

Through the Bible for Children: Exodus Lesson 3

WISE OR FOOLISH?

Exodus 2:10-15

Moses was raised in Pharaoh's court. He was given the training and teaching that any prince of Egypt would have received. It may even have been possible that someday Moses would rule as Pharaoh himself. Every day of his life, Moses lived like an Egyptian prince with great wealth and power at his fingertips. He had servants to come at his every call and to carry out even his smallest wishes, and yet, Moses never forgot his roots. He knew that he was of Hebrew descent, and he loved his people.

The Lord is so faithful to his people. I'm sure that Moses' parents must have prayed always that their son Moses would remember that he was a Hebrew, and that he would remember the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God answered those prayers, and even though Moses spent most of his first forty years living in Pharaoh's palace, he never forgot his own people.

One day Moses went out to visit his own people. He saw their burdens and hardships, and it brought him great sadness. He wanted to do something that would help them. As he walked along trying to think of how he could help his people, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Quickly he looked around, he didn't see any one near by so he thought that no one would see what he did. Then he killed the Egyptian who was beating the Hebrew and hid his body in the sand.

Moses' heart was in the right place, he wanted to count himself with the people of God, but his method was wrong. Moses did not ask for God's help in dealing with the trouble, instead he looked to himself and his own understanding. To him the best solution seemed to kill the Egyptian. But becoming a murderer is never God's way to solve a problem. When Moses killed the Egyptian, he sinned against God as well as the man that he killed.

The next day Moses went out again, and this time he saw two Hebrews fighting. He said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your brother?" Immediately the guilty man retorted, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Are you planning to kill me also, like you did that Egyptian?"

When Moses heard this he became frightened and thought to himself, "They have found out what I did."

When Pharaoh heard that Moses had killed the Egyptian, he looked for Moses so that he could kill him, but Moses ran away from Pharaoh. He fled to the land of Midian to live. There he sat down beside a well.

Sitting beside that well, Moses must have felt sad and discouraged because of his situation. He had only wanted to help his own people, and to deliver them from their hard life. He thought surely they would understand that he, Moses would help them out of their life of hardship. Instead, his own people turned against him, and now, because of

what he had done, Pharaoh wanted to kill him too. So Moses, the prince of Egypt had to flee for his life. What a mess he had made of things.

What Moses had planned for good turned out to be something very bad, because when we try to fix things in our own power, we always make a mess of things. Moses ended up a murderer, because instead of asking for God's help, he used his own wisdom. What he thought would have make Hebrews love him, instead made them fear him, and so they became his enemies.

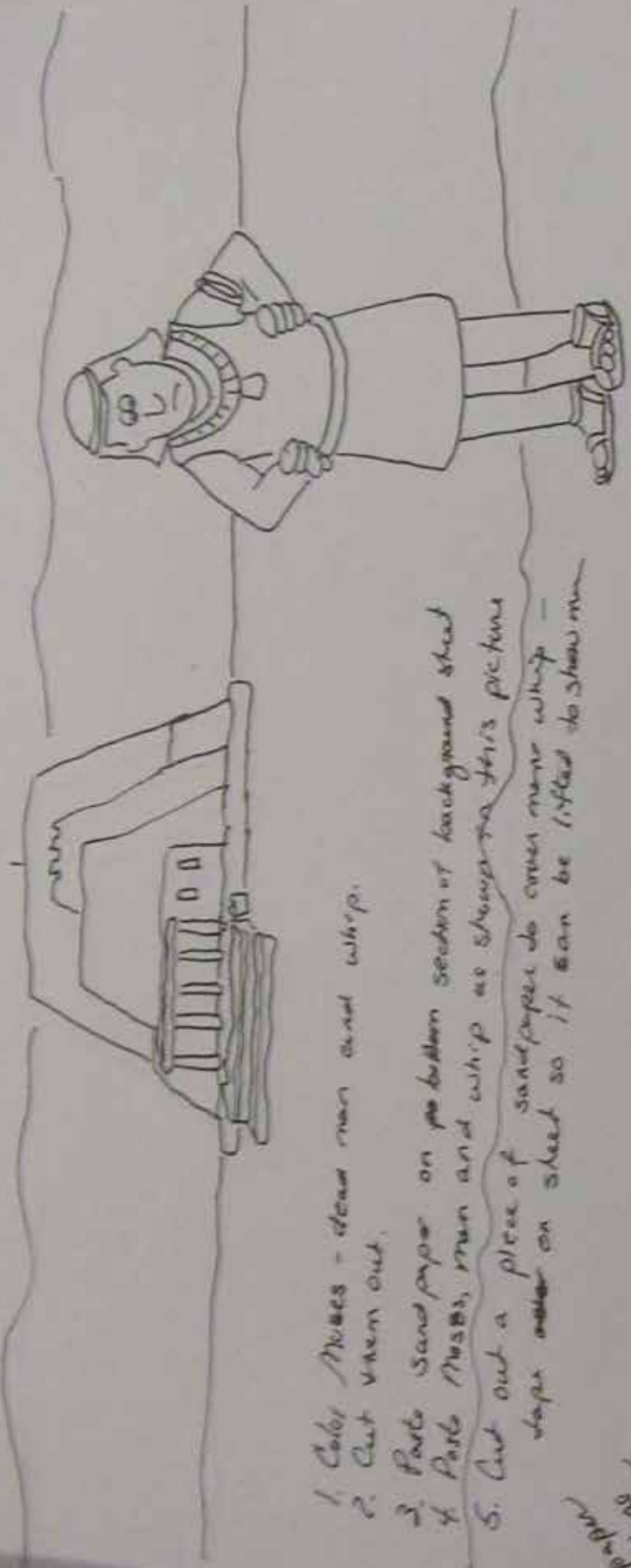
Man's wisdom and best plans so often are really foolish and cause nothing but heartache! Will you be wise or foolish? Will you ask Jesus for help with your problems, or do you think you can figure out the answers without his help? If you act like Moses, you may do something you will always regret. Be wise! Ask God's council, read his word and believe what he says. Then he will help you with every trouble.

LEARN: Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. I Corinthians 3:18, 19

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1. Color Moses - dead man and whip.
2. Cut them out.
3. Paste sand paper on bottom section of background sheet.
4. Paste Moses, man and whip as shown in this picture.
5. Cut out a piece of sand paper to cover man's whip -
 tape ~~over~~ on sheet so it can be lifted to show man.



Sand paper

