of the story.
2. Distinguish between the behavior of Saul (non-Christian) and Paul (Christian).
3. Examine a map of Paul's ministry to see the amount of traveling involved in spreading the Good News.
4. Look up Paul's story in the Book of Acts.
5. Make a Saul/Paul mobile to reinforce the idea of conversion.

Background for Teacher

Born a Jew, the son of a Pharisee, Saul was raised as an Orthodox Jew. At age 13 he was sent to Jerusalem to complete his studies. At his first appearance in the Book of Acts, he is a young man about 30 years old. Saul is an acknowledged leader in