

## LESSON 20: Hearing God's Word



### AIM

To understand that in listening to the readings from the Bible with a suitable disposition one hears God's word (8.2.3)

### OUTCOME

Learners understand that the Bible is God's word.

Learners listen attentively to passages from the Bible.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Bible (2)(4)(8)
- \* Psalm setting (3) ⇨
- \* 🎵 *Oh the Word of My Lord* (6)
- \* 📖 Copies of the worksheet (7) ⇨

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Ask the learners to explain what they understand by "**God's Word**". Jesus is God's word who shows us by his life, his teaching and his healing what God is like. Jesus speaks for God. In older times, the prophets spoke for God. God's word came to people through them. Today, God's word is also contained in the Bible. When we listen to the Bible attentively we are hearing what God wants to say to us. Ask the learners how we ought to respond to it? We listen attentively and respectfully, and we make a place ready in our hearts to let the word influence our lives.
- 2 Now that the learners understand that God's word is heard in reading from the Bible, choose a **Scripture story** from the Old Testament. Use the reading chosen for the day if it is suitable, or else [1 Samuel 3:1-10]. When the reading is complete, and the reader has said, "This is the word of the Lord," the learners respond: "Thanks be to God."
- 3 **Choose a psalm** that takes up the message of the reading. If you have used the story of Samuel for the reading above, then Psalm 119:1-8 or 33-40 would be a suitable choice. Explain to the learners that the psalm forms our response to God's word. A suggested way of praying the psalm is given below. ⇨
- 4 The learners stand for a **Gospel reading**. A choice in line with those made above would be: [Matthew 17:1-8]. They make the appropriate sign of the Cross on forehead, lips and heart. Beforehand you might discuss why we stand for the Gospel, and what the meaning of the sign of the cross is here. The learners should listen attentively. At the end of the reading, when they hear, "This is the Gospel of the Lord", they respond, "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ."
- 5 To conclude the lesson, the learners suggest **what message God is giving them** in the readings and how they would respond if they were the person, like Samuel in the first reading, or like an apostle in the gospel.
- 6 **Sing:** *Oh the Word of My Lord (Song for a Young Prophet)*

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 Learners complete the worksheet **Listen to God's Word**. 📖 ⇨

## MATERIALS

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R. Let us seek the Lord with all our heart.*

Happy those whose way is blameless,  
who walk by the teaching of the Lord.  
Happy those who observe God's decrees,  
who seek the Lord with all their heart.

*R. Let us seek the Lord with all our heart.*

They do no wrong;  
they walk in God's ways.  
You have given them the command  
to keep your precepts with care.

*R. Let us seek the Lord with all our heart.*

May my ways be firm  
in the observance of your laws!  
Then I will not be ashamed  
to ponder all your commands.

*R. Let us seek the Lord with all our heart.*

I will praise you with sincere heart  
as I study your just edicts.  
I will keep your laws;  
do not leave me all alone.

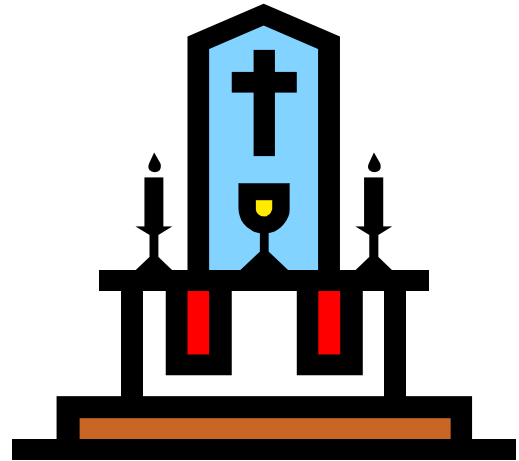
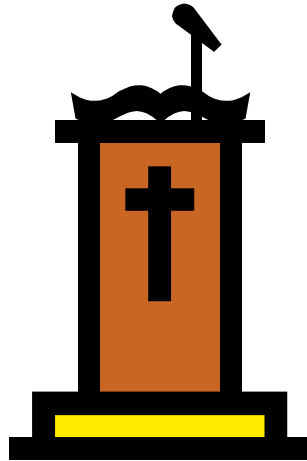
*R. Let us seek the Lord with all our heart.*

[Psalm 119:1-8]

# Listen to God's Word

Look at the secret code down the left hand side of the page. Each letter has a number. Use the code to write down the message in the spaces provided.

CODE	
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5
F	6
G	7
H	8
I	9
J	10
K	11
L	12
M	13
N	14
O	15
P	16
Q	17
R	18



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1	20	13	1	19	19	23	5			
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
3	5	12	5	2	18	1	20	5		
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7	15	4	19	23	15	18	4			
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23	5	16	18	1	9	19	5	1	14	4
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20	8	1	14	11	7	15	4			
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23	9	20	8	10	5	19	21	19		

(Adapted from *Jesus Is With Us*, Lord of Life Programme, Activity Book, Lesson 13. New York: Sadlier)

## LESSON 21: The Man of Dreams



### AIM

To share with the class the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob (3.4.2, 8.4.2, 9.1)

### OUTCOME

Learners narrate the broad outlines of the story of Joseph.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 The learners experience a short, guided **fantasy meditation**. Sitting in a relaxed manner, breathing comfortably, not touching anyone, the learners close their eyes.

They imagine they are having a dream of being in the most wonderful place. It is a place full of sunshine and happiness. There is always enough to eat. They can choose whatever they would like, and eat to their heart's content. There are lots of friends there. No one fights or even gets tired. There are lovely places to play. There are beautiful things to see. Mummies and Daddies are smiling and happy too. Enjoy that wonderful place for a few minutes.

- 2 The learners who wish can **share their fantasy**.
- 3 The learners listen to the **story of Joseph**. [Genesis 37 – 50]. You could read the version given here, or tell it in your own way.

Jacob lived in Canaan. He had twelve sons and a daughter. Joseph, the son of his beloved wife Rachel, was the son whom Jacob loved the most. Because his brothers could see that Joseph was the favourite son, they grew very jealous of him. This jealousy got worse when Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colours. Then Joseph told his brothers about two dreams he had had. In the first dream, he and his brothers were binding sheaves of corn in a field. His brothers' sheaves bowed down to his. In the second dream Joseph dreamt that the sun, the moon and eleven stars worshipped him. His brothers became so jealous that they began to dislike him.

Shortly after this, Jacob sent Joseph to Shechem to make sure his brothers, who were looking after their sheep there, had everything they needed. When the brothers saw Joseph coming they decided to kill him. Reuben said, "Rather let us take his coat and throw him into this dry well." Reuben meant to help his brother out later. However, while Reuben was away seeing to the sheep, some merchants came along, who were on their way to Egypt. Judah suggested that Joseph should be sold to the merchants as a slave. Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver. The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in the blood of a goat and took it home to Jacob. Jacob thought that a wild animal had eaten his son. He cried and mourned for Joseph for a long time.

In Egypt Joseph was sold to one of the Pharaoh's chief officers. Joseph was such a good worker, that very soon, he was put in charge of the whole household, until the officer's wife accused Joseph of committing a crime. Although he had done nothing wrong, Joseph was sent to prison for three years.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Fantasy meditation (1) ⇨
- \* Bible (A simplified version of Genesis 37-50 is provided.) (3)(5) ⇨
- \* Copies of the worksheet (7) ⇨
- \* Crayons or coloured pencils (7)

Joseph behaved so well that he was put in charge of all the prisoners. Two of them were Pharaoh's servants. One had been his butler, the other his baker. One night these two men each had a dream which upset them. They told Joseph about their dreams. With God's help, he explained the meaning of their dreams. Everything Joseph said about the dreams came true. The butler was so pleased to learn from Joseph that he would get his old job back that he promised to speak to the Pharaoh about Joseph. He forgot his promise and Joseph stayed in prison for another two years.

Then the Pharaoh had two dreams, which terrified him. He sent for all the wise men in Egypt, but not one of them could tell him the meaning of these dreams. The butler remembered Joseph. Immediately Joseph was summoned to the palace to listen to the story of the Pharaoh's dreams.

Pharaoh said, "In the first dream I saw seven, fat, beautiful cows feeding by the banks of the River Nile. As they fed seven thin starving cows came and ate them up. In the second dream I saw seven plump ears of corn growing on one stalk. Another seven thin and diseased grew up suddenly beside them and wasted them."

Joseph told the Pharaoh that the seven fat cows and the seven full ears of corn meant that there would be seven years of plenty in the land followed by seven years of famine, shown by the seven thin cows and the seven diseased ears of corn. He told the Pharaoh to choose a wise, careful man to look after the harvest during the years of plenty and to store it for when times were bad. The Pharaoh chose Joseph to be in charge.

During the seven years of plenty, Joseph built huge sheds to store the enormous stocks of grain. When the famine came, the people went to Pharaoh to ask for food. He said, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you." If the people had no money, Joseph took their horses or cattle in exchange for food. When these were gone he took their land. People even came from other countries to buy corn.

Soon Canaan was affected by the famine. Jacob sent his ten sons to Egypt to buy corn. He kept Benjamin, Rachel's only other son at home, in case anything would happen to him. Joseph recognised his brothers at once, but they had no idea who he was. He called them spies, asked them many questions about their family and had them thrown into prison for three days. He allowed them to go back home, but kept Simeon as a prisoner, until the others would return with Benjamin and prove that their story was true. Joseph ordered the money they had paid for the corn to be put in each sack. They were very surprised to find the money when they got back home.

- 4 To conclude the lesson, the learners bow their heads and say a short **prayer of thanksgiving** for the blessings they have, especially their families and their country.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5 **Revise and complete** the story of Joseph.

Eventually Joseph's family had eaten all the corn, but it took a long time before Jacob would let Benjamin go. At last, they returned to Joseph, taking double the money to repay him and bringing him a present of spice. Joseph was very kind to them. Simeon was set free. They had a great feast. Their sacks were filled. Their money was returned. Joseph ordered that his silver, drinking cup was to be put in Benjamin's sack.


The brothers set off early in the morning. Before they had travelled far, Joseph's steward caught up with them and accused them of stealing his master's cup. They denied taking it. They said, "If the cup is found in one of our bags that person will become your master's slave!" They opened all their sacks to prove that they were innocent and couldn't believe

it when they saw the cup was in Benjamin's sack. They began to cry in despair. They hurried back to the city and threw themselves on the ground before Joseph. They begged Joseph to let Benjamin go free, because their old father loved him so much, and couldn't bear to be parted from him. Judah offered to stay in place of Benjamin.

The thought of his father's love and sorrow upset Joseph so much, that he sent away all his servants. He said to his brothers, "Don't you know me? I'm Joseph!" He told them to go back to Canaan, to bring his father and all his property to Egypt.

When Jacob heard that Joseph was the ruler over all of Egypt, he cried with happiness saying, "Just to have my son alive is enough. I will go at once and see him before I die." The whole family of Jacob, were now called Hebrews. Joseph gave them land in Goshen in Egypt. Seventeen years later, Jacob, who was now one hundred and forty seven knew that he was dying. He made Joseph promise to have him buried with his ancestors at Mamre in Canaan. Joseph carried out his father's wishes. He gave him a wonderful funeral, worthy of the chief that he was.

When Joseph himself was dying, many years later, at the age of one hundred and ten, he told his family, that one day God would take them back to the land of their ancestors. He made them swear to carry his bones there, so that he could rest with his ancestors.

- 6 In small groups the learners **dramatise** chosen parts of the story of Joseph.
- 7 The learners **colour the picture** on the worksheet.  ⇒

# Joseph



(Artist unknown)

## LESSON 22: The Story of Moses

### AIM

To familiarise the learners with the story of Moses (8.4.3)

### OUTCOME

Learners narrate the broad outlines of the story of Moses.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 The learners listen to the abridged **story of Moses** which follows [Exodus 1:1-5:21]:

Long ago in Egypt the Israelites had to live as slaves. There was a Pharaoh (Egyptian King) who didn't know about the blessings Joseph had brought on the land. He was jealous and afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. He was afraid that he would lose his power. He decided that every new born Hebrew baby boy had to be thrown into the River Nile.

Soon after this became law a beautiful boy was born. His mother hid him for three months but became too frightened to keep him any longer. She thought of a plan. She wove a basket of bulrushes, made it water tight, put the baby in it and pushed it out until it began to float down the River Nile. The baby's sister Mary was left to hide and to watch what would happen. The basket got caught in some reeds near the Pharaoh's palace. His daughter heard the baby crying. She sent her maid to get it. The Pharaoh's daughter loved the baby when she saw him. "This is a Hebrew baby," she said. The baby's sister, Mary, came over and said to the princess, "Shall I go and call a nurse to feed the baby?" "Please!" replied the princess. When Mary brought her mother, the King's daughter not knowing she was the child's mother gave him to her to nurse. The princess raised him as her own child. She called him Moses, which means "saved from the water".


Moses started a new life as an adopted prince of Egypt. When Moses was forty, he saw an Egyptian hitting a Hebrew. He saw that no-one was around. Moses killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. The next day Moses saw two Hebrews fighting. He tried to make them stop and be friends but one of them said, "Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian yesterday?" Moses was so frightened, he ran away to another place far away where no-one knew him. He started a new life as a shepherd.

One day Moses drove his flock to Mount Horeb. Suddenly he saw a burning bush. Although the bush was on fire, it was not turning black. Moses began to walk slowly towards the bush to see what was going on. Suddenly a voice said, "Take off your shoes for the ground you are walking on is holy ground." The voice continued, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face. He was afraid to look at God.

God told Moses to go back to Egypt to tell the Israelites that God had appeared to him and had told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses said: "I can't do that. They will not believe me." God said, "Moses, throw your crook on the ground." (A crook is a shepherd's stick.) At once it changed into a snake. God said, "Catch it by the tail, Moses." It was



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Picture book of the Story of Moses or suitable drawn pictures (1)
- \*  Copies of the worksheet (2)(3) ⇨
- \* Bible or Children's Bible (4)



## GRADE 2

turned back into his crook. Then God said, “Put your hand on your bare chest.” Moses did. When his hand came out from under his shirt, it was covered with the dreadful disease of leprosy. There was no cure for leprosy then. God said, “Put your hand on your chest again.” Moses' hand came out healed. Moses went to the Pharaoh. God said Moses' brother Aaron could do the talking for him. Pharaoh was so cross at Moses and Aaron asking for the Israelites to be set free that instead of letting them go, he made their jobs harder and longer. (To be continued in the next lesson.)

- 2 By questioning and dialogue the **main points of the story are revised**. The learners, in small groups, can dramatise any part of the story they wish. They write a few sentences about it on the worksheet. 📖 ⇨

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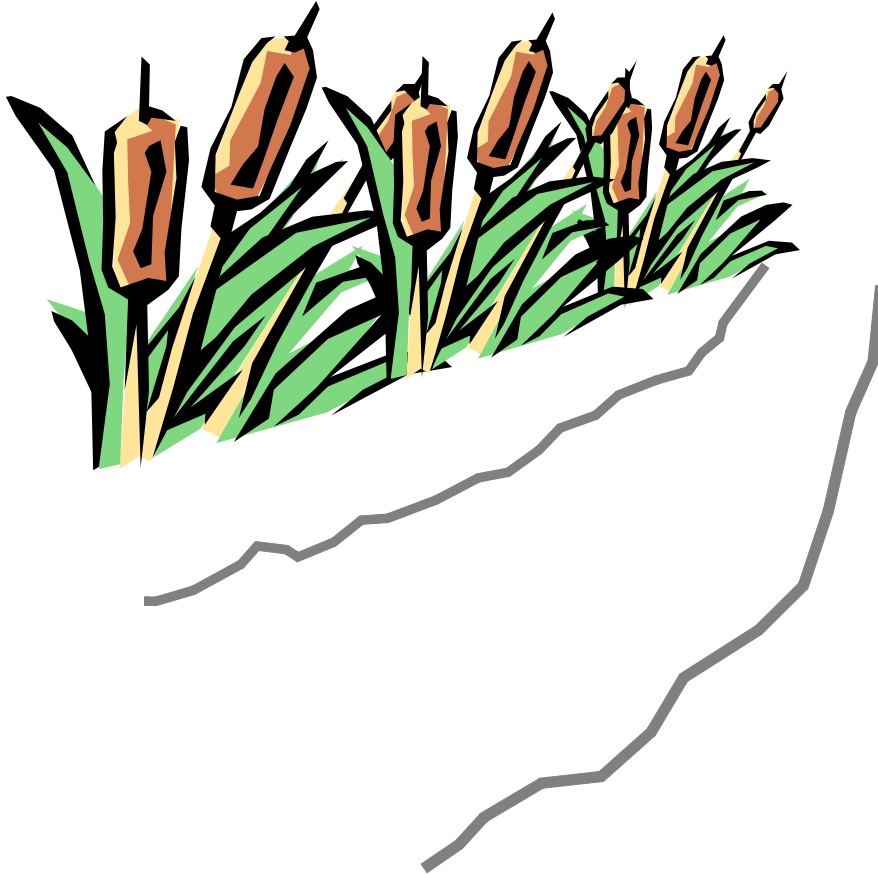
## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 3 The learners **colour the picture** on the worksheet. 📖 ⇨
- 4 The teacher tells the story of **The Ten Plagues** [Exodus 7:8-11:10] as an introduction to LESSON 23.

# Saved by the Water

Draw Moses in his basket at the river bank among the bulrushes.

Then colour the whole picture.



Write a few sentences about any part of the story you enjoyed in this lesson.

## My Story of Moses

## LESSON 23: Passover and Exodus



### AIM

To familiarise the learners with the story of Moses, the Exodus and the beginning of the journey to the Promised Land (8.4.3)

### OUTCOME

Learners narrate the broad outlines of the story of Moses and the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Copies of the worksheet (1)(3)(6) ⇨
- \* Bible or Children's Bible (2)(3)
- \* Pictures to colour or drawing materials (8)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 As a **recap of the previous lesson**, the learners, in small groups, cut out the statements in SECTION A on the worksheet. ⇨ They put the events in the correct sequence. They read the corrected sequence as a paragraph.
- 2 Using questioning and dialogue the teacher briefly recalls the story of the **Ten Plagues**, if it was told in LESSON 22.
- 3 The learners listen to the **story of the Passover and Exodus** [Exodus 12-14] told in the teacher's own words, or read from a Children's Bible. Make sure that you include the episodes that are referred to in the statements on the worksheet, Part B. ⇨
- 4 The learners read and reflect in silence on the **questions** on the blackboard for a few minutes.
  - How long would it take you to gather together all you own?
  - How would you carry all your belongings? Could you?
  - How could this be done if you had to travel on foot for a long journey?
  - If you could only take three things from your home what would they be? Put them in order of importance.
  - What would you be very sad to have to leave behind?
- 5 In small groups the learners **share their answers** to the questions above.
- 6 The learners, in their groups, cut out the remaining statements - SECTION B - given on the worksheet. They put the events in order. They read the correct sequence. ⇨
- 7 To conclude the lesson the learners **reflect silently** on what they can be thankful for. They pray silently in gratitude to God.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 Groups of learners are given a part of the story of Moses to portray to as a **cartoon strip**. The pictures can either be coloured ones, if the teacher is able to provide such pictures, or they can be drawn by the learners. Each group displays their cartoon and tells that part of the story.

# The Story of Moses

Cut out the sentences in Part A and arrange them in the correct time order.

## PART A

God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. God said, “Moses, lead the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Moses was saved from the water. He became an adopted Prince of Egypt.

Moses started a new life as a shepherd.

Moses ran away from Egypt because he had killed an Egyptian.

Moses started a new life as a leader of his people, the Israelites.

Pharaoh said, “Every newborn male Hebrew child must be thrown into the River Nile.”

Cut out the sentences in Part B and arrange them in the correct time order.

## PART B

Moses led the People of Israel through the Red Sea.

Pharaoh was obstinate and would not let the people go.

God sent Ten Plagues on Egypt.

The People of Israel celebrated the first Passover on the night before they left Egypt.