**The Sinai Covenant with Moses**

**Background Information:**

* Moses was born during a time when the Israelites were being oppressed by the Egyptians
* Israelites were descendants of Abraham
* Jacob (grandson of Abraham) was given the name Israel by God
* Therefore, Jacob’s people became known as the Israelites, “the People of God”
* The Pharaoh (Egyptian ruler) was afraid of the numbers and might of the growing population of Israelites, so he had them put under extreme bondage and slavery
* The Pharaoh then put out an order to have all the male Israelite babies killed, but to let the girls live
* He feared that they were growing too large in number and would one day rebel and take over
* Moses’ mother put him in a basket and sent him down the river in an attempt to save his life
* The daughter of Pharaoh saw the child and took Moses in as her own
* She named him Moses, because it means “drawn out of the water”
* When Moses was grown up, he learned of his Israelite heritage
* After seeing a slave being beaten by an Egyptian, he intervened and killed the Egyptian
* Moses then fled into the dessert to escape being punished
* Moses marries Zipporah

**The Burning Bush:**

* While Moses was out tending sheep, he saw a bush burning but not being consumed by the fire.
* Curious, he approached and God spoke to him.
* God said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, The God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. I have heard my peoples’ cry and am sending you to free them from the Pharaoh.”

**Moses’ Struggles:**

* Moses spent many attempts trying to get the Pharaoh to release the Israelites, but he would not listen
* God sent down ten plagues to convince the Pharaoh
* The plagues were different forms of punishment given to the Egyptians

**The Last Plague:**

* The last plague became known as “The Passover”
* The Israelites were to smear their doors with the blood of a lamb, in order for the spirit to pass over their house and leave them alone.
* Those houses who did not have the blood on the door had their first born sons struck down by the Lord

**The Escape:**

* Unfortunately, Moses and his people did not get very far before the Pharaoh decided to pursue and kill them
* The angel of God made it possible for Moses and the Israelites to cross the sea onto dry land while the Egyptians drowned

**Doubts:**

* Moses and his people were hungry after so much travelling
* God sent them bread from heaven
* The Israelites questioned God but God continued to send signs that He heard their cries

**The Sinai Covenant:**

* Moses spoke directly to God at Mount Sinai
* God gave Moses the Ten Commandments –known as the **Sinai Covenant**

**Moses’ Anger:**

* When Moses returned from the mountain, he found his people worshipping false gods
* God was furious with them but Moses implored the Lord to save them
* When Moses saw them worshipping a golden calf, he dropped the tablets with the commandments on them in anger
* Moses called together those who were on the Lord’s side and told them to kill those who were not
* They killed about three thousand
* Moses went back up the mountain and asked for forgiveness for his people

**God’s Commands:**

* God tells Moses he will punish them for their sins
* God tells Moses to go to the land which he gave Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
* Once Moses and the people reach the promised land, God tells Moses to cut two new tablets of stone and He will write the original commandments on them
* God makes the covenant with Moses and His people

