

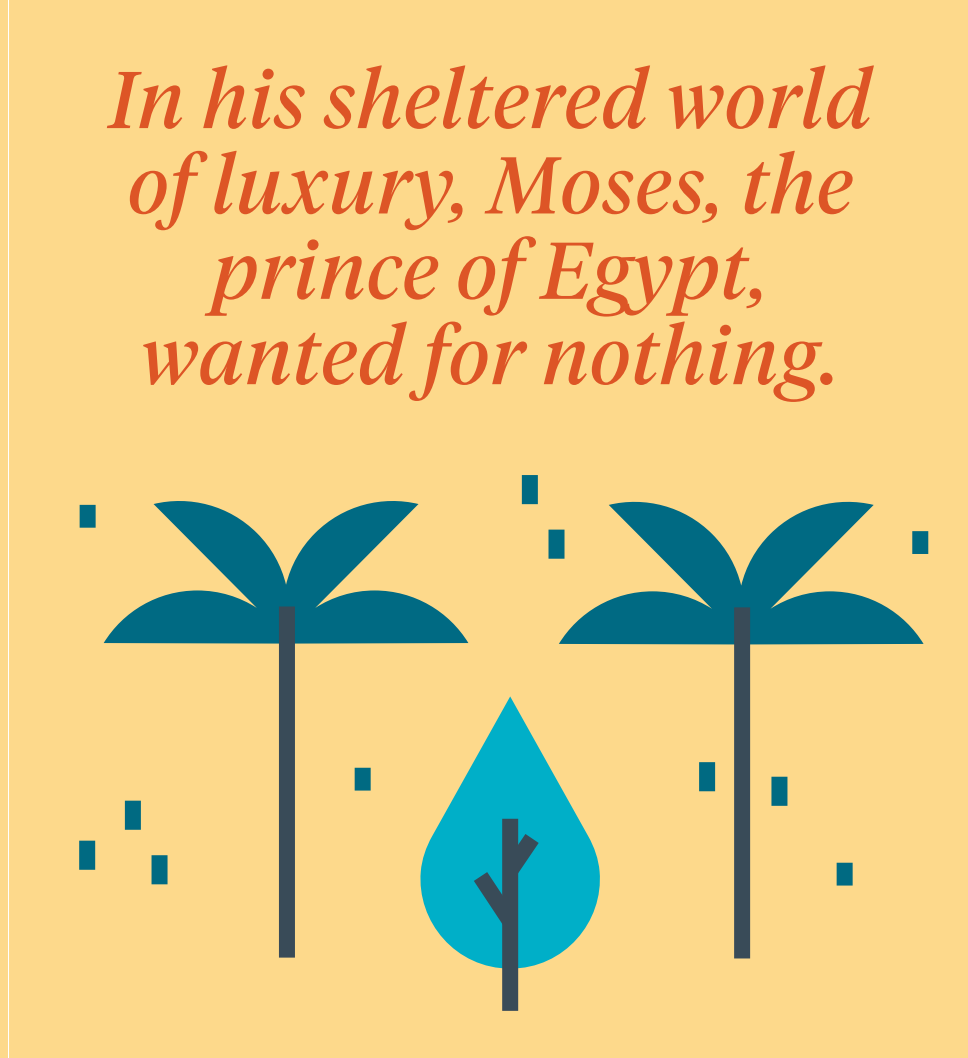
STAND UP

Like Moses





In his sheltered world of luxury, Moses, the prince of Egypt, wanted for nothing.



Raised an Egyptian prince in the Pharaoh's palace, Moses lived a pampered life. He dined on meat, wine and honey cakes; adorned his body with heavy gold jewelry; and strolled magnificent palace gardens as, on the horizon, mighty brick pyramids rose in honor of his grandfather, ruler of the golden empire.

And so it was until he reached the age of 40 when, having grown restless in the palace, the prince wandered out toward the brickmaking fields, where the Hebrew slaves worked under the brutal sun. To his shock, Moses encountered an Egyptian taskmaster mercilessly whipping a slave. Moses, long hidden behind palace walls, had never seen such cruelty. Overwhelmed by compassion and anger, he killed the Egyptian to spare the slave — a crime punishable by death.

With his own grandfather calling for his execution, Moses fled into the desert, shattered by the realization that his world of plenty had been fueled by the suffering of others.



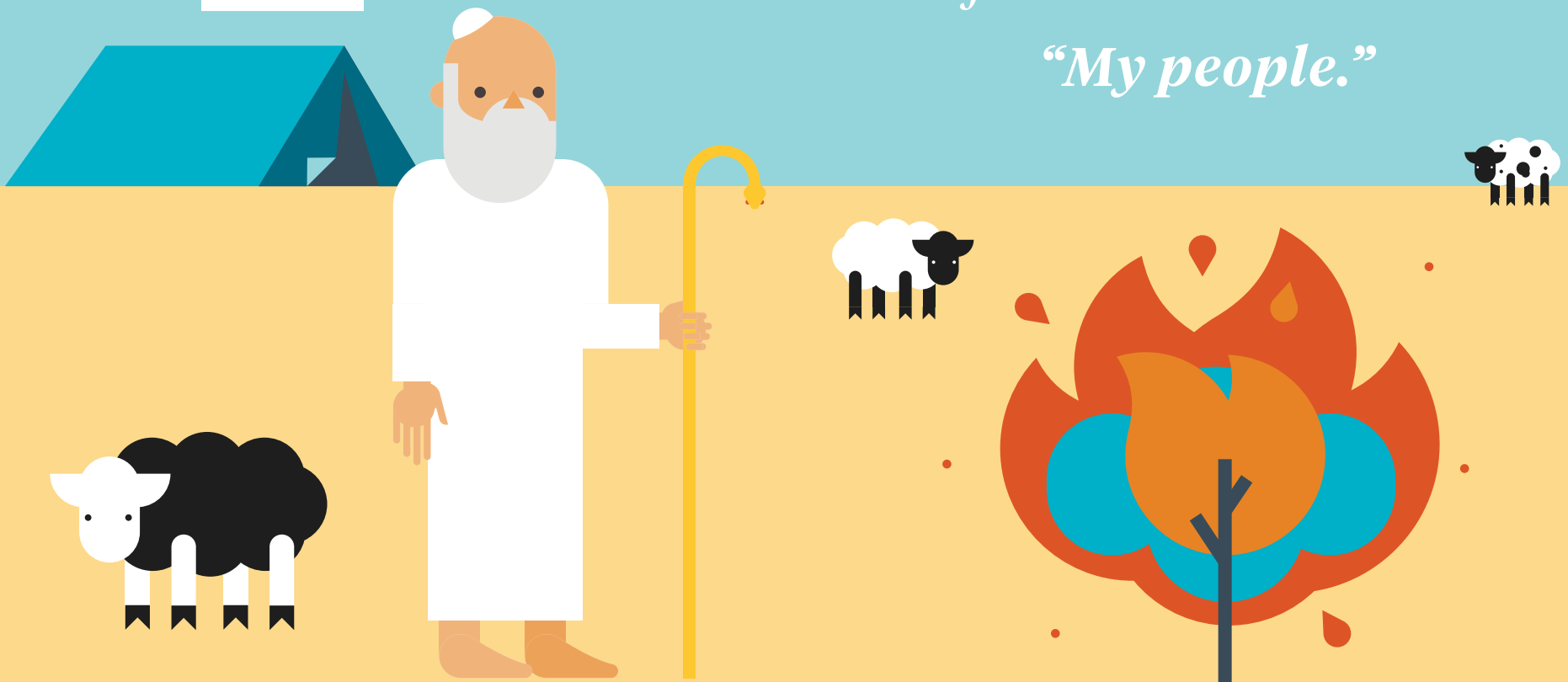


He wanted never again to return to Egypt, where slavery was a way of life; he would live instead by his convictions, guided by his humanity.

Forty more years passed. Now a desert shepherd with a wife and two sons, his former life was buried deep in his past. Minding the sheep one day, however, Moses spied a bush that appeared to be continuously on fire. From that burning bush a voice called to him.

“I am the G-d of your father, the G-d of Abraham, the G-d of Isaac and the G-d of Jacob,” the voice explained to Moses, and commanded him to return to Egypt to free the Israelites —

“My people.”



Moses, hiding his face in terror, heard the words as familiar, and was struck by a distant memory, recalling the woman who had saved his infant life by setting him afloat in a basket of reeds. That same woman — his birth mother — came to be his nursemaid, and Moses now remembered the stories she would whisper of their forefathers in Canaan, of Joseph going down to Egypt, and of G-d's promise of deliverance.

Standing before the burning bush, Moses understood: He had never been an Egyptian royal, but rather the child of enslaved people. His people — the Israelites.





Moses quaked with fear at the charge G-d had given him. “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?” he asked. He was an unlikely leader.

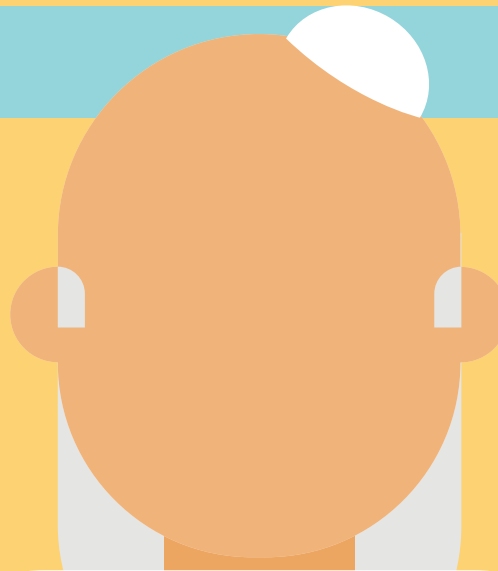
With no standing among the Hebrews, he couldn’t imagine why they would follow him. Of course, he had no power to negotiate with a Pharaoh. And perhaps most frightening: going back to Egypt meant revisiting a painful past Moses thought he had left behind.

G-d listened to each of Moses’ objections until finally Moses fell silent to think. In that silence, he heard reverberating inside his mind the promise he had made to himself 40 years earlier — to always live by his convictions and his compassion.



He had escaped from Egypt, but not from his responsibility to others; he knew he would forever be oppressed by the knowledge of his people's oppression.

Moses picked up his staff and prepared for the journey back to his people.



**WHEN YOU ARE STRONG
IN YOUR CONVICTIONS,
AND TAKE ACTION BY
STANDING UP FOR OTHERS,
YOU ELEVATE US ALL.**

STAND UP LIKE MOSES:

Seder Discussion Guide



1

What character traits does Moses demonstrate in this story?

2

**Do you have some of those characteristics?
How do you show them in your own life?**

3

How do you use those characteristics to make a positive difference in the lives of others?

4

Talk about a situation in which you've stood up for someone else.

What was the experience like?

Was it easy or hard?

What did you learn?

5

What would you do differently the next time?

What are ways you can continue standing up for others in the coming year?



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