

“I AM” Sends Moses to Free the Enslaved Children of Israel

About 5 minutes, from Exodus 3; 12 – 14

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform.*)

Moses

Miriam

Voice (of God)

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Miriam I am Miriam, Moses’ sister. Pharaoh has enslaved us in Egypt.  
Hear those painful whips!

Prompter & Echoes Crack! Crack!

Miriam Pharaoh’s cruel officers force the Israelites to work even harder  
to build his grand city of Rameses. We groan under our burdens.

Prompter & Echoes Lord, deliver us!

Miriam By a miracle of God’s mercy and a bit of scheming on my part,  
my brother Moses is raised in Pharaoh’s palace.  
But now he gets in trouble!

Moses Oh! What’s this?  
That Egyptian is beating an Israelite slave mercilessly!  
I look around to see if anyone is watching;  
I kill the cruel Egyptian, and hide him in the sand.

Prompter & Echoes But someone was watching!

Moses Oh no! I flee from Egypt, to where Pharaoh cannot find me.

Prompter & Echoes Run, Moses, run!

Moses Here I am now, tending sheep in this lonely land of Midian.  
Oh! That bush over there is on fire; it keeps burning,  
but it is not consumed. I must go see why.

Voice Moses! Remove your sandals; you are standing on holy ground.  
I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.  
I have seen the suffering of my people in Egypt.  
Go and tell Pharaoh to free my people from their slavery.

Prompter & Echoes Let my people go!

Miriam Pharaoh listens to Moses, but hardens his heart.  
God sends many plagues to make Pharaoh relent and free us,  
but the cruel monarch makes our burdens even heavier.  
Hear what Moses tells Israel’s elders.

Moses God’s death angel will pass over Egypt tonight,  
and slay every family’s older son, unless he sees  
the Passover Lamb’s blood on the doorposts.  
Go warn your people.

Prompter & Echoes Blood on the doorposts!

Moses                    So much death alarms Pharaoh.  
 He calls my brother Aaron and me,  
 and tells us to take the Israelites out of Egypt.  
 Our Egyptian neighbors readily give us the needed supplies.

Miriam                 Hurry! Join the thousands that are leaving in haste,  
 before Pharaoh changes his mind.  
 Look! That pillar of cloud is leading us by day!

Prompter & Echoes    And a pillar of fire by night.

Miriam                 Now we've stopped; the Red Sea is blocking our way.  
 What can we do?

Prompter & Echoes    Pharaoh changes his mind!

Miriam                 Pharaoh is furious! He mobilizes his whole army!

Prompter & Echoes    Rumble, rumble!

Miriam                 What is this that I hear? It's getting louder!

Miriam                 It's the sound of horses and chariots!  
 Oh, no! Look!

Prompter & Echoes    Thousands of them!

Miriam                 They're getting closer.

Prompter & Echoes    Lord, save us!

Miriam                 Moses, the people are asking if there are no graves in Egypt's land of  
 pyramid tombs that you've brought them out to die in this wasteland.

Moses                    My people, do not fear. The Lord will fight for you!

Voice                    Moses, lift up your staff and stretch it out over the sea.  
 The children of Israel will go through it on dry land.

Moses                    A strong east wind blows all night and turns the sea into dry land.  
 God's children all pass through it;  
 the waters are like a wall on each side.

Prompter & Echoes    Hurry!

Miriam                 Oh no! Pharaoh's chariots and horsemen are pursuing us!  
 They're halfway across the sea!  
 Look! Their chariot wheels are swerving!  
 They are in confusion!

Voice                    Moses, stretch out your hand again over the sea. Now!

Moses                    I reach out my hand, and the sea returns.  
 Pharaoh's army has drowned. Freedom at last!

Prompter & Echoes    Our God is all-powerful!

Moses                    Now, everyone, let's all discuss this.  
 God used Moses to free his people from slavery and death.  
 Mention ways in which Jesus also has likewise saved his people  
 from death and slavery, spiritually.