



# The Burning Bush

Level B

Ages 7-10

**Exodus 3:1-20 - selections**

**Series Theme:** The Lord leads and provides for us, and we can choose to follow Him.

**Lesson Focus:** We can choose to follow the Lord's leading.

**Reading Summary:** One day, while Moses was in the desert taking care of a flock, he came to Mount Horeb. He saw a bush on fire, but he could see that the bush was not burning up. As he turned aside to look at it, God called to him, and he answered, "Here I am." God told him to take off his sandals saying "I am the God of your father Abraham. The ground you are on is holy." Moses was afraid and hid his face. Telling Moses that he had seen how badly Pharaoh was treating His people, God asked Moses to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. When Moses asked who he should say had sent him God instructed him to say, "I AM has sent me." He told Moses that He would lead the children of Israel to a land flowing with milk and honey, but that it would be difficult to leave Egypt. Moses was worried that people would not believe him, so God gave him three signs to show Pharaoh. And Moses' brother Aaron would go with him to speak on his behalf.

<b>Lesson 2</b>		<b>Materials Supplied</b>	<b>Materials Needed</b>
<b>1. Welcome Warm-up Activity</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Game</b>	<b>Mirror Mirror</b> directions p. 2	
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	<b>Read the Word and Talk About It</b>	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above; <i>Moses and the Burning Bush Readings</i> p. 5 discussion guide p. 2	
<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	<b>Make</b> create a 3-D model of Moses at the burning bush	<b>Burning Bush Diorama</b> directions p. 3 <i>Burning Bush Diorama Photo Directions</i> on p. 7 <i>Moses at the Burning Bush</i> p. 8	1 brown paper lunch bag, and 2 large paperclips per child; markers or crayons; yellow and orange tissue paper; tape; scissors; stapler; stiff white paper for printing
	<b>Activity and Project</b> create a 'holy ground' space using a circle of string for an activity; then make a pair of paper sandals to take home	<b>Holy Ground</b> directions pp. 3-4 <i>Holy Ground Sandal Directions</i> p. 9 <i>Holy Ground Sandals</i> p. 10	yarn or string long enough to create a circle large enough to fit the entire class inside, scissors, stapler, glue, decorations such as glitter
	<b>Coloring Picture</b>	<b>The Burning Bush</b> p. 11	crayons, markers or colored pencils
<b>4. Wrap It Up</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Memory Verse</b> introduce the memory verse for the week	<b>Memory Verse</b> <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 12	

# 1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

## Mirror Mirror

Welcome the children and invite them to stand in a circle. Have children number off into 1s and 2s around the circle. Each 1 pairs with the 2 next to him or her. For classes with an uneven number a 3-some is fine. Pairs of children will face each other and stand in one place. Children numbered 1 will act as the leader and make gestures for children 2 to copy/mirror (e.g. put hands on head, look up and down, touch nose, touch toes, shake head, etc.) After a minute or so, switch so that children numbered 2 are the leaders and children numbered 1 are mirroring. When finished, sit in a circle on the floor.

1. Was it easier to be a leader or a follower?
2. Sometimes in our lives we are leaders, and sometimes we are followers. When might you be a leader? When might you be a follower? (answers will vary)
3. Today, we will read about the Lord asking Moses to be a leader. What do you think he will say?

# 2. Focus on the Word

**Read:** Selections from Exodus 3:1-20 on p. 5. See teaching picture on p. 6.

**Moses grew up and left Egypt. He married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, and became a shepherd. One day, when he was about 80 years old, he was taking care of a flock on Mount Horeb when he saw an amazing sight. What caught his eye?** A bush on fire, but not burning up.

**What did Moses hear?** An angel of the Lord calling his name. **The Lord appeared to people through angels throughout the Old Testament.**

**How did Moses answer the angel of the Lord?** "Here I am"

**Why was the Lord calling Moses?** He was calling Moses to lead His people, the children of Israel, out of slavery in Egypt to a promised land—a land flowing with milk and honey.

**What was special about the ground where Moses was standing?** It was holy. **Holy means special or sacred, e.g. the Lord's Word is holy. What other kinds of things are holy? We treat things that are holy with special care.**

**How did Moses show respect for the Lord?** He took off his shoes and hid his face. **How do we show respect for the Lord?** Put aside our worries, pay attention to what the Word says, go to church, pray, use His name properly, etc.

**The Lord told Moses that His name was "I AM". "Jehovah", which is the Lord's name in the Old Testament, means "I AM". It means that the Lord is what's alive in everything!**

**Was Moses confident that he could do the job the Lord was asking him to do?** No. He didn't think he could do it.

**So right after this, the Lord gave Moses three signs or miracles to do. His rod could turn into a serpent, his hand could become leprous, and water from a river could turn into blood. But even with these signs Moses was still worried, so the Lord told him that his brother, Aaron, could speak for him. After this Moses was willing to do what the Lord wanted him to.**

**What job does the Lord ask us to do?** He asks us to follow Him in His Word.

**How do we hear His voice calling us?** Through parents, teachers, friends, and the Word itself.

**When we hear the Lord calling us we can say, "Here I am" to show that we are willing to follow Him. And no matter how hard it seems to do what is right, the Lord will help us, just as He helped Moses.**

# 3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

**Choice**

## Burning Bush Diorama

Moses witnessed the miracle of a bush that was on fire but did not burn up! Symbolically, this pictures ideas in the Word being filled with the warmth of the Lord's love (see *Arcana Coelestia* 6832). Re-create the scene on Mount Horeb of the burning bush and Moses kneeling in humility at the sight.



1. In our story today the Lord did a wonderful miracle. Moses saw a bush filled with fiery warmth and light but not burning up—like the warm feelings in our hearts when we know that the Lord, or someone like a parent loves us. We will create a diorama of what happened.
2. Use the *Burning Bush Diorama Photo Directions* (p. 7) to help with this project.
3. **Bush** Give each child a paper lunch bag and a green marker. Color the top of the bag green to give the bush “leaves” when it is finished. Give each child a pair of scissors. Show children how to make cuts that can be twisted to make branches and roots. Have them cut their bags. Help them twist their bags into “bushes”. Tear yellow, orange and red tissue into “flames” and glue or staple to the bush.
4. **Moses** Give each child a copy of *Moses at the Burning Bush* (p. 8) printed on stiff paper. Color and cut around the two pieces. Bend a paper clip to form a letter “L”. Tape the upright part of the L to the back of Moses so that the figure can stand alone.
5. Arrange the diorama to show Moses listening to the Lord with his shoes off at the burning bush.

**Choice**

## Holy Ground

The Lord told Moses to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Shoes protect our feet, the lowest part of our bodies, from dirt. Taking shoes off pictures setting aside our most natural concerns (e.g. food, comfort) and raising our thoughts to higher spiritual concerns—to the Lord Himself.



During this activity children take off their shoes and practice walking on “holy ground”. Finish by making paper sandals as a reminder that we can choose to walk on holy ground.

### Materials Needed for Each Child

brown paper lunch bag, colored markers or crayons (make sure to have a green marker), scissors, yellow and orange tissue paper, glue, stapler, 2 large paper clips, tape, *Moses at the Burning Bush* p. 8 printed on stiff paper

### Prepare in Advance

Gather supplies. Print *Moses at the Burning Bush* p. 8 on stiff paper. Make sample.

### New Church Concept Our Feet

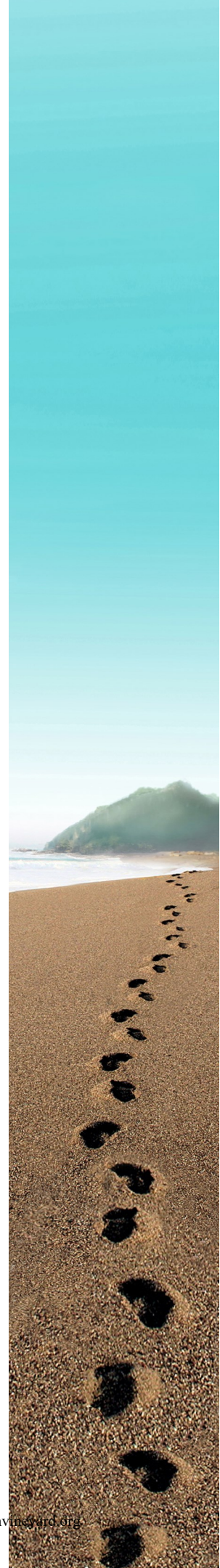
It is necessary when a person is being regenerated for his natural to be regenerated right down to the sensory level.... When the exterior parts have been regenerated the whole person has been regenerated... Jesus said, “He who has been washed has no need except to wash his feet, and the whole person is clean.” John 13:9-10. *Arcana Coelestia* 7442.3

### Materials Needed for Each Child

copy of *Holy Ground Sandals* p. 10 printed on stiff brown paper, copies of *Holy Ground Sandals Directions* p. 9 to share

### Prepare in Advance

Purchase stiff brown paper. Print *Holy Ground Sandals* p. 10 on stiff paper.





## Holy Ground Activity and Project *continued*

1. What did the Lord tell Moses to do as he walked closer to see the burning bush? (To take off his shoes.)
2. Why do we wear shoes? How do shoes protect our feet? When do you take off your shoes?
3. Moses' shoes protected his feet in the mountains. The Lord told him to take his shoes off because he was on "holy ground". We are going to create "holy ground." Invite children to stretch out a large circle of yarn or string on the floor so that the whole class can step into it (even if it gets a little tight). Stepping inside the circle means stepping on "holy ground".
4. Have all children take at least 2 steps back from the circle, sit down and take off their shoes.
5. Now all stand and face the center of the circle. Say, "This circle is for a special person in our class. Everyone who is loved by the Lord take one step forward. Everyone who is like Moses and wants to listen to the Lord take one step forward. If you are sometimes brave, and want to help the Lord do great things in your life, just like Moses, take a step into the circle."
6. By now everyone should be in the circle. "Look at all the special people in this class! When we are like Moses, and try to do good things, it is like we are standing on "holy ground."
7. Next we will make sandals to remind us of the true ideas in the Lord's Word that protect our feet as we walk in His Way. Follow *Holy Ground Sandals Directions* (p. 9) to complete the activity.

### New Church Concept Freedom

A human being has reason and freedom...and these two faculties are present in a person from the Lord.... It is a goal of Divine providence that a person act in freedom in accordance with his reason. Through the exercise of his freedom the Lord continually leads a person away from evils, and to the extent that the person can...be led away, to the same extent the Lord uses the exercise of his freedom to implant goods. *Divine Providence 72, 97*

### Materials Needed

copies of *The Burning Bush* p. 11; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

### Choice

## Coloring Picture: The Burning Bush

Hand out copies of *The Burning Bush* (p. 11) for children to color.

## 4. Wrap It Up

### Memory Verse

The Lord called Moses, just as He calls us to follow Him. Repeat the following verse phrase by phrase and have the children say it after you. Practice saying the verse as a whole, and then encourage the children to say it by themselves.

**God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses," and he said, "Here I am."**

Exodus 3:4

### Closing

The Lord calls us to follow Him in His Word. When we hear Him, we can answer like Moses by saying, "Here I am."

**Give a *Parent Note* (p. 12) to children as they leave.**

# Moses and the Burning Bush Readings

Exodus 3:1-8,10-14,19-20 - *selections*

*To shorten, read only the text in bold.*

**Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”**

**So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”**

**And he said, “Here I am.”**

**Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.**

**And the Lord said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey....**

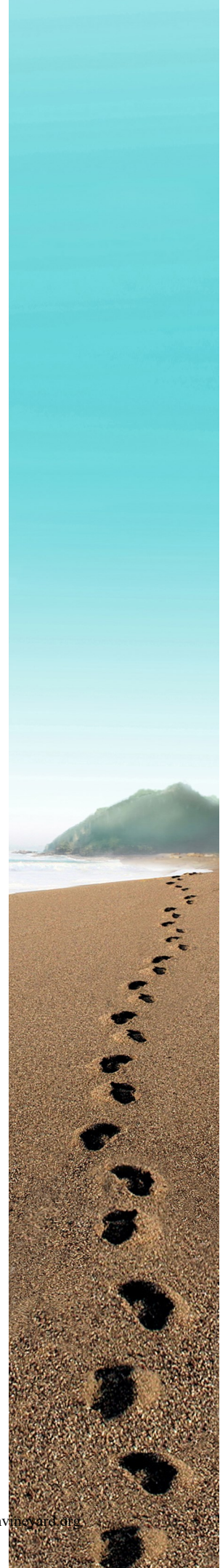
**Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” So He said, “I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”\***

**Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you....’”**

**“But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.”**

**Summary of Ideas Exodus 4:1-17:** Moses was worried that the people would not believe him, so the Lord gave Moses three signs he could do: his rod could become a serpent, his hand could become leprous, and he could take water out of a river and it would turn to blood when he poured it out on the land. In addition, the Lord gave Moses his brother Aaron to speak on his behalf.

\* Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai are both mentioned in conjunction with the giving of the Ten Commandments, which happened a few months after the children of Israel fled from Egypt.









# Burning Bush Diorama Photo Directions

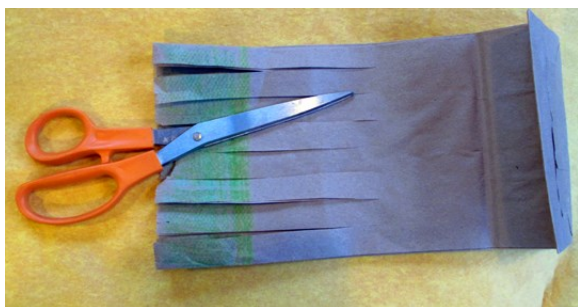
- Supplies needed: paper lunch bag, markers or crayons, scissors, yellow and orange tissue paper, glue, *Moses at the Burning Bush* (p. 8), 2 paper clips, tape.



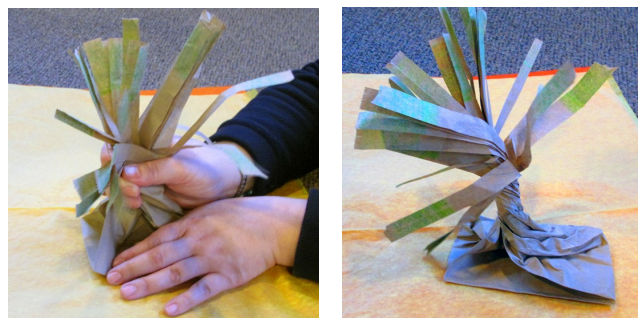
- Color the top half of the bag green using markers or crayons. Color all surfaces, inside the folds, and inside the mouth of the bag.



- Use scissors to make 7-8 cuts in the bag as shown.



- Holding the bottom of the bag firmly on a desk, twist the bag to form the trunk of a bush as shown.



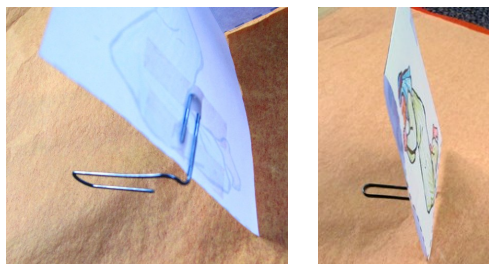
- Carefully twist cut ends into branches.



- Tear yellow and orange tissue paper into flame-sized pieces. Glue or staple to the bush.



- Color Moses and the sandals and rod. Cut out on dotted lines. Open paper clips into an "L" shape. Tape one to the back of Moses and the other to the back of the sandals and rod. Fold pictures down and tape to make them 2-sided.

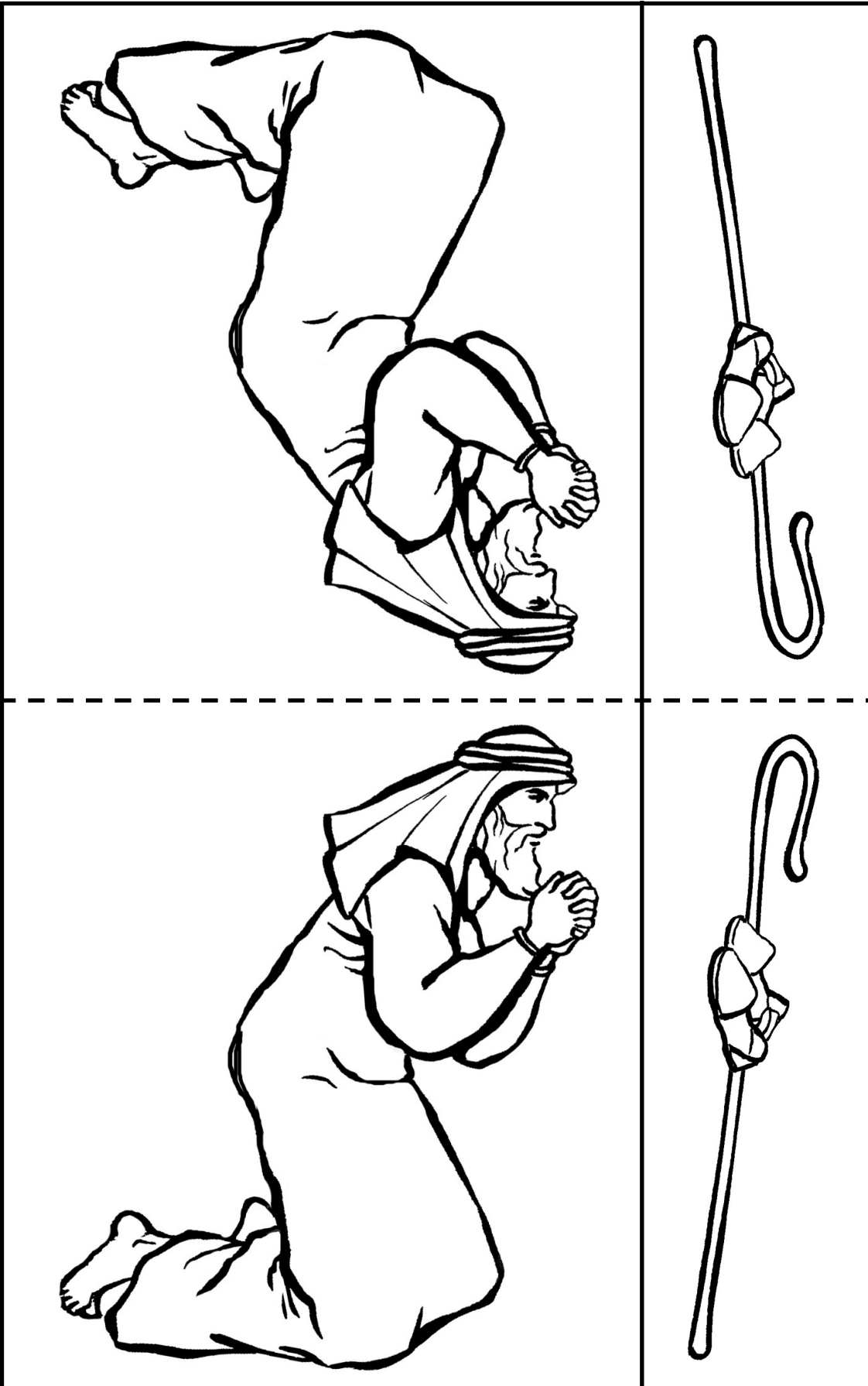


- Assemble diorama.



# Moses at the Burning Bush

Print one copy for each student on stiff paper.



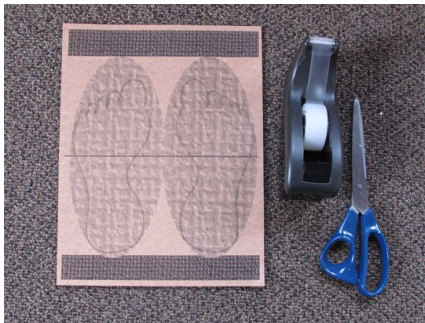
Cut out on  
solid lines.

Fold here on  
dashed lines

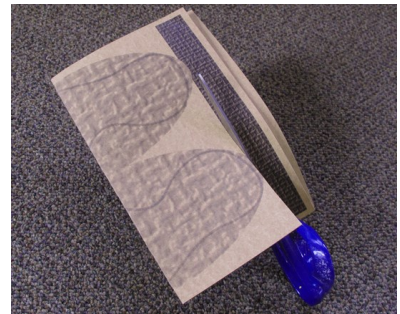


# Holy Ground Sandals Directions

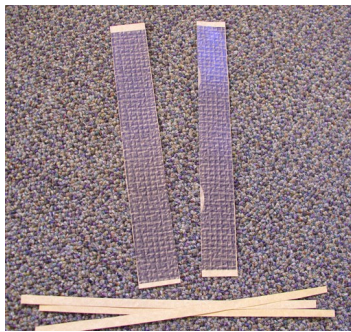
1. You will need a copy of the *Holy Ground Sandals* (p. 10) printed on stiff paper, tape and scissors.



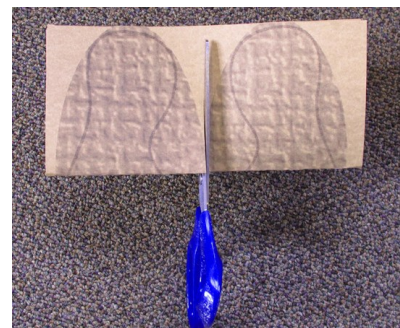
2. Fold the Holy Ground Sandals in half on the line. Cut off the sandals straps (at top and bottom of page.)



3. Trim the straps if desired.



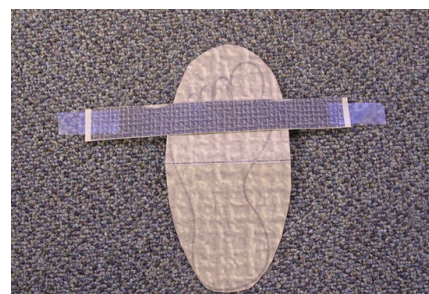
4. Cut the sandal page in two as shown.



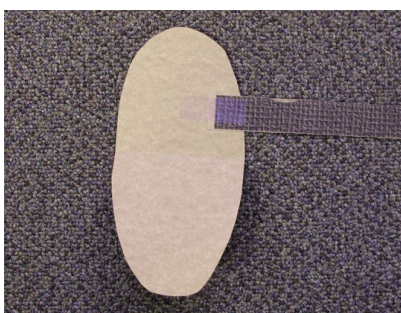
5. Cut around the sandal shapes. Trim edges.



6. Put tape on both ends of the sandal straps.



7. Fasten one end of the tape to **bottom** of the sandal.



8. Place foot on the sandal. Bend the strap around to fit your foot. Fasten the second tape underneath the sandal to fit foot. Repeat with the second sandal.



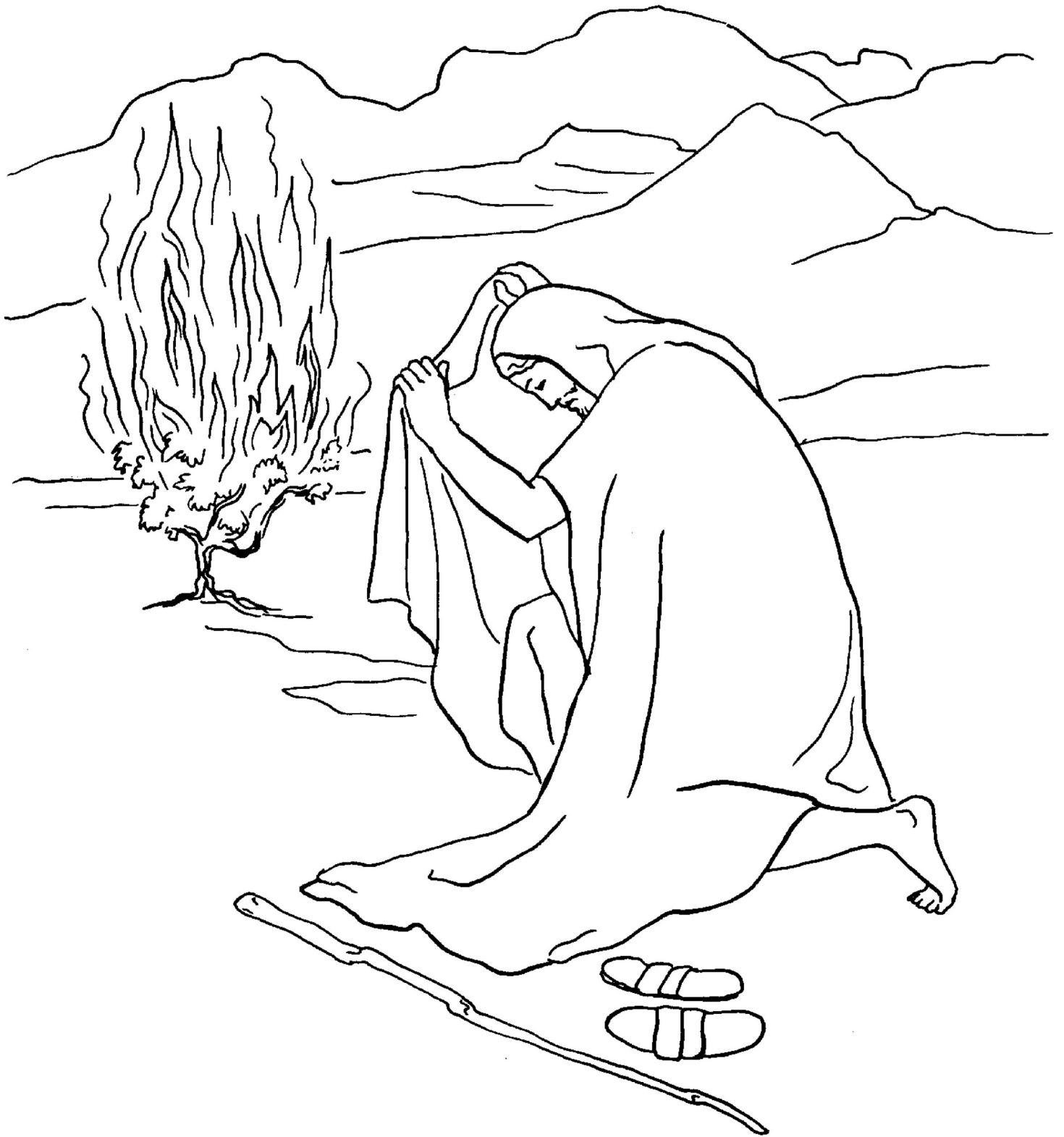
**Take your sandals off your feet...**



Holy Ground Sandals

**For where you stand is holy ground**





The Burning Bush

## Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

### PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we learned about the Lord calling Moses from a burning bush. Even though Moses knew it would be difficult, he agreed to follow the Lord. The Lord calls us as well, and He will help us follow Him no matter how hard it seems.

We encourage you to help your child remember the story by repeating the phrase below once or twice in the morning, at mealtimes, or before bed.

#### Memory Verse

God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses," and he said, "Here I am." (Exodus 3:4)



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