



Mad Props

Moses: The Burning Bush

BIG IDEA: God is always with me, so I can have the courage to do what He asks.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 3:1-7:13

KEY VERSE: “Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

UNIT DESCRIPTION

“Mad Props” is an off-the-wall prop filled adventure through the story of the Israelites exodus from Egypt. There’s just one problem. The story props have gone totally, completely, 100% mad! They’re all mixed up and hidden in one of 4 different prop boxes. Throughout the story, kids will get to vote for one of the boxes. Whatever silly prop is inside will then be used to help tell the story. Through it all, kids will see how God did some of the most out-of-this-world, amazing things you could ever imagine through a man named Moses.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Print out the 4 numbered “Prop Box Signs” and tape one to each of the 4 cardboard boxes. Place the boxes in order on a table in the teaching area.
- Put one of the 4 story props in each of the boxes. You can use the suggested story props, or you can use whatever other props you would like. Today’s suggested story props are:
 - Slinky
 - Boa
 - Baby blanket
 - Rubber chicken
- Print the “Flame Cutout” on 8½ x 11 cardstock. (See Resource Folder.) Cut it out with scissors and fold along the dotted line so that the flame stands up. Place the “Flame Cutout” in the teaching area.
- Place an 8-foot-long 2x4 in the teaching area. Be sure that it’s easy to access, but not in the way.
- Print out the “Fear,” “Not Good Enough” and “Problem” signs and place them in the teaching area.



3.2 Large Group Lesson | Elementary



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

CG: “Mad Props” title graphic
Sound: PLAY upbeat music as kids move to large group area

MAD PROPS INTRO

Large Group Leader: Hello everyone! I’m so glad you’re all here for the second week of “Mad Props”! Does anyone remember what a prop is? (*Take answers.*) That’s right! A prop is an object that you use to help tell a story. There’s just one problem. During “Mad Props,” the props have gone totally, completely, 100% mad! (*Stand behind the 4 prop boxes.*) They’re all mixed up and hidden in these boxes. During the story, I’ll have you vote for one of the boxes, then I’ll use whatever random prop is inside to tell the story. We’ll find out what kind of crazy props are in the boxes in just a little bit, but first, I want to ask you all a question. What is one of the scariest things you’ve ever done? (*Take answers from several kids.*)

Wow! Those were some pretty scary things, but it sounds like you found the courage to do them. In today’s part of the Big Bible Story, God asks Moses to do something really scary. I mean *really* scary! I’m talking about “shaking in your boots” kind of scary! I’m talking about “jump into your bed and pull the covers over your head” kind of scary! In today’s story, we’re going to see how God asked Moses to stand up to the biggest, baddest bully in the whole world! Let’s get the story started by playing “Mad Props”!

Ahead of time, place each random prop inside of one of the 4 prop boxes. This week’s suggested props are: a slinky, a boa, a baby blanket, and a rubber chicken. When indicated below, have the kids vote for one of the boxes, then reveal the prop inside. Use that prop as if it were the items in that part of the story. The lesson below gives suggestions for how to use the props, but feel free to get creative.

CG: “The Big Bible Story” graphic

BIG BIBLE STORY—MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Prop Box #1: (*Have the kids vote for one of the prop boxes, then reveal the prop.*) After fleeing from Pharaoh into the desert, Moses was caring for some sheep near Mount Sinai. (*Pet prop like it’s a sheep.*) As he approached the mountain, Moses saw a bush on fire. (*Set prop on table and put the flame cutout on or behind it.*) But strangely the bush wasn’t burning up. Moses couldn’t believe what he was seeing. So he walked closer to get a better look. (*Approach prop from afar.*)

As Moses approached, God called to Him from the middle of the burning bush. Moses replied, “Here I am.” God warned Moses not to come any closer. He told Moses to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. (*Take off shoes.*) Then God said, “I have seen what Pharaoh has done to my people and I have heard their cries for help. I want you to talk to Pharaoh and demand that he let my people go!”

Prop Box #2: (*Have the kids vote for one of the remaining prop boxes, then reveal the prop.*) Moses said to God, “Who am I to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? Besides, what if Pharaoh won’t listen to me?” God replied back to Moses, “I will be with you. And if Pharaoh won’t listen, then I will show him signs of my power.” God told Moses to take his shepherd’s staff and throw it on the ground. (*Throw prop on ground. Make it slither and hiss during next sentence.*) As soon as the shepherd’s staff hit the ground, it started to



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slither and hiss. Moses jumped back in disbelief. (*Jump back from prop.*) God had turned the staff into a snake. “When Pharaoh sees my power,” God said, “He will let my people go.”

Still, Moses struggled to find the courage he needed, so he pleaded with God to send someone else. God became upset with Moses and said, “All right, then. Talk to your brother, Aaron. He can do the talking instead.”

Prop Box #3: (*Have the kids vote for one of the remaining prop boxes, then reveal the prop.*) So Moses and his brother, Aaron, gathered all of their belongings and traveled back to Egypt. (*Gather up prop.*) God was with them the whole time. When they arrived, Aaron and Moses confronted Pharaoh. They told him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go.” Pharaoh said, “I don’t believe in this God of yours, so why should I listen to him?” And instead of letting the Israelites go, Pharaoh made life a lot worse for them.

(*Hold prop out like it’s a message.*) The next day Pharaoh sent a message to the Egyptian slave drivers. (*Read prop like it’s a message.*) “Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Make the people get it themselves.” Now the Israelites had to do twice as much work. (*Swing prop like a whip.*) And the slave drivers beat them because they couldn’t make the bricks fast enough.

Prop Box #4: (*Reveal the prop from the final box.*) So, Aaron and Moses went back to Pharaoh for a second time to demand that he let their people go. Pharaoh said, “If it really is your God who says this, then show me a miracle.” Just as God had instructed, Aaron threw his staff on the ground. (*Throw prop on ground.*) And just like before, the staff began to slither and hiss and it turned into a snake right before their eyes. (*Make prop slither and hiss.*)

Pharaoh seemed unimpressed, though. He called in his own magicians who threw down their staffs. (*Throw down one of the previous props.*) And just like Aaron’s staff, the magician’s staffs began to slither and hiss. (*Make previous prop slither and hiss.*) Their staffs turned into snakes too. But God was with Aaron and Moses and He would not be outdone! Aaron’s staff slithered over to the other two staffs and with a quick strike it attacked and swallowed up the magicians’ staffs. (*Make prop #4 strike at the previous prop.*) But even after that, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go.

CG: “Big Bible Story Questions” graphic

BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

When finished, have the kids turn briefly to their small groups and discuss the following questions: **What do you think this story teaches us about God? If you were Moses and God promised to be with you, do you think you would have had the courage to confront Pharaoh? Why or why not?** After a few minutes, draw their attention back to the teaching area.

CG: “Mad Props” title graphic



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GOD IS WITH US

During our story, did you notice how Moses struggled to find the courage to do what God told him? Why do you think that is? *(Take a few answers from kids.)* Those are some good answers. The truth is, we don't really know. It seems like Moses just didn't have the courage to do what God asked, so he had his brother, Aaron, do it instead.

So what about you? Do you have the courage to do what God asks? I know He's not asking you to confront the Pharaoh, but He still asks you to do some pretty tough things. In fact, I'd love to hear your ideas. What are some things you think God asks us to do today?

Take some answers from the kids. Here are some additional answers that you may want to suggest if they're not mentioned by the kids: Being honest even when you know you'll get into trouble. Standing up for someone even if you know you could get picked on too. Sitting by a new kid at the lunch table even if it makes you nervous. Telling other kids about Jesus even if they're shy.

Great answers! Some of these things are really hard to do. But here's the great thing—we don't have to do it alone. When Moses was afraid to confront Pharaoh, God told him, "I will be with you." And it's the same for us—God is with us all the time, wherever we go. In fact, that's exactly what the Bible tells us. *(Encourage kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 1:9. Be prepared to give younger kids more time and assistance in finding the verse. When ready, choose a kid to read it aloud or read it aloud yourself while the kids follow along.)*

CG: "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

YOU CAN LEAN ON GOD

Isn't that amazing? God is with us everywhere! There isn't a moment that goes by that He isn't right there by our side. Sometimes God asks us to do some pretty tough things, but He's always right there with us, helping us do it. Here, let me show you what I'm talking about.

Choose four volunteers to come up to the stage. Lay an 8-foot-long 2x4 on the ground across the length of the teaching area. The 2x4 will serve as a balance beam for one of the kids to cross. Spread the other 3 volunteers across the balance beam, facing the audience so that they serve as obstacles on the beam. Give each of the "obstacle" kids one of three signs to hold: "fear," "not good enough," and "problem." Place them in that order. Tell the remaining kid that he must travel from one end of the balance beam to the other without falling off. The "obstacle" kids may not move or help out in any way. Allow the kid one or two attempts to get around the obstacles without falling off. They won't be able to do it. Then tell the kid that you will help him. On the next attempt, give the kid one of your arms for balance or allow the kid to lean on you so that he can get around the first two obstacles—"fear" and "not good enough." When he reaches the third obstacle, "problem," remove the obstacle from the balance beam allowing the kid to pass by with no trouble. Prompt the audience to applaud and dismiss the volunteers.



3.2 Large Group Lesson | Elementary



I gave our volunteer a pretty hard job, didn't I? In fact, it was so hard that he simply couldn't do it by himself. But he didn't have to. I was there to help him. You know—it's kind of like that with God. Sometimes God gives us some pretty hard things to do, but He's right there with us the whole time. If we lean on God, He can help us to get around our "fears." He can help us get around the feeling that we're "not good enough." And sometimes, God will even completely remove a "problem" from our way. Whenever God asks us to do something, we can have courage because He's always right there to help us along the way. Unfortunately, that's something Moses forgot, but we don't have to make that same mistake. If God is asking you to do something that's kind of tough, stop and talk to Him about it. He can give you the courage.

Close the large group time by praying for the kids in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts you. Before praying, be sure to let kids have an opportunity to give back to God in worshiping with their tithes and offerings.

CG: "Mad Props" title graphic

