

Moses 1- Exodus 3:1-8, 10-14

THE POINT

Focus:

- God is Holy.
- God is able to do miraculous things.

Application:

When God calls us to do something, we obey even if we do not fully understand.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- whiteboard or 2 large sheets of paper
- 2 different colors of markers

Content:

When something happens that isn't the natural, scientific thing to happen, we call it a miracle. When Jesus turned the water into wine, that was a miracle.

What other miracles from the Bible can you think of?

Using 1 color on 1/2 the white board or on 1 piece of paper, draw a picture to represent each miracle or write a word or two that the class comes up with.

Each of these things is a work of God that shows his power and might!

God also gives us directions in the Bible, telling us the best way to live. What are some of the directions God gives us?

In your alternate color, add these things to the other 1/2 of the board or the other sheet of paper.

So we see that God is all-powerful and holy and loving through his miracles. And we see that he gives us directions on how to live through other parts of the Bible.

Now, how many of you have ever disobeyed one of God's good guidelines on this list? Hold up the 2nd sheet.

Even though we see God's power and might, we still sometime have trouble trusting his plan! We still think we have a better plan than obeying him! In our story today we're going to see an example of that situation, and see how God responds to it.

STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Flameless LED Candle*
- Bibles for students to follow along if they would like
- Printed illustrations of the story of the burning bush (available in children's Bible story books or online). For a collection of illustrations that reflect global Christianity, visit [Worship With Children's Pinterest boards!](#)

Optional: If your students need something to fidget with, invite them to make a bush like the one they hear about in the story out of brown pipe-cleaners. Tell them that the focus is on listening to the story, but some people listen and imagine better if they have something to do quietly with their hands.

Background for the teacher:

This week we're going to utilize our imagination as we listen to the story. After every few verses, there will be instructions for you to read aloud to the class as they use their imagination to enter the story. This is a wonderful skill to cultivate for children as they will be listening to biblical texts in church for the rest of their lives!

Optional: Have the kids take their shoes off before the story. Moses is instructed to take his shoes off in the presence of the Lord. This tactile illustration will reinforce this portion for the kids.

This week in our story we're going to use our imaginations. How many of you can create amazing pictures in your imaginations when you close your eyes? You can imagine seeing things and hearing things, you can imagine smelling things and feeling things. As we read the story today we're going to close our eyes at some different points and use our imaginations. We're going to be super-quiet so that we don't interrupt the imagination of our classmates. Are you ready?

*In many stories, we use a candle to signify God's presence in the story, and God's presence through the Holy Spirit in our classroom. God guided the Israelites with a flame by night, and showed the presence of his Holy Spirit to the church at Pentecost through a flame. Many churches around the world continue to practice this tradition by lighting a "Christ light" candle at Sunday Services and baptisms.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Preface the story with this: **Last week we talked about how God provided for Abraham, and prevented him from sacrificing Isaac. God had promised Abraham that he would have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. This week we're fast-forwarding to when Abraham's many descendants lived as slaves in Egypt. They prayed to God that he would deliver them, and in our story today, God shares his very special plan with one man, named Moses.**

Exodus 3:1-8, 10-14

Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro was the priest of Midian. Moses led the flock to the western side of the desert. He came to Horeb. It was the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him from inside a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire. But it didn't burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I'll go over and see this strange sight. Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

Let's all close our eyes and imagine that we're with Moses. We're out in the hot desert and we see a bush that looks like it's on fire. It takes a little while to walk over to it- the desert is hot and big! ... What a strange thing to see. Do you see it in your imagination? It's a bush with flames of fire, but it's not burning up like wood in a fire place. Moses doesn't know what to think.

4 The Lord saw that Moses had gone over to look. So God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am," Moses said.

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground."

6 He continued, "I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob." When Moses heard that, he turned his face away. He was afraid to look at God.

Let's close our eyes again while we think about this. Imagine the bush again, and then imagine the voice of the Lord coming from it. The Lord says that he is the same God that Moses' Israelite family followed. He must have been very powerful and very miraculous. No wonder Moses was frightened! As we return to the story, let's light our candle that symbolizes God's presence. God is with Moses, and God is here with us!

7 The Lord said, "I have seen how my people are suffering in Egypt. I have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers. I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them up out of that land. I will bring them into a good land. It has a lot of room. It is a land that has plenty of milk and honey. ... 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh. I want you to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. They are my people."

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Let's go back to the scene in our imaginations: The Lord is talking with Moses from the burning bush and tells Moses that it is time for the Israelites to leave Egypt. This is great news! They will no longer be slaves! The Lord is going to send Moses to talk to Pharaoh, though, and Pharaoh is the most powerful person in the whole land. Pharaoh will be very angry! Now instead of being afraid of the Lord, Moses is afraid of his task!

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11 But Moses spoke to God. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" he said. "Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 God said, "I will be with you. I will give you a sign. It will prove that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, all of you will worship me on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the people of Israel. Suppose I say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' And suppose they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. Here is what you must say to the Israelites. Tell them, 'I am has sent me to you.'"

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Let's use our imaginations one last time: Moses is talking with the Lord God. He knows the Lord is holy and powerful. He also knows that the instructions the Lord gave him are very hard. Moses is scared! Because he is scared, he asks the Lord for help. The Lord says that He will give Moses a special sign to show Pharaoh. He says he will give Moses a special name to share with the Israelites.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what Moses felt when He realized he was talking with the Lord...

I wonder what God thought of Moses response...

I wonder what Moses thought about when he left the bush and returned to his flock...

I wonder what the Israelites thought when they heard Moses say "I am has sent me." ...

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.