

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** **15 MIN**
I Can’t Do It on My Own
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ two parking cones
 - ✓ a soft foam soccer ball
 - ✓ two blindfolds
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **20 MIN**
What’s Your Name Again?
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
The Burning Bush
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **20 MIN**
Three-Act Play
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ staff and costume (cloak) for Moses
 - ✓ miscellaneous costumes and props like a few old towels and flat sheets, pieces of fabric for shawls, a small sledge hammer, and a branch from off a bush (optional)

TOTAL 105 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Holy

The word *holy* refers to God's purity and righteousness—everything God does is right and just. It also speaks of God being completely different and set apart. There is “none like you ... O Lord” (Psalm 86:8). Often objects set apart to the Lord are also called holy.

The ground around the burning bush was holy because God's presence was there. Psalm 24:3 and other verses testify that people cannot stand upon God's holy hill. In John 6:69, Jesus is called the Holy One. God is so holy that Isaiah reports that the angels sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD” (Isaiah 6:3). Our sin robs us of any attempt at holiness, and yet we are charged to be holy as God is holy (Leviticus 11:45).

We can't live a perfectly holy life here on earth while we live in sinful bodies. But one day in heaven when our remaining sin is taken away our bodies will be changed to be like Jesus' glorified body. Then we will be perfect as God is perfect for we will fully be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

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 15 MIN

I Can’t Do It on My Own

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two parking cones
- ✓ a soft foam soccer ball
- ✓ two blindfolds

This object lesson will illustrate how in spite of Moses’ limitations, God used him.

Choose four volunteers (two will be blindfolded players and two will be coaches). Set the cones up against a solid wall five feet apart. One blindfolded player is the goalie. Though unable to see, this player will receive instructions from a coach as to which way to move so as to block the ball.

The second player, also blindfolded, tries to score a goal guided by the commands of the second coach.

Position the players and then signal the start. Record how many goals are scored in five attempts. Switch sides. The team with the greatest number of goals is the winner.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Did the blindfolded players have the ability to perform their tasks without help?

(Yes, they could have tried without help but would not likely have done well.)

- What role did the coaches play?
(The coaches gave instructions on what to do and when to do it.)
- How is the relationship between the blindfolded players and the coaches similar to the relationship between Moses and God when Moses was sent out by God to deliver Israel from Egypt?
(Moses received the help of God, who told him what to say and gave him power to do miraculous signs on God's behalf.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 20 MIN

What's Your Name Again?

Divide the class into groups of four to six children. Have each group come up with a short humorous skit in which a new kid in school is greeted by classmates who ask him what his name is. He responds by saying that his name is "I am who I am." The skits should be short. Give the children ten minutes and encourage them to ad-lib.

After the skits, ask the children the following questions:

- Why did God give the name he did?
(God cannot be summed up in a single name as we can. By identifying himself as "I am who I am," God is not limited to a finite name.)
- How does the name "I am who I am" reflect God's qualities?
("I am who I am" reflects God's qualities in three ways: [1] it does not have a beginning or end but hints at the eternal nature of God; [2] it hints at God's holiness in that he is completely different from man; and [3] it speaks of God's greatness in that he cannot be described by a single name.)

It is not until Jesus comes that God is known by a single name. The name Jesus represents all that Jesus is and does while on earth. Therefore, the name Jesus represents his servanthood, humility, and power (Philippians 2:5–11).

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 15 MIN

The Burning Bush

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper

Have the children draw a picture of the burning bush that was not consumed. They can use colored pencils to bring both the greens of the leaves mixed with the oranges of the fire into their drawing.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Three-Act Play

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ staff and costume (cloak) for Moses
- ✓ miscellaneous costumes and props like a few old towels and flat sheets, pieces of fabric for shawls, a small sledge hammer, and a branch from off a bush (optional)

Divide the children up into three groups. Each group will perform one of the following three consecutive skits.

1. Moses killing the Egyptian (Exodus 2:11–14)
2. Moses escaping to Midian (Exodus 2:15–25)
3. Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3:1–9)

Since Moses is the common character in all three skits, if you pass the staff and cloak from one person to the next, it will bring continuity to the different acts.