

## Ushpizin Info Sheets

### Day 4: Moshe

#### **Moshe's story:**

Moshe was the son of Amram and Yocheved and the younger brother of Aharon and Miriam. At the time of his birth, the Israelites were living in Egypt as slaves and Pharaoh had decreed to drown all of their sons. Moshe's mother and sister, who were both midwives, devised a plan to save him. After his birth, Yocheved hid him at home and then she and Miriam placed baby Moshe in a waterproof basket and set him afloat in the Nile river. Miriam kept an eye on him as he was retrieved from the river by Pharaoh's daughter, who raised him as her own son in the palace. When he grew up in the palace, Moshe saw the suffering of the Israelites and got very upset one day when he saw an Egyptian beating a slave. Moshe killed the Egyptian to save the slave and then ran away from Egypt, fleeing to Midian. In Midian, Moshe married Zipporah, had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, and became a shepherd for his father-in-law's sheep. During this time, God revealed himself to Moshe through a burning bush and told Moshe to go back to Egypt and help save the Israelites from Pharaoh. Moshe hesitated, saying that he was not worthy and not a man of words, so God sent Moshe's brother, Aharon, to help him speak to Pharaoh. Moshe and his family returned to Egypt and confronted Pharaoh, who refused to listen to their requests to "let my people go." The Ten Plagues then were brought upon the Egyptians, starting with turning water into blood and ending with the death of every firstborn Egyptian. Finally, Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go, but as they were on their journey, Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after the Israelites until they reached the Red Sea. At that point, the Red Sea miraculously split, allowing the Israelites to cross onto dry land, while the Egyptians drowned in the sea. The Israelites were able to continue on their way, later receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai, with Moshe carrying the tablets. Moshe continued as a strong leader for the next 40 years while they wandered in the desert before finally making it to *Eretz Yisrael*. Throughout this 40-year period, the Israelites complained and rebelled multiple times, testing Moshe in many ways but he continued to endure as a strong leader, though he died right before the people entered *Eretz Yisrael*. Moshe's mentee, Yehoshua, took over in his place and led the people through conquering the land and continuing Moshe's legacy.

**Moshe's character traits:** Moshe is known for his humility and as the person throughout history who had the closest relationship with God, speaking to God "face-to-face." He is still thought of today as the greatest Jewish leader of all time.