

# GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4



*God called His servant Moses to deliver His people from bondage.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**God appeared to Moses in the burning bush** – Rather than in a dream or vision, God revealed Himself in person to Moses in the burning bush and spoke to him one to one. Lest Moses think he was equal to the task of conversing with God, he was warned to take off his sandals since the very ground he walked upon was holy. Moses hid his face and was afraid to look upon the face of God. When we are confronted with the holiness of God, the human response is always the same: we are humbled.

**God revealed His plan of salvation** – God called Moses with a clear purpose of what He was going to do to save His people. God did not simply send Moses into Egypt to try to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, God knew exactly what would happen. The Lord knew that Pharaoh would not let the people go. And He knew the Israelites would leave with the silver and gold of the Egyptians (Exodus 3:21).

**God's worked salvation through the hand of a man** – Clearly the God who can perform the wonders illustrated in this story could have judged Pharaoh and saved Israel quite capably without Moses. The life of Moses points to another Judge and Mediator between God and man: the man Christ Jesus. So, in God's wisdom, He took initiative to use the man Moses to deliver His people. Moses objected, fearing his own inadequacies. By objecting, he doubted God. God responded to Moses in anger but promised to make up for Moses' weaknesses by giving Moses and Aaron the words to say (Exodus 4:15).

## GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4

### Where Is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Amazingly the writer of Hebrews tells us that Moses saw Christ in his choice to forsake Egypt and identify with his people, the Israelites. God gave grace to Moses to see a future plan of God where all the earthly treasures of Egypt would be meaningless.

Moses was called by God to deliver Israel from the oppression of Egypt. Like Jesus, Moses was to go to a reluctant people demonstrating the power of God through miraculous signs. At the burning bush, Moses became God's spokesman to reveal the will and plan of God to His people. Ultimately, Jesus became the perfect mediator between us and God. Through the Bible, His Word, He reveals the plan of God to us.

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

**Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.**

**Bible Passage: Isaiah 8:14-15**

#### **Connecting the passage to Christ:**

This passage is directly quoted and attributed to Christ by Paul in Romans 9:33. It is a description of Israel's unbelief. Jesus came to bring a spiritual salvation from sin and death. But Israel was looking for a political savior to restore the earthly kingdom. When Jesus, who many thought was the Messiah, would not become a political savior, He became the object of their unbelief and ridicule.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

- How was Jesus a stumbling stone for Israel? (Israel prided themselves on obedience to the law and being God's chosen people. Jesus was bringing a different message. Righteousness comes not from the law but through faith by grace to all who would believe.)
- Is Jesus a stumbling stone or a rock of offense today? (Yes. When Jesus says that He is the only way to the father and eternal life, He offends many who would like to believe there are many ways to God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 tells us that the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God.)

## GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

#### I CAN'T DO IT ON MY OWN

##### Supplies

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

The object of the illustration is to show how in spite of Moses' limitations, God used him.

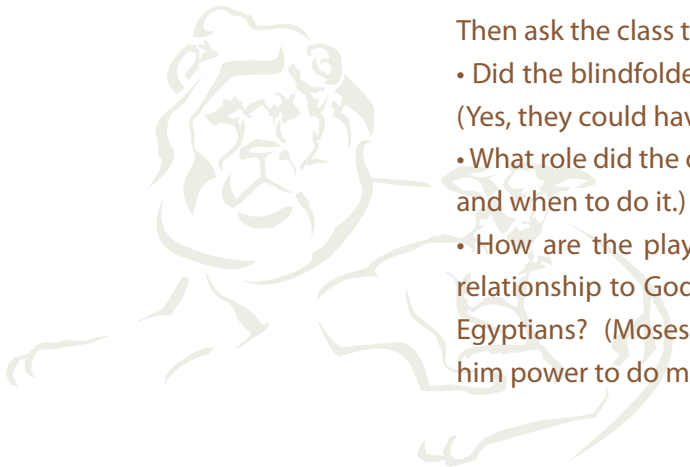
Choose four volunteers (two as players to be blindfolded and two as coaches to give instructions). Set the cones up against a solid wall 5 feet apart. One player blindfolded is the goalie. Though they cannot see, their coach should instruct them as to which direction the ball is coming so that they can block it.

The second player is blindfolded like the goalie and he is trying to score a goal guided by the commands of his 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 them instructions on what to do and when to do it.)
- How are the players and their relationship to the coaches like Moses and his relationship to God, being sent out by God to deliver Israel from the hand of the Egyptians? (Moses received the help of God, who told him what to say and gave him power to do miraculous signs on God's behalf.)



## GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4

### THROW DOWN YOUR STAFF

#### Supplies

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

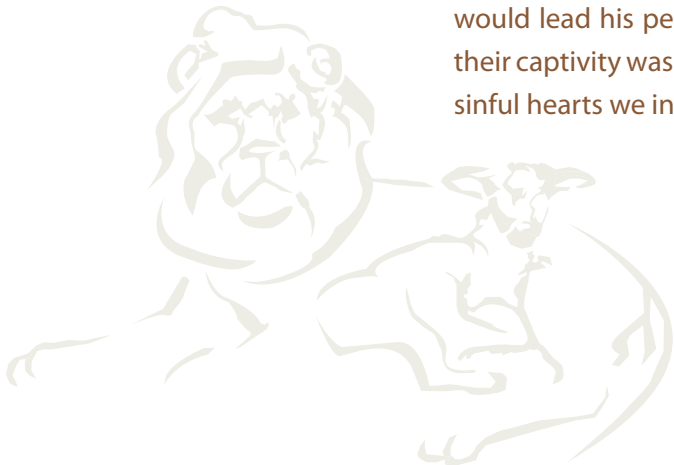
The object of this lesson is to help the children see just how different the Lord is from us. The Bible tells us that He is holy and the ground that He presides upon is holy just from being near Him. We, on the other hand, are not holy – we are ordinary and sinful.

In a very matter-of-fact way ask for a volunteer to help you act out this passage of scripture (Exodus 4:1-5).

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} not 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 than 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, their captivity was bondage in Egypt. For us, our captivity is bondage to sin and our sinful hearts we inherited from Adam.)



## GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4

### HOLINESS

#### Supplies

- a large white
- plastic backed
- paper tablecloth
- aluminum pan
- roll of duct tape
- red water-based paint
- a larger drop cloth
- a sponge and 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 them up in front of the class. Ask them if they have ever sinned. Of course they will answer yes, at which point ask them to remove their shoes and socks and to step in the red paint, telling them the paint represents their sin.

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

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

Then ask the class the following questions:

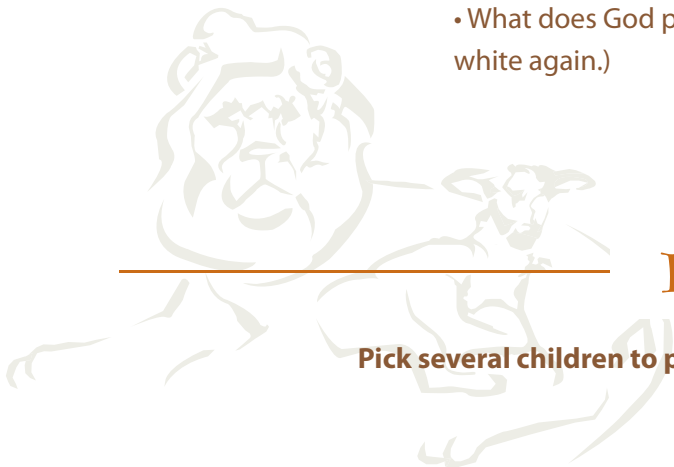
- What happened when the person tried to avoid getting paint on the cloth? (No matter how hard they tried, they still got some paint on the cloth.)
- What would be more difficult: living a sinless life or getting across the tablecloth without getting any red on it? (It would be more difficult to get 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.)

### PRAYER

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



## GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4

### IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of the burning bush that was not consumed. Have the children use colored pencils to bring both the greens of the leaves mixed with the oranges of the fire into their drawing.

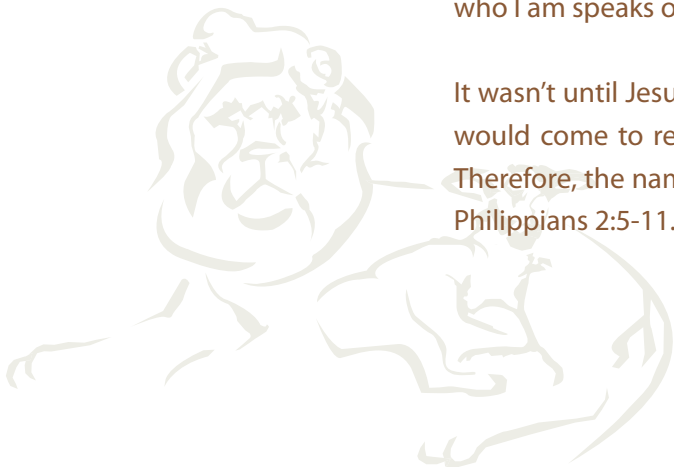
### FOR OLDER GRADES

Divide the class into groups of 4-6 children. Have each group assigned to come up with a short humorous skit where a new kid in school is greeted by his classmates and they ask him what his name is. He responds by saying his name is "I am who I am." The skits should be short. Give the children ten minutes and encourage them to ad-lib. Ask the groups for a few volunteers to perform their skit.

Afterwards ask the children the following questions:

- Why did God give the name that He gave? (God cannot be summed up in a single name as man can. By saying I am who I am, God is not limiting Himself to a finite name as man has.)
- How does the name "I am who I am" reflect God's qualities? (I am who I am does not have a beginning or end, but hints at the eternal nature of God. I am who I am also hints at God's holiness in that He is completely different from man. Finally, I am who I am speaks of God's greatness in that He cannot be known in a single name.)

It wasn't until Jesus came that God is known by a single name. The name of Jesus would come to represent all that Jesus was and did while He was on the earth. Therefore, the name of Jesus represents His servanthood, humility and power, see Philippians 2:5-11.



## GOD CALLED MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 3-4

### 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. Lord there is "none like you," see 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 a man cannot even 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 6:2). Our sin robs us of any attempt at holiness, and yet we are charged to be holy as God is holy (Leviticus 11:45).

This is not possible except in the life to come when our remaining sin will be taken away and we will be glorified and live with Christ in heaven. Then we will be perfect as God is perfect, for we will fully be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

