

THE BURNING BUSH



Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace as if he were Egyptian, even though he knew he wasn't. He knew he was really a child of Israel. An **ISRAELITE**.

One day Moses saw an Egyptian man hitting an Israelite worker. This made Moses really mad because he was an Israelite too! He got **SO** mad that he, well . . . he killed the Egyptian.

Yep. He got a little **TOO** mad! *Have you ever made a mistake because you were just **SO** mad?* Yeah. That's what happened to Moses.

Moses knew he was in big trouble, so he ran off into the desert to hide.

For **40 YEARS**.

That's a **LONG** time to hide. But he was sure if he came back to Egypt, Pharaoh would find him and kill him. So, he stayed in the desert.

Moses hid in the desert for so long he eventually met a nice girl named **ZIPPORAH**, got married, had kids, and became a shepherd. His new life was much better than getting killed by Pharaoh, so Moses figured he'd just stay in the desert and never go back to Egypt. Ever. No matter what.

Until one day . . .



One day, when Moses was minding his own business (and his sheep) in the desert, he saw something weird. A bush was burning, but it didn't burn up. It just kept burning. And burning.

That's weird, he thought.

And then the bush **SAID** something.

Well, it wasn't really the bush talking. It was God . . . talking **THROUGH** the bush that was burning.

Since this was not a normal thing for Moses—or *anyone*, for that matter—he decided he'd better listen.

"Hey Moses," said God. "The children of Israel are having a terrible time in Egypt. I've heard them crying, and it is time to **SAVE** them and bring them to the land I promised."

"That's great!" answered Moses.

Then God said, "I want you to do it. You're going to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites leave."

And Moses said, "That's a **TERRIBLE** idea!"

Moses explained that he wasn't very popular in Egypt. After all, he had killed a guy.

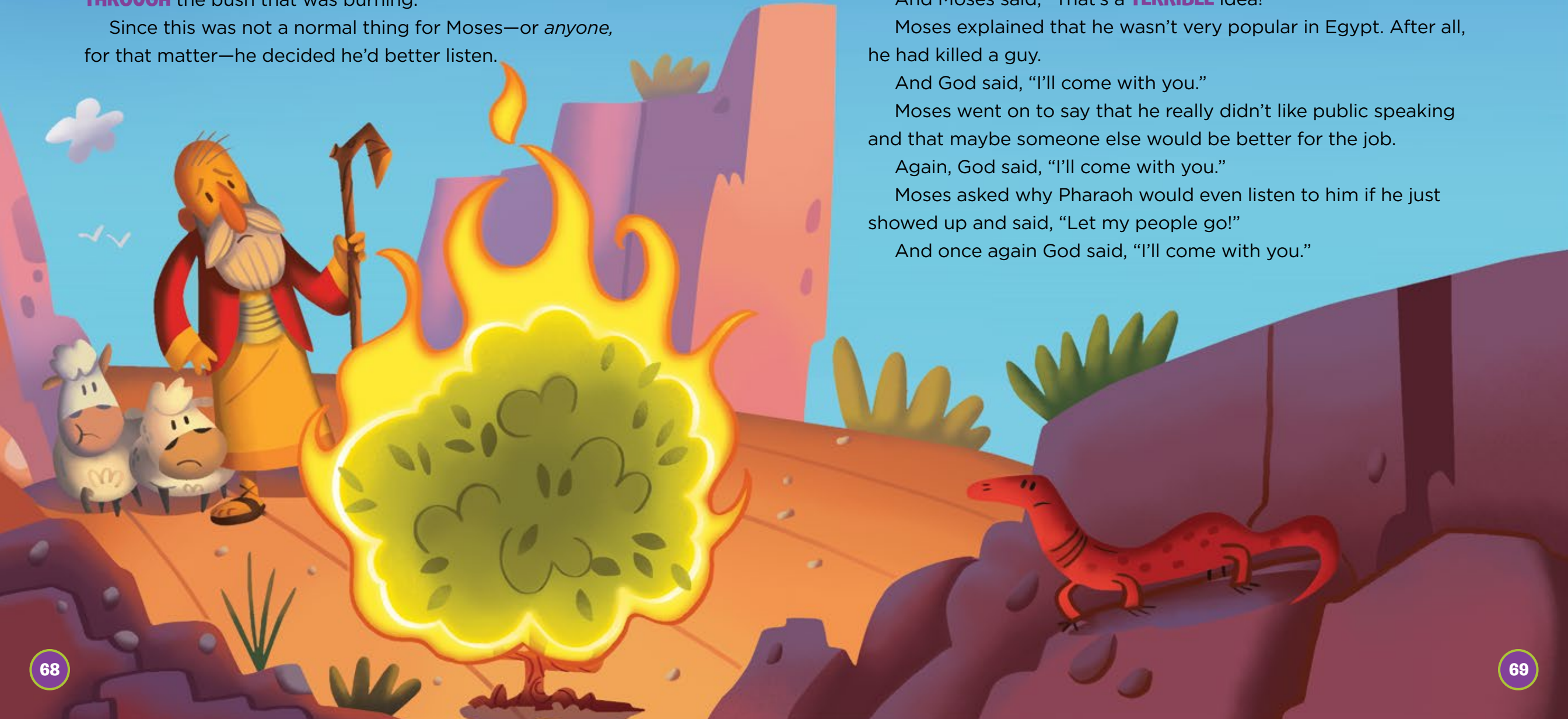
And God said, "I'll come with you."

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Again, God said, "I'll come with you."

Moses asked why Pharaoh would even listen to him if he just showed up and said, "Let my people go!"

And once again God said, "I'll come with you."



Then, as if the burning bush weren't impressive enough, God turned Moses' walking stick into a scary **SNAKE**, then back into a stick because, well, He's God, and He can do things like that.

So after he stopped running from the scary stick-snake, Moses asked, "Would You do cool stuff like that in front of Pharaoh?"

God replied, "And stuff even **MORE** amazing than that."

Moses thought and thought and thought, and finally said, "Okay. I'll go back to Egypt. And You'll come with me, right?"

And then God probably said, "What part of 'I'll come with you' don't you understand?"

So very nervously, Moses and his family started walking back to Egypt.

And God went with him.



THE BURNING BUSH

FAMILY CONNECTION

EXODUS 3-4



EVERYDAY TRUTH

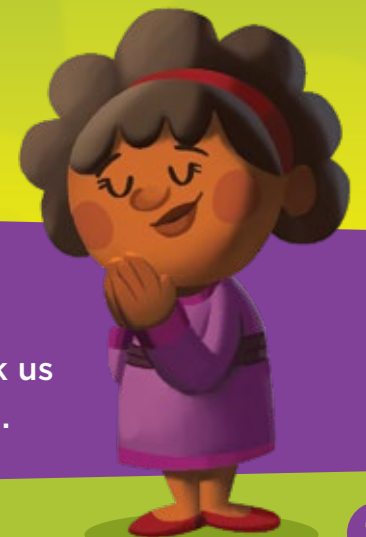
I can do hard things
because God is
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TALK

Why did Moses think he was a terrible choice to rescue God's people from Egypt?

When have you needed to trust God because you were afraid?

Dear
God...



PRAY

Dear God, help us remember that when You ask us to do something big, You always help us! Amen.

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

Let my people go.”

That’s what Moses said as he stood in front of Pharaoh. He was probably very nervous. He didn’t want to be in Egypt. He wanted to go back home to the desert with his sheep and his wife and his kids.

But there he was! Standing in front of Pharaoh, saying exactly what God had told him to say.

“Let my people go!”

And do you know what Pharaoh said?

He said, “No.”

Rats. Okay . . . it was time for that neat trick with the scary stick-snake. So Moses threw down his walking stick, and—**BOOM!**—God turned it into a snake, then back into a stick.

“Let my people go!” he said again.

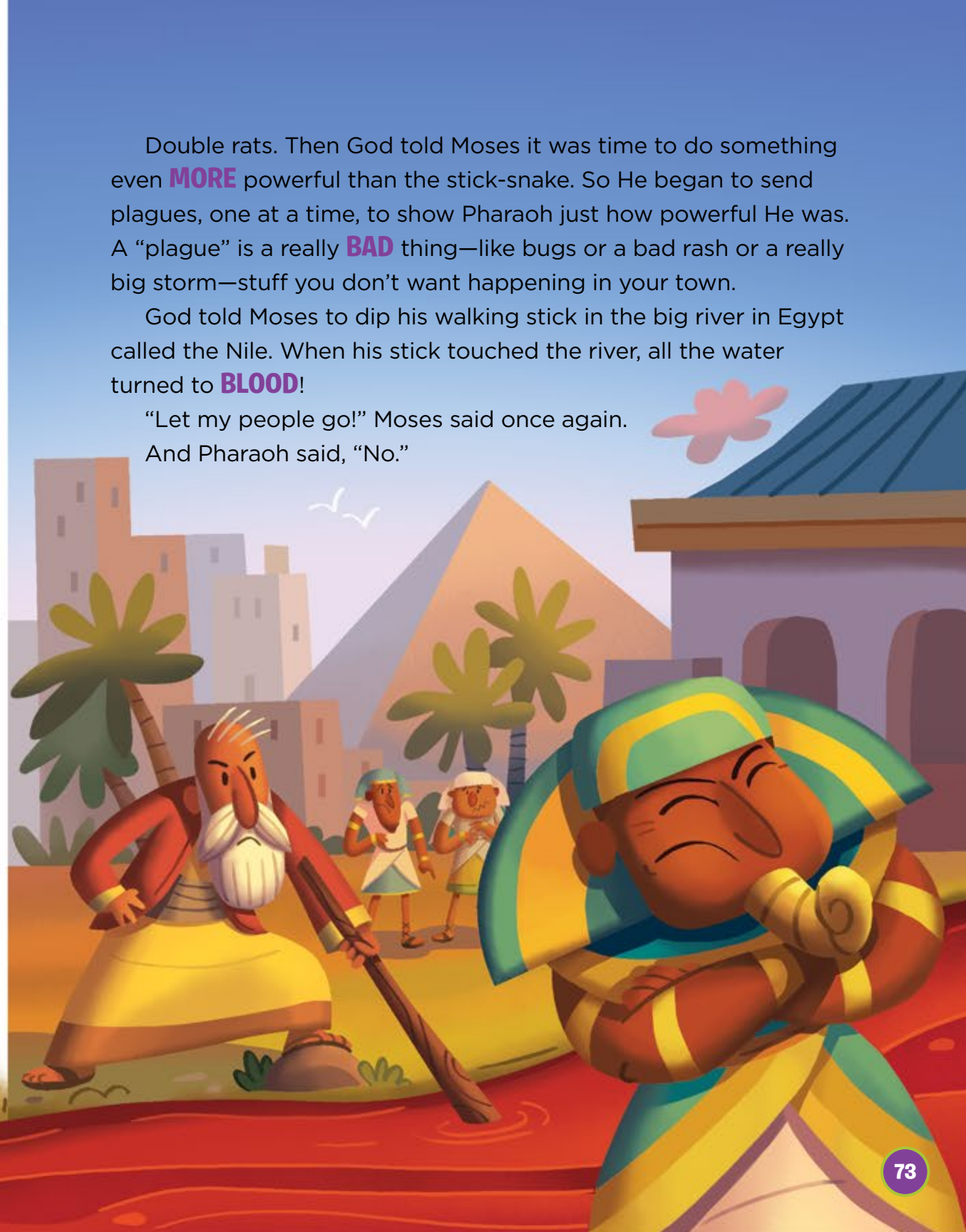
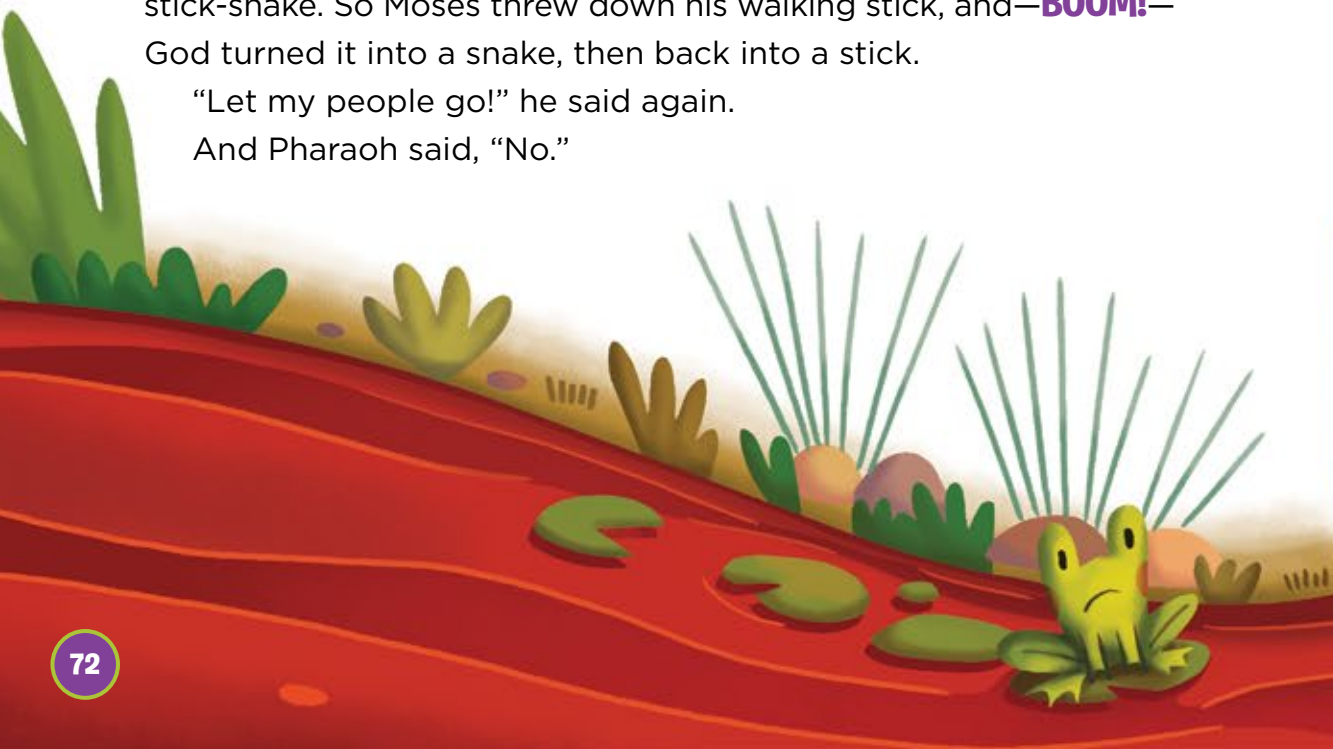
And Pharaoh said, “No.”

Double rats. Then God told Moses it was time to do something even **MORE** powerful than the stick-snake. So He began to send plagues, one at a time, to show Pharaoh just how powerful He was. A “plague” is a really **BAD** thing—like bugs or a bad rash or a really big storm—stuff you don’t want happening in your town.

God told Moses to dip his walking stick in the big river in Egypt called the Nile. When his stick touched the river, all the water turned to **BLOOD!**

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And Pharaoh said, “No.”



Then God said to Moses, “Hold up your stick. We’re going to make frogs.”

And **BOOM!** Frogs. **MILLIONS** of them!

EVERYWHERE. The fields were covered with frogs. The roads were covered with frogs. There were frogs in people’s houses. Even in their beds!

“Let my people go!”

Moses said, trying not to step on a frog. And Pharaoh said, “No.”

Next God sent gnats—tiny little bugs that got **EVERYWHERE.** Then flies! Zillions of flies! And then a sickness that killed all the farm animals. Next, all the Egyptians got sores on their skin. Itchy, ouchy sores all over!

There was **HAIL!** Big balls of ice that fell from the sky and knocked down all the corn and wheat and rice plants. And then **LOCUSTS**, big bugs that look like grasshoppers and ate all the crops that weren’t killed by the hail!

Each time, Pharaoh said, “No.”

These plagues—the frogs and flies and locusts and hail—weren’t enough, so God turned out the lights.



Egypt actually went **DARK.** It was middle-of-the-night dark in the middle of the day. The Egyptians couldn’t see anything.

“Let my people go!” Moses said to Pharaoh. At least he thought he was talking to Pharaoh. It was so dark it was hard to tell.

But a voice from the darkness said . . . “No.”

Finally, God knew exactly what He would have to do to change Pharaoh’s mind.

God told Moses it was time for the Egyptians to know how **POWERFUL** He was. “I am going to send an angel who will kill all the oldest sons of the Egyptians,” He said. “And then Pharaoh will let My people go.”

Moses thought hard about this terrible thing.

“How will the angel know which sons are the children of Israel?” Moses asked.

God gave Moses a **SIGN.** Each Israelite family was to prepare a lamb for a special meal, and then take some of the blood of that lamb and put it over the door of their house. When the angel saw the blood of the lamb over the door, the angel would pass over that house.



Moses and the Israelites were unsure, but they followed God's directions. They put the blood of the lamb over their doors. They ate the special meal, which is now called **PASSOVER**. They did everything just the way God had said, and then they went to bed. But they didn't get much sleep.

That night an angel passed through all the streets of Egypt. And in the morning, all of the oldest sons of the Egyptians were dead.

The Egyptian moms and dads cried and cried. Even Pharaoh cried, because his son died too.

It was terrible.

When he was done crying, Pharaoh called for Moses.

Can you guess what he said?

He said, "Go."

God showed the Egyptians just how powerful He was. He showed the children of Israel that He heard their cries and that He would keep the promises He had made to their father Abraham.

But that's not all.

God also gave a hint about His third promise . . . the blessing for the whole world. Someday all of God's children would be saved from death. All it would take would be the blood of a very, very special Lamb.

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FAMILY CONNECTION

EXODUS 7-12

FUN FACTS

The Passover meal, shared to honor this event, consists of six items:

- **Matzoh**, unleavened bread, representing the Israelites' quick exodus from Egypt
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TALK

Can you name all ten plagues?

What did the plagues show the Egyptians and the Israelites about God?

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Dear God, thank You for always protecting us by Your great power. Amen.



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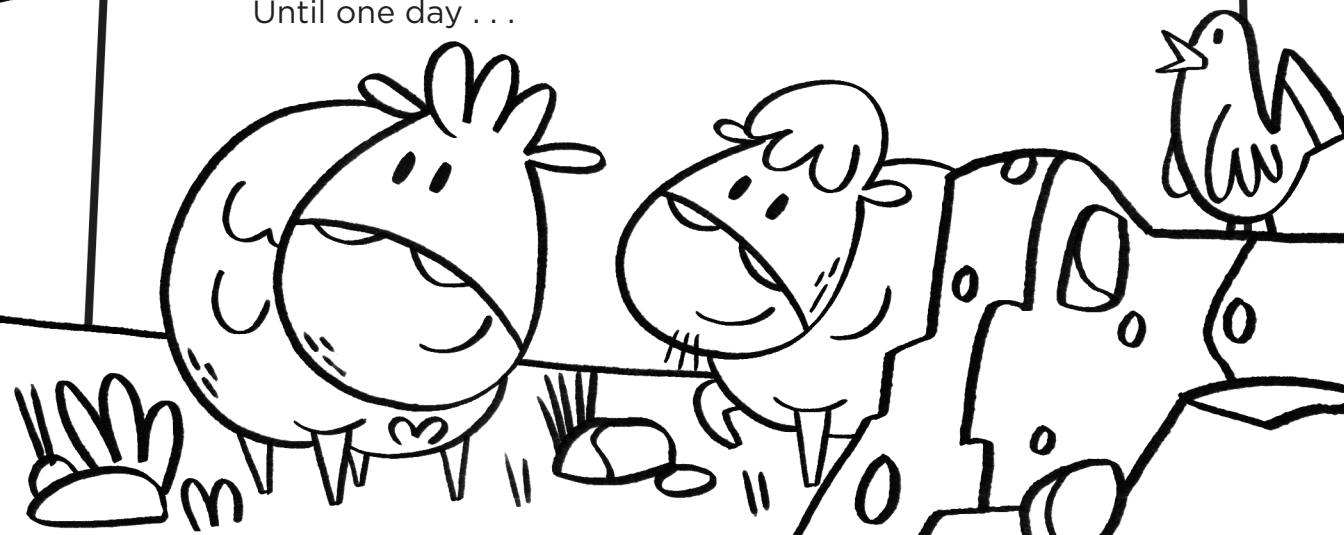
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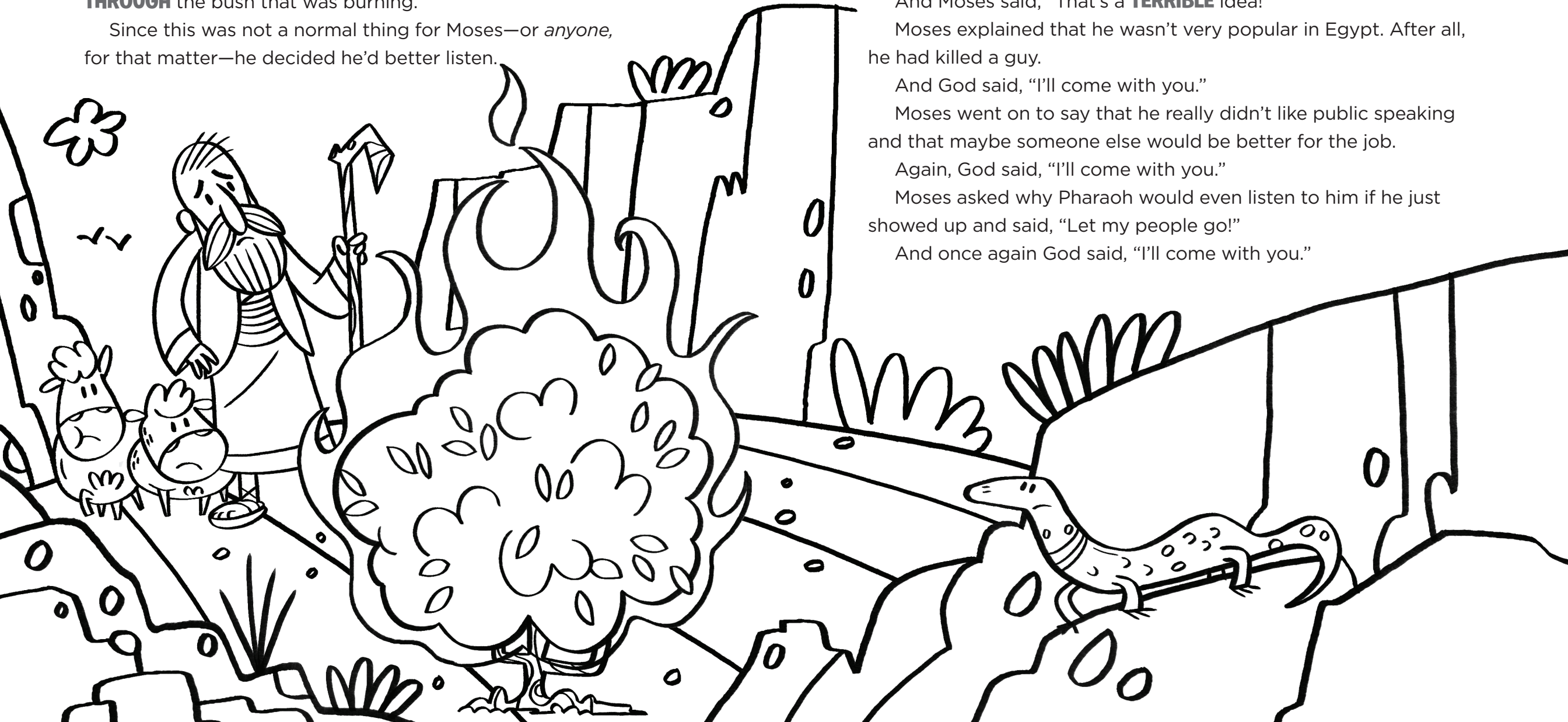
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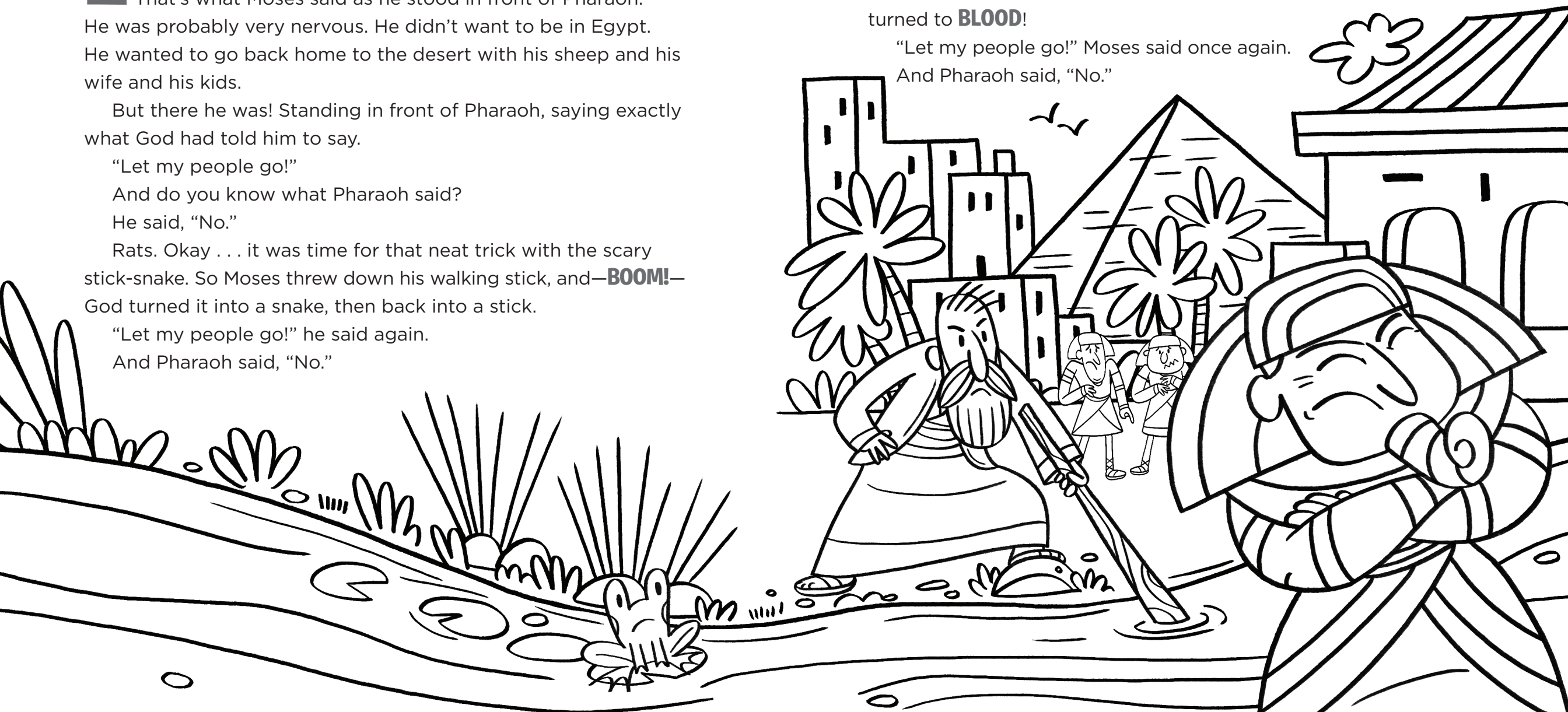
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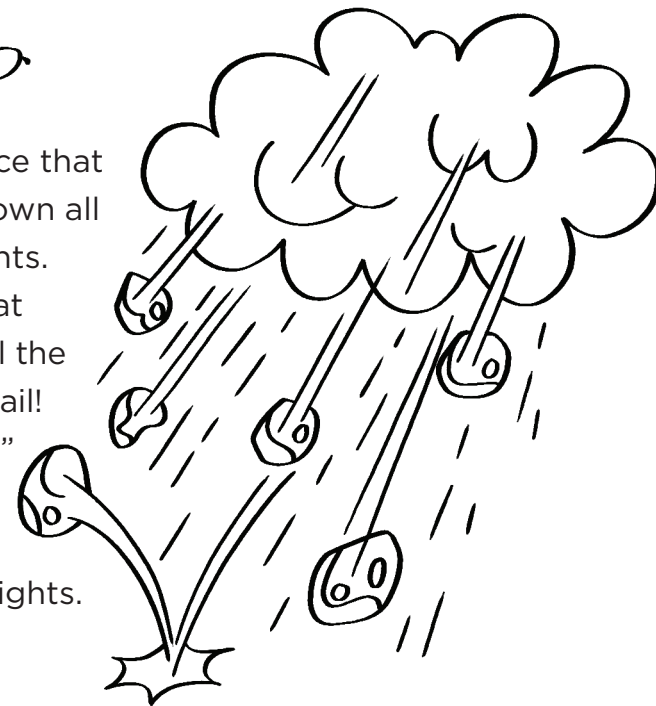
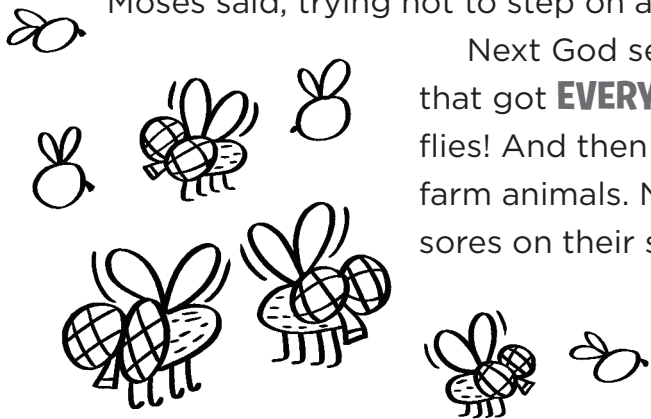
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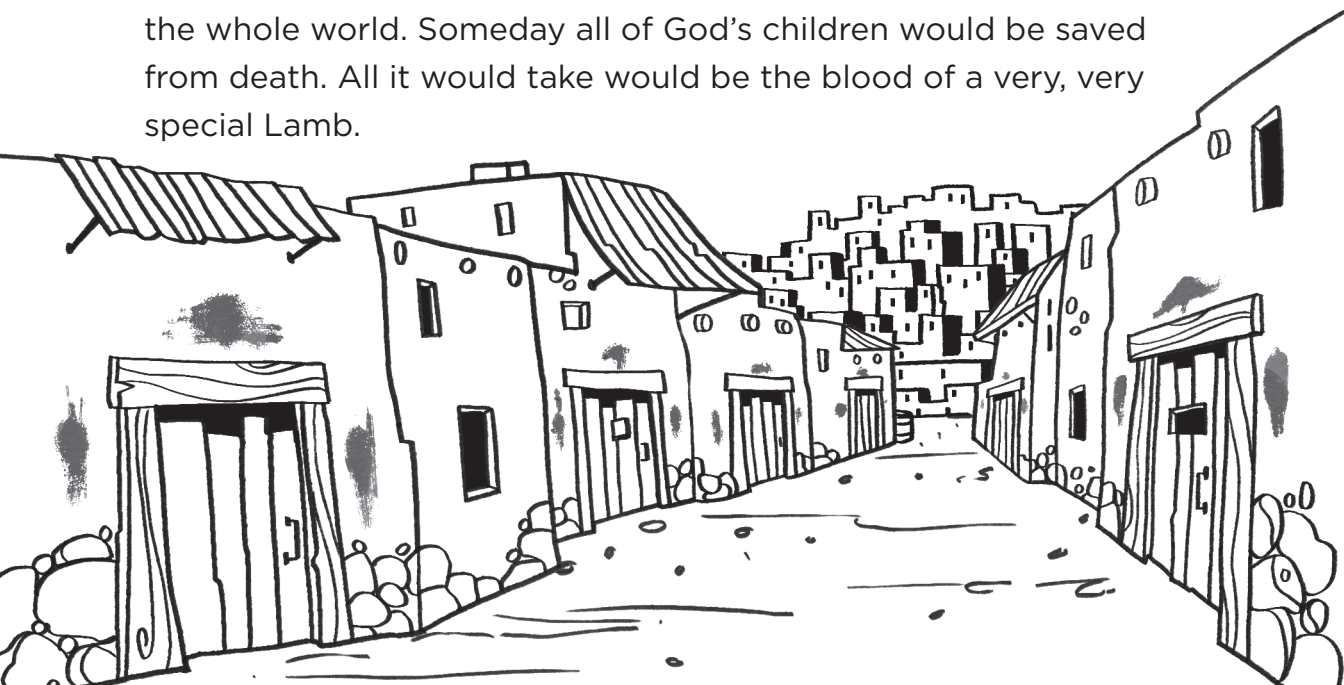
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