

**Fall Bible Study: Exodus, Who will we serve?  
Haikus, Limericks and Playmobil videos  
Assembly Mennonite Church  
October 11- November 22, 2020**

[Exodus teaser trailer](#)

**Baby Moses / Shiphrah and Puah  
Exodus 1:8-2:10**

[Courageous Women](#)

In deathly waters  
The savior of Israel  
Lies inside an ark  
-Scott Coulter



Fearless midwives stand  
against Pharaoh's murderous plan  
because they fear God  
-Scott Coulter

Midwives thwart Pharaoh  
creative daughters conspire  
so hope can be born  
-Bethany Swope

since god's people were livin' the dream  
mr. pharaoh, he wanted to scream  
after brainstorming ploys  
he said, "kill all the boys"  
but with boys the land 'tinued to teem  
-Becky Snider

see, god's people, they listened to god  
and they knew mr. pharaoh was flawed  
like mozes's mom  
and his sister mir-iam  
whose plan got him in pharaoh's squad  
-Becky Snider

King Pharaoh was getting the hives  
As Hebrews kept growing in size  
“I’ll make Egypt great  
by killing and hate!”  
But was thwarted by cunning midwives.

-Karl Shelly

Shiphrah and Puah,  
strong and gentle, bold and wise,  
quaking, persisted.

-Lois Kaufmann

New Pharaoh did not recall Joe,  
And was worried their numbers would grow  
Brave women defied,  
(and plus kind of lied)  
Oh, Pharaoh, how low will you go?

-Anna Yoder Schlabach

## **Burning Bush**

**Exodus 2:13-3:15**

### [Moses and the burning bush](#)

The people, outsiders and odd,  
Enslaved and beaten by rod,  
    Cried out in despair  
    Their pain turned to prayer  
And in mercy, response came from God.

-Lois Kaufmann

God told Mo to make Pharaoh scam.  
But Mo wasn’t down with God’s plan.  
“I must know your name  
Or else I’ll look lame.”  
But God said, “I am who I am.”

-Karl Shelly



When the oppressed cry,  
Jacob's God hears and takes note!  
When will freedom come?  
-Scott Coulter

As Moses tended the sheep and the lamb,  
God sent him a burning bush telegram,  
"Lord how will they know,  
"by which name will you go?"  
And God said "I am who I am."  
-Brian Yoder Schlabach

Israel enslaved  
It would take a miracle  
To buy their freedom  
-Randy Roth

Burning bush invades  
No to my yard - but my soul?  
Yes Fire - invade me  
-Mary Lehman Yoder

In Midian because of a scandal  
A mess Moses just couldn't handle  
    Burning Bush glowing heat  
    It gave him hot feet  
He had to remove both his sandals  
-Randy Roth

god picked moses to lead the whole plan  
for god's people from egypt to scram  
'mid unusual sight--  
a bush set alight--  
god said, "moses, I am who I am"  
-Becky Snider

## Plagues and Escape

### Exodus 8-15

#### Plagues and Escape

Blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Boils  
Livestock Plague, Thunder and Hail  
Locusts, Darkness, DEATH  
-Randy Roth

Egyptians endured ten pandemics  
Because of injustice systemic  
The ruler was Pharaoh  
His vision was narrow  
"Surrender to Moses' polemic!"  
-Randy Roth

We came to see a

Miracle but turns out that

Miracle creates us  
-Susan Mark Landis

With Moses and Aaron to lead  
God demanded the slaves be freed  
The plagues first annoyed  
But with firstborn destroyed  
Egypt's grief overcame Pharaoh's greed.  
-Lois Johns Kaufmann

The people of Goshen were amazed,  
As God's anger against Pharaoh blazed.  
Such pow'r on their side  
After generations denied.  
Once safe, they danced their praise.  
-Lois Johns Kaufmann



*Plagues*

Blood, Frogs, Boils, Gnats and Flies  
Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Livestock Dies  
Pharaoh Refuses  
All Firstborn loses  
Moses and Aaron become stand-up guys  
- Linden and Justin Rothshank

*Rules to Passover*

A Passover meal with lots of rules:  
Eat it fast, before it cools  
lamb, roast it  
flatbread, toast it  
Ask the Egyptians for all their jewels  
- Layton and Justin Rothshank

So plague five took all the livestock totally.  
The seventh plague took even more, supposedly,  
Of the livestock, those left outside.  
Cattle, the firstborn at least, also died,  
Killed in plague ten: clearly this is hyperbole  
-Steve Johns

Said the Lord to Aaron and Moe,  
Now make sure Pharaoh sees you throw  
A staff and watch it become a snake;  
Knowledgeable magicians did make  
Egyptian staffs into snakes also.  
-Steve Johns

There once was a pharaoh who stood  
Blocking the path of the people of God.  
So Moses responded to his denial  
By using a staff, striking the Nile  
Until the river turned entirely to blood.  
-Steve Johns

Seven days later the Lord told Moses to go  
And say “Let my people leave” to Pharaoh,  
“Or you’ll be met with another dread:  
You’ll have frogs jumping in your bed,  
Then they’ll die and be piled high and low.  
-Steve Johns

There once was a preponderance of lambs,  
Many were roasted, their blood painted on jamba,  
To be eaten with nothing left whatsoever,  
For this was the night of the Lord’s Passover:  
Remember this day with unleavened-bread programs.  
-Steve Johns

## **God Provides Manna**

**Exodus 16:2-15**

### [Manna in the Wilderness](#)

I’m hungry, wailed three-year-old Hannah,  
Never fear, said her mom, here’s some manna.  
At night they had quails,  
Which stopped all the wails,  
And everyone shouted Hosanna!  
- Ruth Ann Gardner



1

Out in the unknown,  
Fighting fear, fighting hunger  
Where will food come from?  
-Merritt Gardner

2

Manna I can eat.  
So I guess I can survive.  
But it’s not like home.  
-Merritt Gardner

Torn from their safe cage,  
They wonder why they were born  
With wings on their back.

-Sophia Yordy

Yahweh said, "Take no more than you need"  
But such limits they were loath to heed.  
So their manna did rot  
And they were left with squat.  
Such is the painful lesson of greed.

-Karl Shelly

Moses tried to act like Pollyanna,  
"Just be grateful for quail and the manna"  
But 40 years on that diet  
Made the people near riot:  
"Oh what I'd give for a banana!"

-Brian and Anna Yoder Schlabach

The newly freed people were stumblin'  
Because of their stomachs a grumblin'  
When the people did wale  
God gave manna and quail  
God's daily grace is a humblin'

-Anna Yoder Schlabach

*5 Poems about the Exodus story* by Clara Hanby

For three long days the Hebrews wandered around  
They were famished with hunger, dying of thirst,  
But still they clung to God in times of the worst.

Moses threw some wood into the river  
Then the water tasted sweet, not bitter.

Soon God sent bread down as rain,  
But warned the people not to collect every grain.  
It tasted so good,  
and some understood  
that after they'd had enough to go away  
But some didn't listen to the words God said and collected bread for meals the next day

On the sixth day they gathered more bread  
To prepared for the sabbath day ahead  
And sure enough, just as Moses had said,  
The next day there wasn't a single grain of bread.

Manna was what the Israelites called the bread  
They ate it for years till they came to Canaan.  
God told them people to keep Manna in a Jar  
That way they'd remember how God helped him on their journey so far.



## The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20: 1-17

### God gives the Law

Charlton Heston,  
Real Moses would not have said  
"From my cold, dead hands!"  
-Rod Hanby

*Ex 20:1-4*

God delivered Israel to the Promised Land.  
They traveled by way of desert sand.  
By fits and starts  
Israel changed their hearts,  
Recognizing God alone is grand.  
-Tom Kauffman

*Ex 20:7-9*

God's instructions conveyed  
To the people Mo' relayed.  
"Six days work to serve,  
On the sabbath God observe."  
This way holiness displayed.  
-Tom Kauffman

*Ex 20:12-20*

God shared a holy plan,  
All action 'tween woman and man  
Should be mutual and respectful,  
Caring, not neglectful.  
With this message Moses said, "You can!"

But on high the sight and sound  
From the mount made the people fear-bound.  
"Keep God far away!"  
The people did say.  
"We want only Moses around."



"Don't fear your plight  
When you see God's might."  
Replied Mo'  
To those below.  
"For God desires you to do what's right."  
-Tom Kauffman

A.  
One too many laws  
To follow the commandments  
All we need is love  
-Dancy Hirschler

B.  
Love God above all  
Love your neighbor at all times  
For He will provide!  
-Dancy Hirschler

C.  
He knows we will err  
Jesus ready for his fate  
Death for all our sake  
-Dancy Hirschler

Since Yahweh got us out of dodge  
We won't worship alternative gods.  
Nor images make  
(well, except for that snake\*,  
and those cherubim\* - wait,  
Moses, did we misread that fourth clause?)  
-Scott Coulter

God's name is holy.  
Never use it to oppress;  
rather, liberate!  
-Scott Coulter

Rest on the Sabbath.  
Worship God, not production.  
Rest is resistance.  
-Scott Coulter

God gave Moses the law in a cloud  
And blew the trumpets real loud  
The commandments, there were ten,  
And the people said "Amen,"  
Although all the fun stuff was disallowed.  
-Anna Yoder Schlabach

**Golden Calf**  
**Exodus 32:1-14**  
[The Golden Calf](#)

In days of old, folks loved their gold;  
Wives and sons and daughters.

"Hand it over", said Aaron..  
" those earrings you're wearing."

To be melted and shaped like  
A calf, of regal bearing.

The calf was rendered,  
But, Yahweh surrendered.  
While Moses continued his errands.

-Barb Hassan



How shall we praise God?  
What are symbols we should use?  
Worship God alone.  
-Merritt Gardner

They liked a god that could be controlled  
So they made one from earrings of gold.  
But God's wrath it burned hot.  
Maybe more than it ought.  
"Please God just give a really harsh scold."  
-Karl Shelly

Moses was taking his time,  
so Aaron forged a gold bovine.  
He said "Here's our new idol"  
His story went viral,  
And the people got wasted on wine.  
-Brian Yoder Schlabach

God's anger burned hot and unbridled,  
"I don't take too kindly to idols"  
But Moses stepped in,  
"These folks are my kin,  
And you're to thank for their survival."  
-Brian Yoder Schlabach

God's people impatient did grow,  
"Where's Moses? We all want to know!"  
So for them Aaron made  
A gold calf he displayed,  
And the people 'fore the calf bent down low.  
-Susan Nelson

When God saw what his people had done  
Said "I'll destroy these stiff-necked scum!"  
Moses pleaded their case  
To save their disgrace,  
God relented and saved everyone.  
-Susan Nelson

Such heavy tablets  
I brought them all the way down  
To find a gold cow -Rod Hanby

## The Tabernacle

### Exodus 40

#### A Dwelling Place for God

Would you fish with crummy tackle?  
Fill a hole with crackly spackle?  
If you want it done right,  
Go full Israelite,  
Can't cut corners on the Tabernacle.  
-Brian Yoder Schlabach



“Set up the Tabernacle, in the Tent of the Meeting”  
boomed the Lord to a tired Moses, on his staff he was leaning.

Place the Ark of the Covenant on it,  
And Shield with a curtain!

Of that, you can be certain,  
said Moses, his back creaking.

Bring Aaron and sons to the entrance of the tabernacle,  
Fill a basin with water, wash them til they snap and crackle.

So, on the first day of the first month, of the second year.  
The tabernacle was erected,,  
with the ark on the table as God had directed.

Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle,  
placed curtains at the entrance  
to ward off flying grackles.

When a cloud covered the tabernacle,  
And, the Glory of God was gleaming

"Oy Gevalt", said Moses in a husky cackle.

What have you done to our Tabernacle?? -Barb Hassan

There once was a man named Moses  
Exodus tracks all his poses.  
Survived Pharoah and Aaron,  
Israelites acting like Karens.  
And ends up tabernacling.  
-Marshall King

Moses' tabernacle directions were specific,  
And priest Aaron's attire was terrific.  
With the tabernacle all done,  
The journey continued as one,  
But I still think the trek was horrific.

God said to Moses, here's the setup,  
And to Aaron and sons, here's your getup.  
With the cloud out of sight,  
And no fire by night,  
The journey went on without letup.  
-Ruth Ann Gardner

"Cleanliness is next to godliness," my mother would say.  
"That's not in the Bible," came my reply each cleaning day.  
But now I can see  
I was wrong, not she.  
Given that Aaron and sons  
                    washed feet and hands  
                                    before they were ready to pray.

-Sandy Fribley

God here, everywhere,  
Tabernacle, house of prayer.  
Tabernacle here.  
-Merritt Gardner

Before a trip, a job to tackle,  
Desiring not my prayers to shackle,  
Bible, prayer book, candle,  
In a sack to handle,  
When in my travel tabernacle  
-Merritt Gardner

God wanted so much acacia wood,  
And covered in gold would good  
So woodworkers made  
And plans were a' layed  
And all was as God said it should.  
-Anna Yoder Schlabach