



ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

LESSON 1

THE BURNING BUSH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears and Sees His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Because God sees the suffering of the Israelites and hears the cries of His people, He comes down and speaks to Moses from a burning bush, revealing His plan to lead them out of Egypt.

WORD OF WONDER: I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts. —Psalm 77:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- PRE-SERVICE* Multisensory Activity: Sounds Bingo **8–10 min**
- Welcome Question: Who knows you the best? **2 min**
- SMALL GROUP **25 min**
- Declaring God's Wonder **1–2 min**
- Prayer of Invitation **1–2 min**
- Worship: Love Come Down, Praise You Anywhere **8–10 min**
- God's Big Story **5–6 min**
- Experience It! **5–7 min**
- Connecting the Wonder Truth **1–2 min**
- Responding in Worship: Jesus Paid It All **4–5 min**
- Blessing Your Kids **1–2 min**
- SMALL GROUP: Responding in Worship Closing Activity



Schedule:

Pre-service Activities: 10 min before service

Small Group: 20-25 minutes

Large Group: 30-35 minutes

Small Group Response Activity: 5-10 min



[Connected Easter Preschool Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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When Moses glanced up and saw a burning bush, he likely didn't give it a second thought.

Why should he? Fires happened all the time. A lightning strike, embers drifting from a campfire, a couple tinder-dry branches scraping together in the hot wind until something sparked.

But a bush blazing away that wasn't consumed by the flames? *That's* something that deserved a closer look.

So Moses hiked over to investigate ... and his life changed forever.

God never explains why He chose to speak to Moses through a burning bush. But that bush—on fire yet not consumed—is a perfect picture of what becomes of anything or anyone fully yielded to God. Take a few minutes to read Exodus 3:1–15. Notice how it's not just shrubbery that starts to ignite and shine bright for God.

It's Moses too.

We're praying that, as you lead this week, you shine just as brightly. That the Holy Spirit empowers you to connect with your kids, pointing them toward the God who hears them and sees them. The God who loves them and invites them into an eternal friendship.

Kids are used to adults telling them stuff—it's the soundtrack of their lives. But an adult who's clearly on fire with love for them and God? Who's sharing from the heart?

That's something they don't see every day. That's something that deserves a closer look ... so they'll be looking.

Shine brightly, friend. Be on fire.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household after his mother placed him in a basket on the Nile River to save him from Pharaoh's decree that all Hebrew male infants be killed. Pharaoh's daughter found him.

WHAT?

While Moses was shepherding his flock at Mount Horeb, God spoke to him from the burning bush. God told Moses to go to Egypt to bring His people out of slavery because God had seen their suffering. God also revealed His name to Moses.

WHERE?

Mount Horeb, also called Mount Sinai in the book of Exodus, is thought to be in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula, which is east of Egypt and west of Midian.

WHEN?

By the end of Genesis, Jacob's family, including Joseph and all his brothers, had come to dwell in the land of Egypt. Moses was born after that generation died out, approximately 300 years later. By the time of the exodus, Moses was 80 years old.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised to bless all nations through Abraham's family, which He eventually did through the work of Jesus, a descendant of Abraham. This story shows that God is faithful to His promises and has the power to rescue His people no matter the circumstances.

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Multisensory Activity: Sounds Bingo

7-10 MINUTES PRE-SERVICE

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, cardstock (optional)

RESOURCES: Bingo Sheets (1 sheet / 3 kids), Bingo Sound Effects

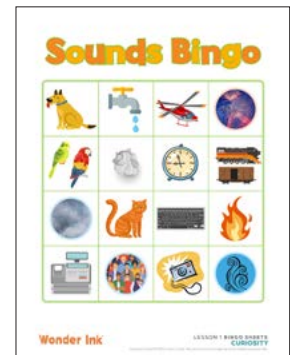
Ahead of time, print the Bingo Sheets. One for every 3 kids.

SLIDE: BINGO

"Many of us know people who are good listeners. Now we're going to see how good we are at listening! We are going to work together. Get together in groups of 3. For this activity, you will do two things: First, you will hear a sound and try to figure out what it is. Second, after you hear the sound, you will look at your Bingo Sheet to find the picture that fits that sound. Once you see the picture that fits the sound, you will color in that box. Hear the sound and then find the picture—got it?"

Explain to kids that you will repeat the process many times until someone yells, "Bingo!" A kid is allowed to yell, "Bingo!" when he has colored four squares in a row, either vertically or horizontally. Consider coloring in a row of squares on an extra Bingo Sheet to show kids what a winning card looks like.

Play any of the 16 Bingo Sound Effects (**SLIDES**) in random order until one or more kids get four in a row on their Bingo Sheets: Fire, Clock Ticking, Crowd Cheering, Birds, Computer Keyboard Typing, Camera, Crumpled Paper, Rain, Helicopter, Fireworks, Heartbeat, Waves, Dog Barking, Cash Register, Train Horn, Water Drop.



Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Younger kids may have trouble thinking through two tasks at once. Consider playing the sound, pausing to identify the sound together as a group, and then allowing them to find a picture of the sound on their own.

You all did a great job hearing and seeing the different sounds! Today we are going to learn in God's big story about a time when God heard the cry of His people, saw their suffering, and did something to help them. God knows us and cares about us too!

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HEARS AND SEES HIS PEOPLE.**"

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question: Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

Who knows you the best?



You shared some great examples of people who know you well, but God knows us better than anyone! We will learn today how God cared about the Israelites and watched over them. But first, it's time to be curious.

Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

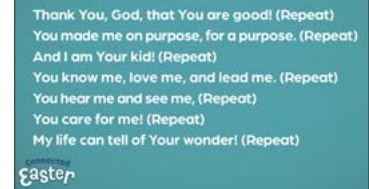
And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You hear me and see me, (Kids repeat.)

You care for me! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example:

God our Father, we invite You to teach us through Your Word and to help us understand it by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that You hear and see us and care for us so well, and thank You for sending Jesus! We love You and pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Worship

****NEW SONGS!!** Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Love Come Down, Praise You Anywhere

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Explain that today's true story is from the book of Exodus in the Old Testament. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household after his mother placed him in a basket on the Nile River to save him from. He later left Pharaoh's house to live out in the desert and became a shepherd.



"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!"

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

LESSON 1 THE BURNING BUSH

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: cardstock; string; tape; scissors (prep only); wrapped present; shepherd’s staff or walking stick; permanent marker (prep only); potted or artificial plant; yellow, orange, and red crepe paper streamers

RESOURCES: Oversized Name Tag Sheet (5 copies), Name Labels Sheets, A Child of the Promise Name Tags (1 sheet per 8 kids)

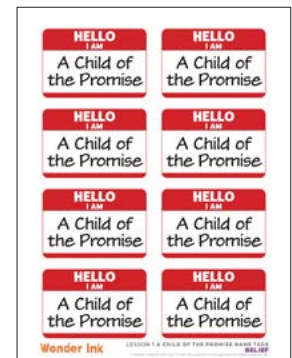
Ahead of time, print five copies of the Oversized Name Tag Sheet, each on a separate sheet of cardstock. Tape a length of string to each so that your kid volunteers can wear them around their necks. One of these oversized name tags will be for the burning bush prop, so consider how you could best attach it to the prop when it comes to that point in the story.

Print the Child of the Promise Name Tagson cardstock, cut out each name tag, and provide tape for kids to attach their name tags to their shirts. Print the Name Labels Sheets on cardstock and cut out each name. You will be taping each name to an oversized name tag during the story. Attach double-sided tape to the back of each label and have them near your staging area, ready to be placed on the name tags as you tell the story.

Gather your props: Wrap a box in wrapping paper to look like an appealing present. In large and visible lettering, label the wrapped present “The Promise.” To make the burning bush, any mid-size potted or artificial plant will do. String yellow, orange, and red streamers around the plant to give it the effect of being on fire. Place these props, along with the shepherd’s staff, within reach but out of kids’ sight until the props are introduced in the story.

Before you begin, invite four volunteers to your stage area. Hang an oversized name tag on each kid volunteer. (Set the fifth oversized name tag aside to place later on the burning bush prop.) Ask them to face front and follow your lead. Designate one of the volunteers as Moses and give him a heads-up that you will pause in the story so he can repeat his lines and actions after you—he will be the fourth and final volunteer. Also make sure he is OK with taking his shoes off when directed.

Important: Have all nine name labels nearby and ready to stick on the name tags! It should be a quick action that doesn’t drag the storytelling.



Leader Tip: You can customize the storytelling props for your setting. For example, if you have a large space, consider using the Oversized Name Tag Sheet as a template for creating name tags on posterboard. The bigger the better here! Likewise, if you don’t have the supplies needed to create a burning bush prop, consider using a plain box or chair and inviting the kids to use their imaginations.

"Have you ever thought about what it would be like if nobody had a name? "Hey ... you, come here. No, not you, you." So confusing! A name tells us what to call you; it tells us who you are. Distribute A Child of the Promise Name Tags to all kids and ask them to hold on to them until you give further instructions.

God once made a big promise to a man named ... what's his name? Label the first kid onstage by placing the "Abraham" label on his oversized name tag. **Abraham. God gave Abraham the promise (hand Abraham the wrapped present) to grow Abraham's family into a great nation and give him a good land to live in. This promise was passed on to Abraham's son ... what's his name?** Label the second kid onstage. **Isaac.** Encourage Abraham to hand the present to Isaac. **Then the promise was passed to Isaac's son ... what's his name?** Label third kid onstage. **Jacob.** Encourage Isaac to hand the present to Jacob. **When famine came, Jacob moved his family to Egypt. There, Jacob's family grew and grew.** Invite all the kids to put on their adhesive name tags. **So many children!** Refer to the kids before you. **But they were far away from the land God had promised.** Move the present to the edge of your stage area, far away but still visible. **What's worse, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, feared their large numbers. He was worried that the Israelites would take over, so he forced the Israelites into slavery. God's people were in trouble! Could God still see them? Wait for response. Could God forget His promise?** Wait for response. **Our story today shows us more of who God is, what He wants us to call Him, and how God could never forget His promise.** Thank first three volunteers and invite them to sit.

One day, a man named ... what's his name? Label the remaining (fourth) kid. **Moses. Moses was taking care of sheep in the desert.** Hand Moses a shepherd's staff or walking stick. **Moses was one of God's people but had grown up in Pharaoh's household until he had to flee Egypt to live in a place called Midian. On this day, Moses led the flock to Mount Horeb. There, Moses saw a strange sight.** Show the burning bush prop. **A bush was on fire but not burning up. How unusual! Moses went to get a better look.** Encourage Moses to get close.

Leader Tip: If you have the means, enhance the drama of the burning bush by shining a spotlight on the prop. Also, to bring more wonder and drama to the audible voice of God speaking to Moses, consider inviting an adult volunteer to speak God's words into a microphone, and provide him with a copy of the script.

When God saw what Moses was doing, "He called out, 'Moses! Moses!' " (Exodus 3:4). His voice came from inside the bush! Did Moses know who was speaking to him? Wait for a response; consider directly asking Moses to answer.

Moses answered, "Here I am" (Exodus 3:4). Pause to allow Moses to repeat his line. Then God told Moses: "Do not come any closer. ... Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5). Invite Moses to remove his shoes. Then God introduced Himself. Place an oversized name tag on the burning bush and be prepared to place labels on it in order, each one directly on top of the previous. **"I am the God of your father."** Label. **"I am the God of Abraham."** Label. **"I am the God of Isaac."** Label. **"And I am the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6).** Label. **Moses was talking to the God who had made Abraham a big promise! Remember the promise? Where is it?** Wait for the kids to point to the present. **But Moses turned his face away from the burning bush.** Pause for Moses to turn away. **He was afraid to look at God. What would God say next?**

“I have seen how my people are suffering in Egypt. I have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers. I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to save them from the Egyptians” (Exodus 3:7–8, emphasis added). **God was about to bring His people from slavery to freedom and into a good land full of milk and honey! God had seen His people’s suffering and heard their cries. And He wanted to send Moses to bring them out of Egypt!**

But Moses wasn’t sure about this plan. After all, who was he? Point to Moses’ name. **Just a guy named Moses. But God** (locate the present and place it in Moses’ hands) **promised to be with Moses and that God’s people would one day worship God on the very mountain where Moses stood. Then Moses asked for God’s name.** Pause to allow Moses to ask. Or direct him to say, “What’s Your name?” **Moses wanted to tell the people exactly who had sent him in case they asked, “What is his name?”** (Exodus 3:13).

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ ” (Put label “WHO I AM” on top of God’s other names, covering them all.) **“ ‘Here is what you must say to the Israelites. Tell them, ‘I AM has sent me to you’ ”** (Exodus 3:14). **God’s name revealed Him as the true God—the God who is! Not a fake god who is not! He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God of the promise!** Point to the present. **God wanted His people to call Him this name for all time.** Point to the name.

So God sent Moses to Egypt to gather the leaders of God’s people. Thank Moses and invite him to sit. Hold the present as you continue. **Moses was to tell them how God had appeared to him and how God had watched over His people, seen their suffering, and heard their cries. He was to tell them about God’s rescue plan** (hold up the present) **to bring them from slavery to freedom and into a good land! God would show them that He is the God who rescues His people and that they could expect even greater rescues to come. What do your name tags say?** Pause for response. **As “A Child of the Promise,” this rescue is for you too! We know now who came to fulfill God’s promise ... any guesses?** Wait for responses. Then lower your voice like it’s a surprise: **Right! The promise is Jesus!**

But God’s people stuck in slavery didn’t know what God had planned. They may have thought He had forgotten His promise, forgotten them. Soon the people would know that God could never forget His promise. He could never forget them. God hears and sees His people!

Leader Tip: Keep the wrapped present to use during the Connected Easter Lesson 5 Experience It! Script (The Road to Emmaus).

Connecting the Wonder Truth

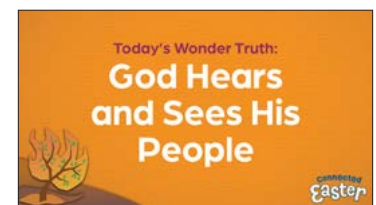
SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

“Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HEARS AND SEES HIS PEOPLE.**

Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer

freely. **God promised to bless all nations through Abraham’s family. He eventually did this through Jesus, a descendant, or relative, of Abraham. Today in God’s big story, we see that God is faithful to His promises and has the power to rescue His people, no matter the circumstances.”**



Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: Jesus Paid It All

Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May the God of Moses bless you and lead you. May you remember always that He is the God who hears and sees His people. May you trust in Him, and may He give you peace.

Return to Small Group

Instruct Small Group Leaders to close out their time by completing the "Responding in Worship" Activity at the end of their SG Leader Guide.