

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 13
Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3 and 4)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The happiness that the Lord can give us is proportional to how hard we try to learn the truths from the Word and live according to them.
- B. Sometimes it is hard to do what we know is right.
- C. If we would go to heaven, we must love the Lord and the neighbor as ourselves.
- D. The Lord protected Moses and prepared him for the great work of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- E. Moses represents the Lord as to His Divine laws, especially the Ten Commandments.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. Once there was a tiny baby who was hidden in a river, lying in an ark made of bulrushes. Then Pharaoh's daughter came to the river and found him. He was a little Hebrew baby. Pharaoh had ordered that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed, but Pharaoh's daughter adopted the little baby instead, saving his life. She raised him as her son, giving him a good education in the palace. Who was this Hebrew boy? (Moses)
2. When Moses grew up, he tried to help his people, the Hebrews. (Hebrews is another name for the children of Israel.) One day Moses killed an Egyptian man who was hurting a Hebrew man. Pharaoh heard about it and tried to kill Moses. So Moses ran away from Egypt and went to live in a land called Midian. He married the daughter of Jethro, the priest of Midian. And he lived in Midian for forty years taking care of Jethro's sheep.
3. The Lord had a special Job for Moses to do. That's why He saved his life and caused him to be well educated in Pharaoh's palace. Do you think that the special job was tending Jethro's sheep? (No) One day, as Moses was caring for the sheep, the Lord spoke to him and told him of the special job.

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B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Exodus 3:1-20
2. Summarize Exodus 4:1-20, 27-31 (Tell in your own words).

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What was Moses doing on Horeb? (Caring for Jethro's sheep.)
2. What strange sight did Moses see there? (A bush that was flaming with fire, but was not burning up. And the angel of the Lord appeared within it.)
3. When Moses went to look at the burning bush, the Lord called to him. What did the Lord say? ("Moses, Moses!") What did Moses reply? ("Here I am.")
4. The Lord introduced Himself to Moses, saying, "I am the God of your father— the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." What two things did Moses do to show respect for the Lord? (Hid his face and took his sandals off his feet)
5. What did the Lord want Moses to do? (Go to Pharaoh so he could bring the children of Israel out of Egypt)
6. Was Moses eager to do this job? (No; he didn't think he could do it.)
7. The Lord reassured Moses by saying, "I will certainly be with you." Did Moses have any more doubts? (Yes, he still worried that he would fail.)
8. What name did the Lord call Himself when Moses asked His name? ("I am who I am," or, "I am." The name "Jehovah" is a Hebrew way to say, "I am.")
9. Did the Lord say that Pharaoh would want to let the children of Israel leave? (No; He said Pharaoh would not want to let them go.)
10. The Lord gave Moses the power to do miracles. What three miracles did the Lord tell Moses to do? (1 - rod turned into serpent; 2 - make his hand leprous, then well again; 3 - pour water from the river onto dry land and turn it into blood)
11. But Moses was still afraid that he would fail. He asked the Lord to send someone else to do the job. The Lord answered that Aaron, Moses' brother, would help him. What would Aaron do? (Aaron could speak well, so he would speak for Moses to Pharaoh and to the children of Israel.)
12. Was Moses then willing to obey the Lord? (Yes)
13. What did the children of Israel do when Aaron told them that the Lord had visited them and would help them? (They bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord.)

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D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord prepared Moses to lead the children of Israel back to Canaan. When He called Moses to do this great task, Moses was living in Midian working as a shepherd. He was reluctant to leave his comfortable life and attempt the great task the Lord set before him.
2. Can you think of someone else in the Word who was called by the Lord? He was just a boy when he heard the Lord calling him. (Samuel) The Lord called, "Samuel," and Samuel answered, "Here I am." The Lord gave Samuel a special job, too. He was to be a prophet of the Lord, telling the children of Israel what the Lord wanted them to do.
3. The Lord calls each one of us. He tells us to do what is right so He can lead us to heaven. Do we hear His voice calling us by name as Moses and Samuel did? (No) The Lord calls us in His Word. Sometimes it is hard to do what is right. Perhaps we make excuses just as Moses did: "I am too tired to read the Word." "I hit you because you always hit me!" "Emptying the trash is too hard a job for me." "I am too busy to go to church." There are many excuses we can give when we don't want to serve the Lord. But we will be happier if we try to do what is right. And the Lord will help us just as He helped Moses.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "May we learn, O Lord of life," Hymnal #219
2. "All that the Lord has spoken," Hymnal #245
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'howah," Hymnal #246 (Hebrew version of #245).
4. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," Hymnal #169

B. Activities

C. Project: THE BURNING BUSH

1. Text: "When the Lord saw that Moses turned aside to look, He called to him from the midst of the bush." (Exodus 3:4)
2. **Method #1** - Using heavy white paper, have children draw the bush with felt markers (green, brown). Then cut or tear flames from red, yellow, and orange tissue paper (or construction paper) and glue flames to the bush. By overlapping tissue paper flames, you will get interesting variations of color and intensity. Wrinkles will add texture. [From *Sunday School Activity Book*, lesson 30]

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3. **Method #2** - Make the bush, leaves, and flames from construction paper. Glue on white, tan, pale yellow, or sandpaper background to represent the desert place where Moses saw the burning bush. [From *Sunday School Activity Book*, lesson 30]
4. **Method #3** - If there is sufficient supervision (and newspaper), try this: Draw the bush itself with crayons on white construction paper. Then hold peeled crayons (orange, red, yellow) up to a candle flame and quickly draw the flames with the melted wax while soft. (The effect will be rich and fiery.)

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of Moses and the burning bush

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. II, "The Burning Bush," (Exodus 3)