

Name: _____

Parashat Shemot: Why Moshe?

Moshe Rabbenu was the greatest prophet in the history of the Jewish people. He attained a close relationship to God. In some ways he became angelic: he spent forty days and night without eating or drinking, his face shone such a bright light that the people were unable to glance upon him unless he wore a mask, and *Chazal* explain that the reason why his grave remains unknown is to prevent people from worshipping it.

In this lesson, we will try to understand why God chose Moshe to be the leader of the Jewish people. Was it because God created him super-human, or was it because he displayed certain characteristics that enabled him to become who he became?

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Read chapter 2, verses 1-2. Moshe grew up in Pharaoh's household. What kind of education do you think he would have received there? Explain your answer.

2. Read the following verses. What do they tell us about Moshe?

a) Ch.2:19

b) Ch.2: 21

c) Ch. 4: 24-25

3. What hints does the Torah give us that Moshe was aware of his Jewish upbringing? Where would he have gained this awareness? Explain your answer.

4. Using the information you have studied, do you think that Moshe was a suitable choice as leader for the Jewish people? Explain your answer.

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5. The Torah tells of three episodes whereby Moshe in his youth, played a decisive role. Moshe's actions in these stories will help us understand why God chose him. Using the table below explain tensions in the stories.

Episode	Verses	Moshe's actions	Nationalities of the characters	Repercussions
1				
2				
3				

6. a) What is the common theme of each episode?
b) What do these episodes teach us about Moshe's character? Explain.

7. Describe Moshe's character below, specifically his national identity and his moral attributes.

8. Why do you think God chose Moshe? Explain your answer.

Shabbat Shalom!