

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

God's Saving Action

Let Us Pray

Leader: Merciful Savior, we remember your love.
We trust in you.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?” **Psalm 27:1**

All: God who cannot forget us, we give you thanks
for saving us, your people. Amen.

Scripture

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
his mercy endures forever.

Let Israel say:

his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Aaron say,

his mercy endures forever.

Let those who fear the LORD say,

his mercy endures forever.

In danger I called on the LORD;

the LORD answered me and set me free.

The LORD, my strength and might,

has become my savior.

Psalm 118:1-5, 14



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What Do You Wonder?

- What saving act of God does Passover remember and celebrate?
- What saving act of God does Eucharist remember and celebrate?

God Delivers His People

How is Moses an instrument of God's action?

God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. From biblical times to the present, God has called people where they are to do his work. Moses was one of these people. Through him, you can see God's saving power at work. Through Moses, God delivered the Israelites from slavery to freedom. This was the beginning of the Israelite's journey, called the **Exodus**.

Catholic Faith Words

Exodus the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, accomplished and directed by God

Scripture

Moses

Moses was one of the great leaders of the Hebrew people. He was born after the time of Joseph. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt then. The pharaoh feared the Hebrews because there were so many of them. They were also strong. The pharaoh ordered every Hebrew baby boy born to be killed.


Moses' mother wanted to save him. She put him in a basket and floated the basket on the Nile River. The pharaoh's daughter found Moses and raised him in the royal palace.

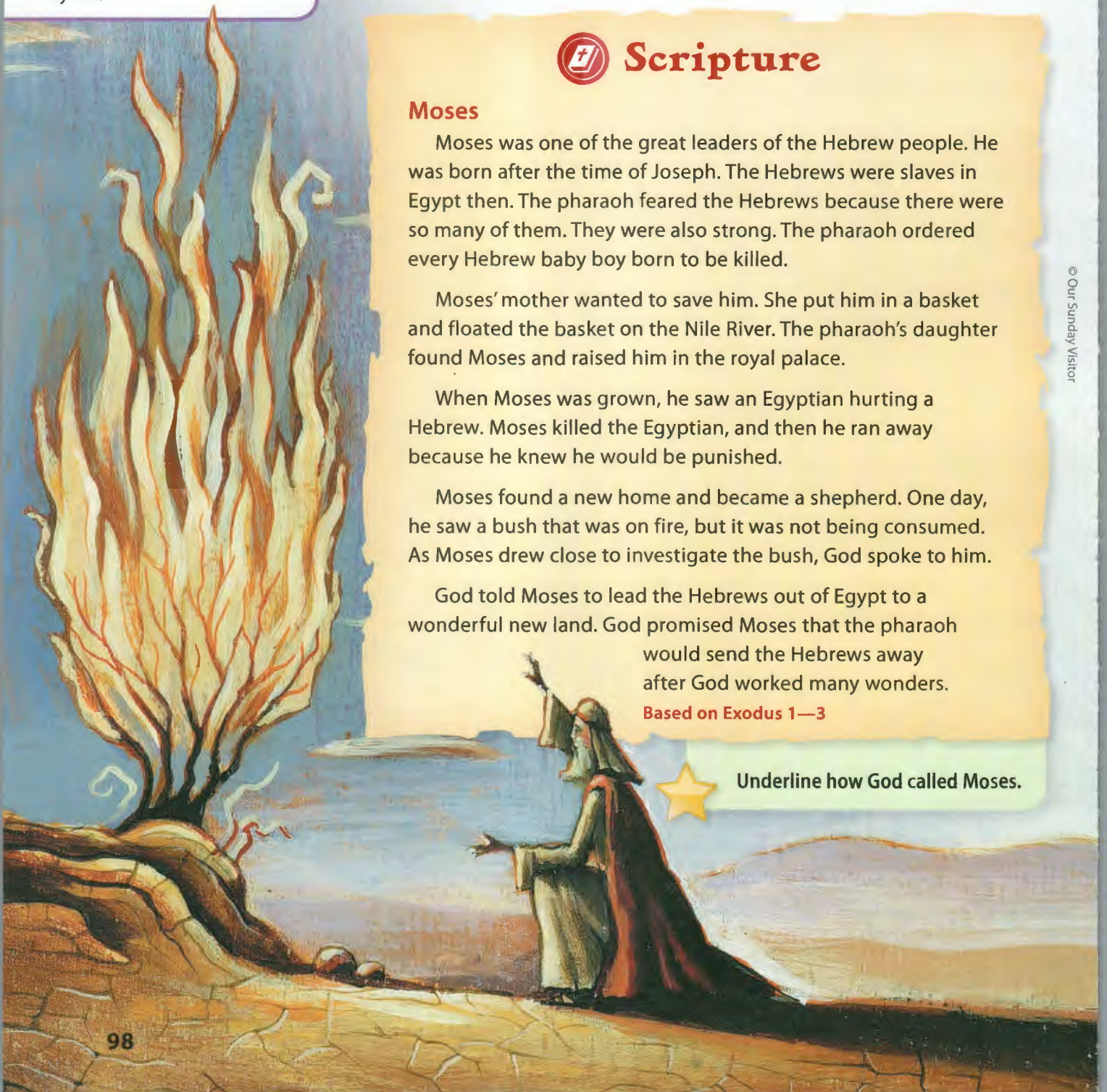
When Moses was grown, he saw an Egyptian hurting a Hebrew. Moses killed the Egyptian, and then he ran away because he knew he would be punished.

Moses found a new home and became a shepherd. One day, he saw a bush that was on fire, but it was not being consumed. As Moses drew close to investigate the bush, God spoke to him.

God told Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt to a wonderful new land. God promised Moses that the pharaoh would send the Hebrews away after God worked many wonders.

Based on Exodus 1—3

 Underline how God called Moses.





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The Exodus

When Moses was a man, God sent him to the pharaoh to demand freedom for the Hebrews. Moses did as God asked, but the pharaoh refused to listen. God then sent nine plagues to the Egyptians. When the pharaoh still refused, God sent a tenth plague, the angel of death, to kill all of the firstborn Egyptian sons. Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go. They left Egypt to go to the Promised Land.

Based on Exodus 7:1—11:10, 12:29

Share Your Faith

Reflect Recall what you already know about how God called Moses. What qualities did Moses have that helped him answer God's call?

Share In a small group, read and discuss Exodus 3:1–22. What surprises you about God's call? What would you find most difficult if you were Moses?

Memorial Meals

What is the meaning of the Passover meal and the Last Supper?

In the Bible, you read about the Israelites and their descendants, later called Jews, celebrating important events with meals. Two of these meals have very special meaning for us. In the Old Testament, God commands the Jewish people to remember the Exodus by celebrating the Passover meal. In the New Testament, Jesus tells his followers to gather in his memory and remember him in the breaking of bread.

The Passover Meal

Before God sent the final plague, he gave Moses special instructions for the people of Israel. Each family was to kill and eat a lamb and cover the door frame of the home with the lamb's blood. The angel of death would pass over the houses marked with blood, sparing the firstborn sons of the Israelites. On that last night in Egypt, the people had to eat quickly, making bread without yeast to save time.

This great and terrible night is known as the **Passover** of the Lord because it was the night that death passed over the houses of the Israelites. It would be remembered as a new beginning for the people.

Since that time, the Israelites, or Jewish people, have eaten a special meal called the Passover Seder to remember, make present, and celebrate God's saving power. The meal is celebrated around ritual questions and answers about the story of the Israelites' deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

- How does the Passover meal help people remember the Exodus?
- Explain to a partner why Passover is still celebrated by Jews today.

Young people read a Haggadah, an order of service, before celebrating the festive meal at a Passover Seder. The meal includes *matzoh* (unleavened bread), *maror* (bitter herbs), and *haroset* (a mix of apples, nuts, and wine).



Jesus Saves

God made a covenant with Moses and the Israelites, an agreement that he would be their God and that they would be his People. When God sent his Son, he made a new covenant with all people forever. This covenant calls for the same kind of faithfulness that the earlier covenant promised. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, you participate in this covenant every time you take part in the Church's Sacraments or make good choices. Because Jesus did God's will even in death, he is our **Savior**. God's saving work is completely fulfilled in Jesus.

Like the other Jews of his time, Jesus celebrated God's saving power at a Passover meal. As Jesus blessed bread and wine at the Last Supper (see Matthew 26:26–30), he told the Apostles that the bread and wine were a sign of the new covenant between God and his People. The bread and wine became Christ's Body and Blood.

The actions of Jesus at the Passover meal mark the new covenant brought about by Jesus' Death and Resurrection, offering salvation to all faithful people. The new sacrifice and holy meal, first celebrated at the Last Supper, is the Eucharist, which is still celebrated today.

Catholic Faith Words

Passover the Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt

Savior a title for Jesus, who came into the world to save all people who were lost through sin and to lead them back to God the Father

Connect Your Faith

Compare Ritual Meals Describe each event below. What was each celebrating or remembering?

Passover

Last Supper

Name one way the Last Supper connects with the celebration of the Mass today.

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest prays the Concluding Doxology, beginning with "Through him, and with him, and in him."



Our Catholic Life

In what ways do you see God protecting you from evil?

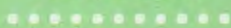
God's saving action is needed to save humans from the power of evil. God calls his People to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in protecting their own lives and those of others from sin and the destruction it causes.



Consider the following suggestions for protecting your life and the lives of others. Use the words in the list to complete the sentences.

Actions that Protect

Word List



freedom

Penance

Eucharist

1. Stay close to God by participating in the Sunday _____.
2. Keep your focus on God, and be aware of his loving presence in your life. Trust that he is leading you to safety.
3. Make the Sacrament of _____ and Reconciliation a regular part of your faith life.
4. Avoid situations in which you are tempted to lie, steal, cheat, disobey rules, or hurt others.

5. Choose your friends wisely. Good friends will help lead you toward _____.

6. Pray often. Prayer is a powerful tool and a direct link to God. In prayer, you listen to God and he listens to you.

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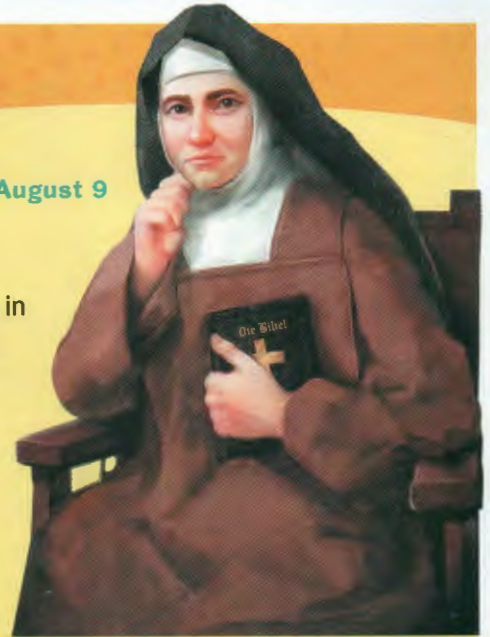


People of Faith

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, 1891–1942

August 9

Edith Stein was born in Germany to a Jewish family. She grew up celebrating Jewish holidays, such as Passover. Edith became a Catholic in her thirties and entered a convent. She took the religious name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. During World War II, she moved to the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, the Nazis began persecuting Jews. Because she was of Jewish origin, Edith was arrested and sent to the death camp at Auschwitz, where she was executed. Even though she became a Catholic, she never forgot the lessons she learned from her Jewish mother about the covenant God made with us.



Discuss: What helps you to remain faithful?



Learn more about Saint Teresa Benedicta at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Choose three words to describe where you are now on your own journey in life. How can you rely more on God to direct and guide you?

Draw or write inside the GPS screen one way you can ask for more support and direction from family or the Church this week.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Praise

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: When Moses and the Israelites were saved from the Egyptians, they responded in song. May their song be our song.

Reader 1: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my refuge is the LORD,
and he has become my savior.

All: The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

Reader 2: In your love you led the people you redeemed;
in your strength you guided them to your holy dwelling.
You brought them in, you planted them
on the mountain that is your own—
The place you made the base of your throne, LORD,
the sanctuary, LORD, your hands established.

All: The Lord shall reign forever and ever. **Exodus 15:1–2, 13, 17–18**



Sing “Go Down, Moses”

Refrain: Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt’s land;
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things, and describes the Exodus as the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom.

Scripture



Read **Psalm 118:1–5, 14** as a prayer of remembrance, thanks, and praise.

Catholics Believe

- God rescued the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and sent his Son to save all people from the power of sin and everlasting death.
- The Passover and the Eucharist celebrate God's saving actions.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1150–1151, 1339–1340 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, a Jewish convert who was executed at Auschwitz.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God's Saving Action It's hard sometimes even for adults to understand how Jesus' sacrifice was necessary and sufficient for the salvation of humans. Because of his or her emerging independence, your child might be vulnerable to a works-based view of salvation (i.e., I am saved if I do enough good things). Children this age are thinking about identity, and might base their efforts to live the Christian life on whether or not they feel they can do it. Your child needs to know that the grace given to us through God's saving action in Christ empowers us to do God's will.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Think of some words we use that have multiple meanings, such as break, shape, and fire.

Faith is another word that has multiple meanings. As Catholics, we know that "God makes himself known to us through Revelation in order both to give us something and to draw a response from us. Both this gift of God and our response to his Revelation are called *faith*. By faith, we are able to give our minds and hearts to God, to trust in his will, and to follow the direction he gives us" (*USCCA* p. 37).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about the relationship between the Last Supper and the Mass.
- Talk about special meals your family shares on Church feast days or special occasions. How do you thank God during those times?

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Teresa Benedicta, pray for us that we may never forget the promises God has made to us. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 5 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Whom did God send to lead his people out of Egypt?
 Jesus
 Moses
 the pharaoh
2. What is the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom called?
 the ten plagues
 the pharaoh's wrath
 the Exodus
3. What do Passover and Eucharist celebrate?
 God's saving action
 God's blessed water
 food from Heaven
4. When was the Last Supper celebrated?
 at the king's meal
 at the Passover meal
 at the Exodus meal
5. What is the new sacrifice and holy meal that Jesus celebrated?
 the Seder
 a sacrifice
 the Eucharist

B Check Understanding Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

6. The actions of Jesus at the Passover meal marked a new covenant of salvation. **True/False**

7. God sent twelve plagues to the Egyptians. **True/False**

8. One way to preserve your life is to remain independent and trust no one. **True/False**

9. God delivered the Hebrews from slavery to freedom on the night of Passover. **True/False**

10. At the Last Supper, Jesus blessed bread and water. **True/False**

