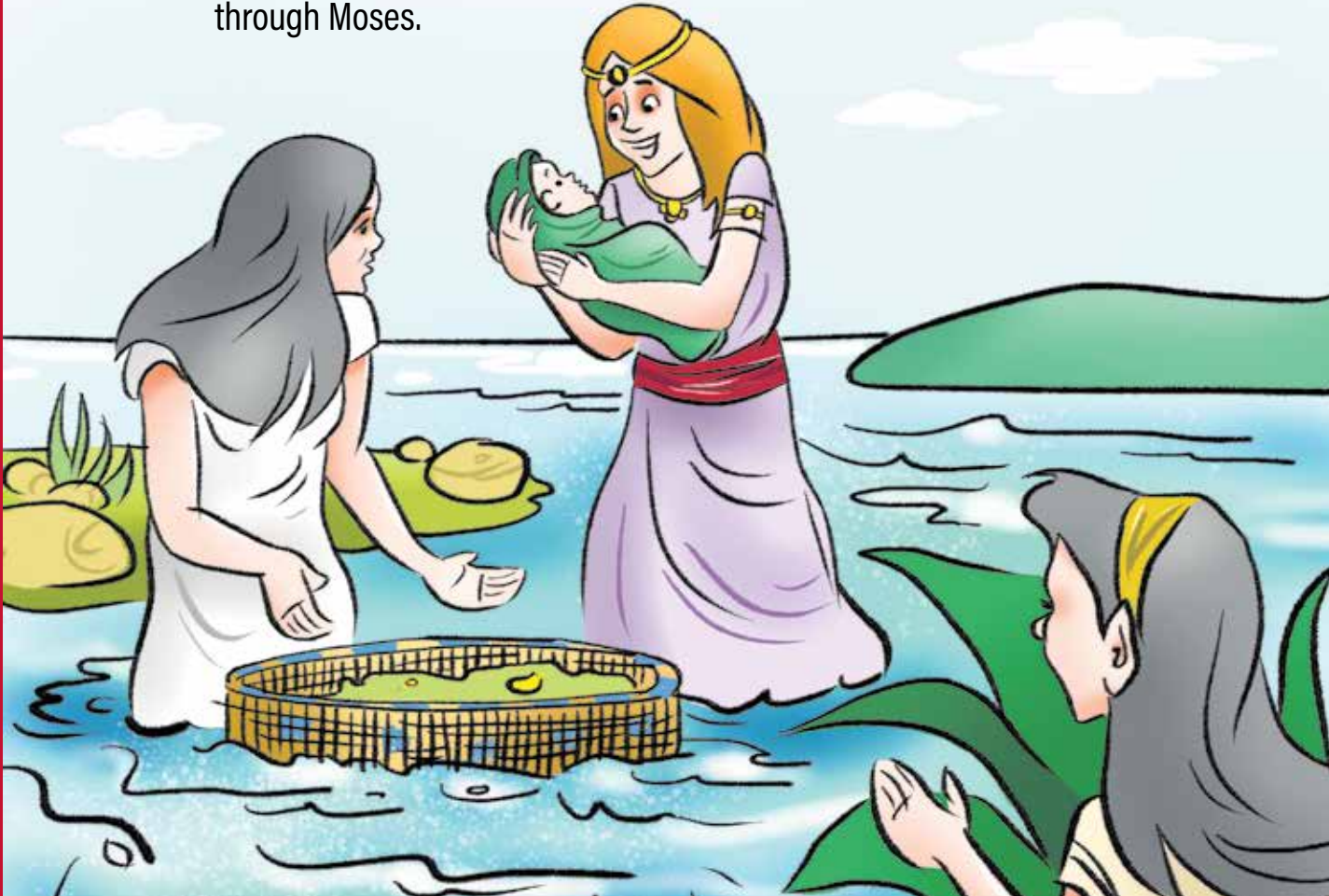




The Call of Moses

After Jacob and his sons moved to Egypt to be with Joseph, God continued to protect and bless them. He would ensure their return to the Promised Land through Moses.

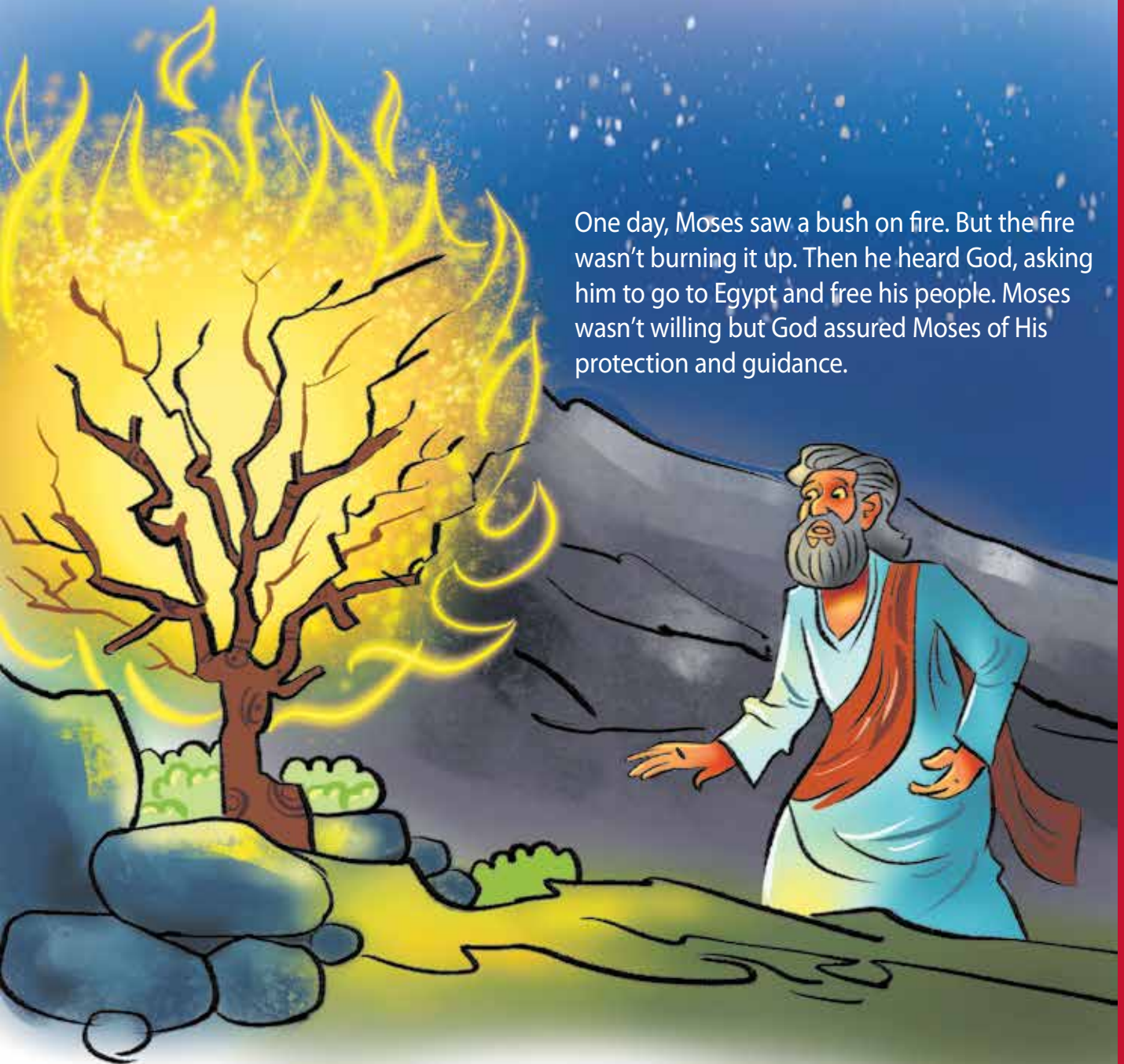


The Egyptians had enslaved the Israelites who had grown in numbers, and a new king ordered that every Israelite new born male child be killed. An Israelite woman gave birth to a son, put him in a basket of reeds and placed it at the edge of the river asking her older daughter Mariam to keep watch. The king's daughter found the baby and decided to bring him up as her own. Mariam asked if she needed a nurse and called her mother. The child was named Moses and grew up in the king's palace. Years later the young Moses came across an Egyptian beating up an Israelite and killed him. Fearing punishment, he ran away into a desert.



Know Now: The meaning of the word 'Moses' suggested in the Old Testament is "drew out" from Hebrew mashah (Exodus 2:10). The biblical Moses was drawn out of the Nile by the pharaoh's daughter and adopted into the royal family, at a time when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.

Painting: Burning bush is a 17th century painting by Sébastien Bourdon in the Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia and Saint Petersburg is considered the cultural capital of Russia.



One day, Moses saw a bush on fire. But the fire wasn't burning it up. Then he heard God, asking him to go to Egypt and free his people. Moses wasn't willing but God assured Moses of His protection and guidance.



Then the Lord said, "I have seen how cruelly my people are being treated in Egypt; I have heard them cry out to be rescued from their slave drivers. I know all about their sufferings, and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt to a spacious land, one which is rich and fertile and in which the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites now live. I have indeed heard the cry of my people, and I see how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now I am sending you to the king of Egypt so that you can lead my people out of his country."

Exodus 3: 7-10

Watch *'The Ten Commandments'* at home with your parents and other family members. Do you know Moses is an important prophet in other religions - not only Christianity but Judaism and Islam too. The Jews call him Moshe Rabbenu in Hebrew meaning 'Moses search our Teacher/Rabbi,' and the Muslims call him Musa. In fact Moses is known by ten different names – you can find out and share with your class!





See the burning bush on Page 35. Here is an outline of the same image. Can you draw the fire and colour to match with the original picture?

