

# Dramatic Multi Voice Reading - Moses in the Desert

*Inspired by Donald J Gettys sermon "Mousey Moses"*

Voice 1: Under the beating sun,

Voice 2: in a desert landscape

Voice 1: a really, really long time ago

Voice 2: there was a man. His name was Moses.

Voice 1: Well, there was more than one man. There were actually thousands of men, plus women and children...

Voice 2: Thanks for your correction. But back to Moses.

Voice 1: Moses, at the time we're talking about, was a dried up old man.

Voice 2: Quite literally, dried up. Moses had spent the last several decades in the desert

Voice 1: Now you might be wondering, why would anyone in their right mind choose that?

Voice 2: Or even in their wrong mind!

Voice 1: It's a long story...the story of Moses. So we're going to tell it to you based around his problems, which are a main theme in his life!

Voice 2: Moses was born in Egypt, into an Israelite family. His first major problem began right there. He was a he.

Voice 1: Yeah, it was not a good time to be born a boy into an Israelite family in Egypt. The Pharaoh, the guy in charge, had just given orders that all the Israelite boys born were to be killed immediately, because he was scared that the Israelites would rebel, and be much stronger than the Egyptians and beat them up.

Voice 2: That's because he was a bad pharaoh, and was making the Israelites work like dogs to keep his own nation rich.

Voice 1: So, with the major problem of being "a boy" to overcome, Moses needed help, the first time. His mom and sister were smart, however, and hid him in a basket in the river to prevent him from meeting the nasty end of a soldier's sword.

Voice 2: And it worked!

- Voice 1: Which brought up problem number 2. Moses was found, a cute, gurgling and burping and laughing
- Voice 2: And probably stinking, since his diaper hadn't been changed for a few hours...
- Voice 1: Baby boy. Being found wasn't the problem, but the fact that he was found by the Pharaoh's daughter.
- Voice 2: Now you might think this spelled trouble for little Moses, but since he was so cute, she took him in and adopted him. So problem number 2 didn't really become a problem until much later, when little Mo realized that he wasn't an Egyptian after all!
- Voice 1: So, Moses lived the life of a Prince. He ate the delicacies of Egypt and enjoyed the wealth and prestige of being the son of the Princess. But then, problem 2 reared its ugly head again...
- Voice 2: Moses was doing well, ignoring the fact that his own real family were slaves to his adoptive family. But one day, he saw one of his Israelite relatives being beaten by an Egyptian and in a rush of righteous indignation he killed the Egyptian. And hid his body in the sand.
- Voice 1: Of course, word got out and Moses had to flee, because his Pharaoh Grandpa was very unhappy with him!
- Voice 2: Enter problem number 3, Moses had to flee Egypt because, just like when he was a wee baby, someone strong and powerful and Egyptian wanted to kill him!
- Voice 1: So Moses headed for the hills...literally.
- Voice 2: He made his first foray into the desert. Probably didn't realize he'd be stuck in the desert for the rest of his life.
- Voice 1: If he'd had any inkling that he would never really leave the desert again, I wonder if he'd have gone!
- Voice 2: In the desert he found the solution for problem 3. That is, he found a new home and a new family. He married a nice girl
- Voice 1: Zipporah
- Voice 2: and they lived happily as shepherds, for a while.
- Voice 1: Then, just when things were settling down problem number 4 happened. Moses was content living in the desert, hanging out with the sheep, when God called him.

Voice 2: It was God's call that was the problem this time! God spoke out of a burning bush and told Moses that he was the one God had chosen to rescue the Israelites from slavery.

Voice 1: Well, you'd think a hero's calling would have excited Moses, but all he could think of was excuses to say, 'No'.

Voice 2: He really, really didn't want to go.

Voice 1: He came up with all kinds of questions to get out of it.

Voice 2: Why Me?

Voice 1: Who will I tell them sent me?

Voice 2: What if they don't listen?

Voice 1: I can't even talk good...listen to my bad grammar! I'm not quick enough to go!

Voice 2: Please, God, please! Send someone else!

Voice 1: Now God wasn't impressed by Moses' reluctance to go, but eventually convinced him by sending his Israelite brother Aaron to go with him and speak for him.

Voice 2: I'd say Aaron, the brother, was the answer to problem number 4.

Voice 1: Well, the next part of the story is familiar. There were some difficulties getting Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.

Voice 2: Some difficulties! That's an understatement.

Voice 1: Yeah, well we don't have all day here!

Voice 2: Okay, so there were plagues and eventually it got really bad and the oldest son of each Egyptian family died in one night, and then finally, Pharaoh said,

Voice 1: Moses, get your people out of my sight and my country.

Voice 2: And they ran for dear life,

Voice 1: into the desert.

Voice 2: I wonder if Moses dreaded this return to the desert. He knew what it was like, hot and dry all. But the Israelites had always at least had food and shelter...

Voice 1: And water!

Voice 2: After God brought the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, they wandered in the desert looking for the Promised Land, the land they would end up in. As the days went on, the people began to complain that they were thirsty.

Voice 1: Sorry Moses, here comes problem number 5. And tens of thousands of thirsty people is no small problem!

Voice 2: The people said things like:

Voice 1: If only we'd died in Egypt we wouldn't have to die out here!

Voice 2: And: look Moses, our children are dying of thirst! At least in Egypt we had food and water!

Voice 1: God pulled through for Moses, sending manna and quail for the people to eat, and they were happy for a while.

Voice 2: 'til they got sick of it!

Voice 1: I think that the dry and dull landscape of the desert had something to do with this.  
Because the people, who Moses had just rescued from slavery, seemed to do nothing but complain for the next forty years.

Voice 2: Moses! Why did you bring us here? We are dying of thirst!

Voice 1: Moses! My cows are dying because there's nothing for them to drink!

Voice 2: Moses! Do you want us to die?

Voice 1: Moses! Do you want to die? Because we're not very impressed with you right now!

Voice 2: And so on. This problem number 5 was turning out to be a pretty bad one, though not the first one in which his life was in danger.

Voice 1: This time the answer didn't come from a princess or by running away to a new family. It didn't come through a big brother rescuing him and offering to talk for him. It came from a rock.

Voice 2: Moses was pretty worried, since the people were threatening to kill him

Voice 1: Wouldn't you be worried?

Voice 2: Hey, I'm telling a story here! So Moses talked to God

Voice 1: Yeah, the same God who he'd been peppering with excuses only months earlier when they talked by the burning bush...

- Voice 2: And God understood that Moses was in trouble, and decided to show the people that he was on Moses' side. So God told Moses to hit a big rock with his staff, and there would be water for everyone.
- Voice 1: Well, Moses listened, hit the rock, and water poured out of it!
- Voice 2: The people were delighted and drank, and their cattle drank, and their kids, and they washed their hair and hands and faces
- Voice 1: And partied in thankfulness for the water they so desperately needed to survive.
- Voice 2: After that, they set some ground rules for living together, as a wandering people, because it became clear that they weren't getting to the Promised Land anytime soon. So they built a tent to worship God in, they got married and had kids, and relied on Moses to lead them.
- Voice 1: and Moses did.
- Voice 2: But all this living in the desert and wandering and bearing the brunt of the Israelite complaints was not easy on Moses.
- Voice 1: Moses became a dried up, old stinky people-herder. He didn't have any peers to talk to
- Voice 2: He only had God, and sometimes God was hard to hear
- Voice 1: He left behind his comfortable home in Midian to walk with the Israelites, and I wonder if sometimes he didn't just wish he could leave them out there in the desert and go home.
- Voice 2: Wouldn't it be nice if I could just take one long cool soak in my bathtub back home?
- Voice 1: Wouldn't it be nice if I could, just once, drink as much water as my belly could hold?
- Voice 2: Wouldn't it feel sooo good if I could soak my feet in cool water after a day of trekking with these complaining people?
- Voice 1: I wonder how Moses felt, when he was as thirsty as everyone else, but couldn't complain with them?
- Voice 2: I wonder how Moses felt, 80 years old and still wandering in the desert?
- Voice 1: Moses had major problems from Day One! From birth to death...I wonder if sometimes the actual thirst for water felt like less of a worry compared to the thirst for rest, for peace and for time away from the burden of leading the Israelites. I wonder how thirsty he felt for a break...

- Voice 2: But in Deuteronomy 32:10 we read about what God did for Moses, in this most dry and desolate time in his life:
- Voice 1: In a desert land, God found him.
- Voice 2: In a barren and howling wasteland, God shielded him and cared for him
- Voice 1: God guarded him as the apple of his eye.
- Voice 2: In the middle of this major problem, a huge thirsty and angry crowd, howling winds and sandstorms...
- Voice 1: God saw Moses. God picked him out from the crowd of wind-whipped Israelites, bent against the wind, shielding their eyes against the glare of the sun
- Voice 2: And placed a loving, gentle hand around him
- Voice 1: God protected Moses against the worst of the weather, against the destructive frustration of the Israelites.
- Voice 2: God loved and guarded Moses, as a tenderly loved child.
- Voice 1: But God didn't lift Moses out of the desert.
- Voice 2: God didn't send a wind to sweep away those who bothered Moses
- Voice 1: God didn't transform the desert to lush tropics in order to make things easier. He simply put his loving hands around Moses and was with him.
- Voice 2: God was with Moses, our struggling and troubled, reluctant and fearful, bad tempered and ill-born Moses.
- Voice 1: God was with Moses. And Moses ended up with God.