

LESSON 28

God Calls Moses

EXODUS 2:11 – 4:17



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD CALLED HIS SERVANT MOSES TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM BONDAGE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Exodus 3 from the Scriptures or read story 28, “God Calls Moses,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Throw Down Your Staff
SUPPLIES:
✓ a four-foot section of a tree branch to use as a staff
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
Holiness
SUPPLIES:
✓ a large white, plastic-backed paper tablecloth
✓ a disposable drop cloth larger than the tablecloth
✓ aluminum pan
✓ roll of duct tape
✓ red water-based paint
✓ a sponge and water-filled bucket for clean up
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ coloring page 28—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Burning Bush
SUPPLIES:
✓ two branches from the same bush—one fresh, one scorched. (Put one in water to keep it fresh. Scorch the other with a torch or small fire, extinguishing the fire quickly to maintain the integrity of the branch.)
✓ paper bag to hide the branches until you are ready to use them

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God’s plan requires God’s timing—Moses was brought up in Pharaoh’s house, but he knows he is an Israelite. He also suspects that God has called him to save his fellow Israelites. He kills an Egyptian who is beating an Israelite and expects his people to see this as a sign that God has called him to rescue them. The people however don’t see the connection and in the end mock him. Moses is right about what God has called him to do, but he cannot bring it about by his own efforts. He only succeeds in making himself an outcast, and he has to flee into the wilderness to save his own life.

During the many years that Moses is in the wilderness, the Israelites begin to cry out to God for help, and God hears them. It is almost time for Moses to begin freeing the people.

God reveals his plan to Moses—Rather than speaking in a dream or a vision, God speaks directly to Moses. God’s voice comes from a bush that is on fire but not burning up! Moses is warned not to come close and to remove his sandals because the dirt near the bush is holy. Moses hides his face when God speaks. In the Bible, the presence of God always produces fear and humility.

When he had lived in Egypt, Moses had thought he was all ready to save God’s people. Now, Moses is much more humble about his own abilities (Exodus 3:11). But God is calling Moses and knows exactly what is going to happen. He knows how Pharaoh will resist. He knows how that resistance will be overcome. And he knows that the Israelites will escape from Egypt with the silver and gold of the Egyptians.

God works salvation through the hand of a man—The God who can perform the wonders we see in this passage could easily save Israel without using Moses. So why does God need Moses at all?

God does not need Moses to save the children of Israel. But he chooses to use him because God loves to teach us through everything he does. God uses every detail of his plan to point the

world to Jesus. Moses is a mediator between God and man, and he is a judge to the wickedness of Pharaoh. This points to the final and perfect Judge and Mediator: Christ Jesus.

In this passage, we also see Moses objecting to God's plan. Moses is afraid he does not have the ability to do what God has told him to do. He is afraid the Israelites will not believe him. His doubt and lack of faith angers God, but God promises to make up for Moses' weaknesses through Aaron.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Hebrews 11:23–26.

Verse 26 tells us two things. First, Moses believed that God would send the world a Savior through the Israelites. This Savior was Jesus, who was born more than thirteen hundred years later. Also, the verse tells us that Moses wanted to be part of God's plan of salvation more than he wanted all the pleasures and riches he could have in Pharaoh's household.

God gave grace to Moses to see these things. So to Moses, all the earthly treasures of Egypt were meaningless.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW

5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read Exodus 3 from the Scriptures or read story 28, "God Calls Moses," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Throw Down Your Staff

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a four-foot section of a tree branch to use as a staff

The object of this lesson is to help the children see just how different the Lord is from us. The Bible tells us that he is holy and even the ground near him is holy. We, on the other hand, are not holy—we are sinful.

In a very matter-of-fact way ask for a volunteer to help you act out Exodus 4:1–5 by playing the part of Moses.

Go through the story just as it is written. Tell him to throw down his staff. After he throws down the staff and nothing happens, pick it up and chide him lightly explaining what the text says and then tell him to try again. Do this two or three more times, each time goading him to follow the story and blaming him for not turning the staff into a snake. Just play the role and don't give in.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why didn't {volunteer's name} turn the staff into a snake like he was supposed to?
({volunteer's name} is not God.)
- Did Moses have the power to turn the staff into a snake or was it God?
(It was God, not Moses.)
- How is God different from us?
(God is holy; we are not. God is all-powerful; we are not.)
- If Moses could not perform this miracle, why did God use him?
(It was God's intention to use a man to deliver Israel out of Egypt. Moses would model for the Israelites and even for us God's plan to bring salvation through a deliverer who would lead his people out of captivity into the promised land. For the Israelites, captivity was bondage in Egypt. For us, captivity is bondage to sin because of our sinful hearts, which we inherited from Adam.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2

15 MIN

Holiness

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large white, plastic-backed paper tablecloth
- ✓ a disposable drop cloth larger than the tablecloth
- ✓ aluminum pan
- ✓ roll of duct tape
- ✓ red water-based paint
- ✓ a sponge and water-filled bucket for clean up

Spread out the drop cloth and then the tablecloth with the paper side up on the floor in front of the class. Tape the drop cloth and tablecloth down so they cannot slide. Make a large smear of red paint in the aluminum pan.

Ask for a volunteer and bring him up in front of the class. Ask him if he has ever sinned. Of course he will answer yes, at which point ask him to remove his shoes and socks and step into the red paint, explaining that the paint represents his sin.

Ask him to jump, run, or jog across the tablecloth (longwise), trying to get the least amount of red paint (sin) on the cloth.

Use the sponge and bucket to wash his feet after the exercise.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Was {volunteer’s name} successful at not getting paint on the cloth?
(No, no matter how hard he tried, he still got some paint on the cloth.)
- What would be more difficult: living a sinless life or getting across the tablecloth without getting any red paint on it?
(It would be more difficult to get through life without sinning. Everyone sins.)

Read Isaiah 1:18. Explain to the children that God uses the color red as an indicator of our sin. Tell them that our lives are like the tablecloth and the paint like our sin. We all have red on

our lives but by Jesus' death on the cross we can have our sin removed if we trust in his work to take our punishment.

- What does God promise to do with our red-stained sin?
(God promises to make it white again.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 28—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What color should the bush be if it is not burning up?
(green)

Have the children color the bush green.

- What color are the flames?
(yellow and orange)

Have the children color the flames.

- What did Moses take off his feet?
(sandals)

Have the children draw a pair of sandals off to the side.

- Why did God ask Moses to take off his sandals?
(God told him the ground was holy. Taking his sandals off was one way that Moses could show his respect for the power and holiness of God.)

CLOSING PRAYER

5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Burning Bush

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two branches from the same bush—one fresh, one scorched. (Put one in water to keep it fresh. Scorch the other with a torch or small fire, extinguishing the fire quickly to maintain the integrity of the branch.)
- ✓ paper bag to hide the branches until you are ready to use them.

Read the story of the burning bush. When you get to the part where Moses sees the bush (Exodus 3:2), pull out the scorched branch and pass it around the class. Tell the children that this is what a bush normally looks like when it has been burned. Then tell them that there was something very special about the bush Moses saw. It was on fire, but it did not burn. Pull out the green branch and pass it around. The children will be amazed after seeing the charred branch to see the green one. Talk about how amazing God is and what a wonderful sign he gave Moses to help him believe.

LESSON 28 - GOD CALLS MOSES

