



Sample Lesson  
Moses - Hot Shots

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# Contents

Introduction .....	4
How To Teach This Study .....	5
Course Objectives .....	7
Announcement Art.....	8
<b>LESSON 1—CONDITIONING</b>	
THE MAKING OF A LEADER.....	9
<b>LESSON 2—CALLING</b>	
THE GUIDING OF A LEADER.....	16
<b>LESSON 3—CHARACTER</b>	
THE ESSENCE OF A LEADER (PART 1).....	23
<b>LESSON 4—CHARACTER</b>	
THE ESSENCE OF A LEADER (PART 2).....	29
<b>LESSON 5—CONQUEST</b>	
THE TRIUMPH OF A LEADER.....	35

# Conditioning

## THE MAKING OF A LEADER

Ever have a job you hated? Maybe it was in high school or college that you had to show up for a job which no man or woman should have to do. The long hours, the boredom, the smell, the unkind boss all contributed to your misery. The day you gave your two week notice marked a minor victory always to be punctuated by the question, “Why did God want me to have this job?”

Times like this in our lives make us consider the various ways in which God shapes our character and personality in order to prepare us for something to come in His grand scheme of things. Looking at Moses’ life, we are presented with a man who was born at the wrong time politically, grew up in wealth but had a criminal record, and spent 40 years in the desert, all of which combined to shape him.

**To show that God uses various tools to shape a person.**

**Teens will:**

- be willing to stand up for what is right
- understand God’s refining process in life
- realize how circumstances shape us
- be challenged to develop a humble spirit

**Acts 7:17-29** is a sliver of the chapter which stands as a monument to a man of courage and eloquence. A man who was martyred after this speech. Stephen sheds light on the background of Moses before he became the prominent leader of Israel.

**LESSON AIM**

**OBJECTIVES**

**TEXT**

**What You Need:**

- copies of “Why Do We Have To Study This Stuff?”
- copies of “Pick A Ministry”
- small box
- various gifts
- pens or pencils

# The Lesson

## WARM-UP

**What you need: small box, various gifts**

Have one box or hat filled with envelopes which have a picture or a title of a good gift. Such items as a pack of candybars, a five dollar bill, gift certificate to a restaurant, a Christian book, and more. Be sure to make the gifts enticing enough for them to want them.

Have four or five teens come up and pick an envelope from the container. Have them show the class and then decide if they want to keep the item or leave it and take a chance for a better one.

The other container is labeled “Take a Chance.” Make it enticing by saying, “You could win a much nicer gift.” In the other container have more envelopes, but most of them contain really dumb gifts (a pair of Q-tips, a nickel, a blank computer disk, pocket lint, grains of sand, etc.). One envelope will have a very nice gift—of better value than the ones in the “good container.”

## BRIDGE

Moses had to make a similar decision. He “took a chance” when he gave up Egypt to choose the people of God. But God richly blessed his decision. Too often teens think they are taking a chance when they try to serve God. But the rewards of serving God are greater than any rejection you might face from your friends.

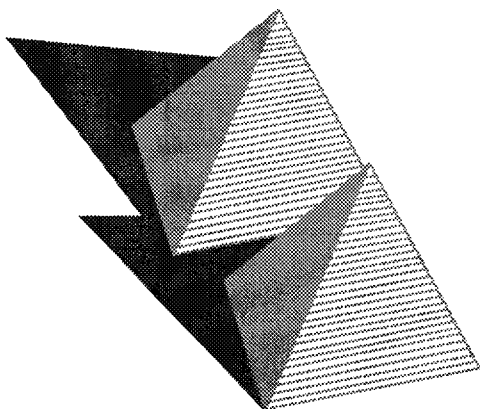
## CONTENT

In order for us to understand Moses better, we must know some basic facts about the man.

### I. MOSES VALUED A GOOD EDUCATION (v. 22)

*“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.” Theodore Roosevelt*

Due to the providential working of God, Moses not only enjoyed luxury but also an excellent education. The Egyptians were famed for philosophy, astronomy, chemistry, and hieroglyphics. He had access to the best books and tutors in the area. Alexandria was known world-wide for its scholarship. Egypt was one of the most productive and progressive nations on the globe. She had accomplished unprecedented achievements in social, economic, and educational fields.



Distribute copies of the handout and give them time to fill them in. The answers are *math, English, history, science*.

School is important to your future. Leaders take education seriously and know its value.

## II. MOSES VALUED PRACTICAL WORK (v. 22)

*“The Egyptians utilized 20 percent of their national potential for twenty years to build the Great Pyramid.” Fred Whipple*

Moses was not the type of guy who just learned but never applied what he learned. He had a great education, but he made it work for him.

### He Was Mighty In Words

It is quite possible that Moses was an educator himself since he was one of the most learned men in Egypt. Because of his later objection to God, Moses is thought of as a man who had difficulty in verbal communication skills. Moses claimed, “I am not eloquent...but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue” (Exodus 4:10). Yet, he was able to command respect and lead people with his verbal ability. Later in life we find him being a persuasive communicator.

### He Was Mighty In Deeds

Tradition (Josephus) illustrates the military ability of Moses. When he was in early manhood, the Ethiopians invaded Egypt and were on the verge of defeating the Egyptians. Moses was entrusted with the command of the royal army. He surprised and defeated the enemy, captured their primary city, and returned to Egypt with the spoils of victory.

What are some areas of ministry that intimidate teens? (public speaking, counseling, witnessing)

Why do you avoid these ministries? (feel scared, inadequate)

How can you overcome this fear? (get involved with a leader)

Teens and adults need to get out of their comfort zone and do what they’ve learned. It’s hard, intimidating, and sometimes scary but we need to do it.

It is important to get involved in as many different practical areas of work as you can. God will use these things to help shape and mold your character and your future. Don’t be afraid of new experiences.

## HANDOUT

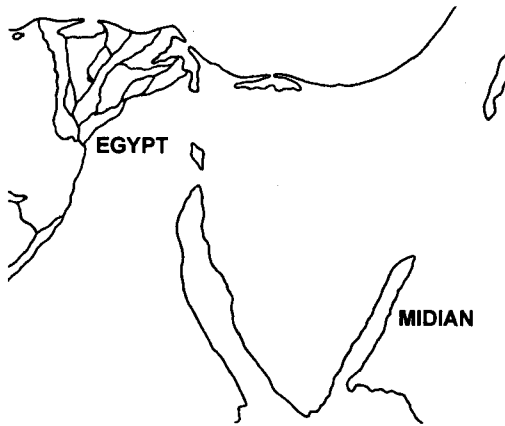
**What you need: copies of “Why Do We Need To Study This Stuff?” pens or pencils**

## QUESTIONS

## HANDOUT

**What you need: copies of “Pick A Ministry,” pens or pencils**

## APPLICATION



### **III. MOSES VALUED HIS CIRCUMSTANCES (vv. 24-29)**

After Moses killed the Egyptian, he felt he had done a small part in saving an Israelite brother. Moses tried to surreptitiously deal with the matter but was later confronted by another Israelite when he tried to resolve a dispute.

As a result, Moses ran to Midian to hide. In the desert, Moses had time to heal. He had been trained in the wisdom of Egypt; now he would be taught by God. While he got an education in Egypt, his wisdom and character would be refined in the heat of the desert. Moses had time to know God. This process of refining involved three things:

#### **His Self Confidence Was Removed**

Moses took his suitcase full of medals, trophies, and outstanding achievement awards into the desert and sat down by a lonely well. He was qualified to be king of Egypt but now is rotting in exile.

He learned that trying to do something in your own strength will not bring you success. He needed to allow the power of God to work through him.

#### **His Servant's Heart Was Strengthened**

In the desert, Moses still stands up for the underdog. At the well of Midian, he single-handedly drives off the unscrupulous shepherds who are hassling the seven daughters of a Midianite priest.

After Moses had defended the women, he must have realized that confrontation can be handled in a more judicious manner than the way he had handled it back in Egypt. Servanthood is best learned in the desert. It happens when we are asked to do things for which we are over-qualified. Moses' résumé and credentials didn't matter. Moses learned that it's not *what* you do, but *why* you do it that is the key to character and to pleasing God. The desert phase of Moses' education would last for 14,610 days.

#### **His Loneliness Was Magnified**

He was separated from the people that he loved. Underneath the self-confident exterior was a sensitive man who was affected by this rejection for the next forty years.

The hospitality of the priest whose daughters Moses had assisted led to his marriage to Zipporah. One evidence of his loneliness is revealed in the name of his son, Gershom, meaning "lonely stranger" or "resident alien."

**CLOSING**

Moses possessed impressive qualities. He was a natural leader. He had physical assets, intellectual accomplishments,

and leadership ability. But his deep sense of loyalty to God's people would not allow him to straddle the fence. He chose to look ahead to his reward.

As a result, he gave up fame, fortune, friends, finances, and fun. He was misunderstood and rejected. He fled into the desert alone with his confidence shattered. There God refined the heart of Moses.

Don't reject the circumstances you face. It's easy to get bitter if you don't realize that God uses these experiences to mold your character. One day, by God's grace, you will be able to look back and see how God was preparing you to serve Him.

## NOTES

# Why Do We Have To Study This Stuff?

In everyday life there are situations in which you will rely upon your education. Below are a few examples of such incidents. On the line provided write the school subject which applies to each situation.

**You are being chased by a group of six bullies who have threatened to beat you.** It is 300 yards to safety and you are running at a rate of 5 yards per second. They are 20 yards behind you and running 1 yard per second faster than you. How far will you get before they pummel you?

Subject used: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sally is the girl of your dreams.** You really want to impress her so you buy her a fancy McDonald's meal and then walk to a romantic park. In order to win her love, however, you must read a love sonnet from Shakespeare.

Subject used: \_\_\_\_\_

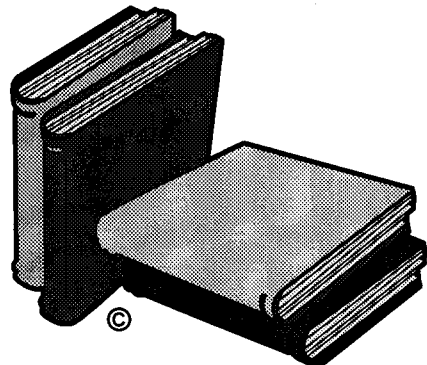
**Butch is the man of your dreams.** Like any guy he likes talking about war and military stuff. At times, Butch makes references to past American generals and how he admires them. What do you need to know to impress Butch?

Subject used: \_\_\_\_\_

**You are at a youth activity stuffing a telephone booth.** There are already 13 people crammed into it and hardly any room to move around. There is one person left in the group, but his nickname is "Chunky Chip." Knowing about mass and volume you quickly realize there is a *big* problem.

Subject used: \_\_\_\_\_

(O.K., maybe we're stretching this illustration, but you must need the stuff you study in school for something!)





# Pick A Ministry

Choose one of the following ministries and then answer the following questions:



Ministry choices:

- † visiting shut-ins
- † working with the deaf
- † Christmas gift distribution to orphans
- † ministry to the mentally handicapped

Ministry choice: \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways does this ministry benefit them?

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How do you think your ministry makes the people feel?

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In what ways does this ministry benefit you?

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