

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**

- Welcome Question: Who knows you the best? **preservice**
- Curiosity Questions **preservice**
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12 **2 min**
- Word of Wonder Activity **7-8 min**
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids **10 min**
- Small Group Prayer Time **5 min**
- LARGE GROUP **25 min**
- Responding in Worship: Worship Stations **10 min**



Attention: Review the Word of Wonder and complete the Word of Wonder Activity **BEFORE** small group discussion.

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 ...

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WONDER TRUTH: God Hears and Sees His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

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 flame? 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 or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears and Sees His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“Who knows you the best?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **How can you tell when someone is a good listener?**
- **What are some ways you can get to know someone?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

WORD OF WONDER

I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts.

—Psalm 77:12 (NIRV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), *Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)*

"The Word of Wonder for the Connected Easter series is Psalm 77:12. Today we've seen that God hears and sees His people and cares for them well. This verse reminds us that God has always been watching over His people, and we can spend time remembering all He has done. Let's read the Word of Wonder together! "

Have kids open their Bibles to Psalm 77:12. Read the verse several times together. Invite kids to work in pairs to come up with simple motions for the verse. Then say the Word of Wonder again while all the kids do their motions.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **What are some of God's mighty acts that we can remember together?**
- **When in the Bible or in your life has God helped His people because He saw them and heard their cries for help?**

Leader Tip: God is active in all of our lives! Help kids recall stories from the Bible that answer these questions about God as well as stories from their own lives. You can model this idea by sharing an example of your own.

Word of Wonder Activity

SUPPLIES: timer

Have kids find partners.

Explain that you will set a timer for one minute. During that minute, kids will practice the verse with their partners. They might say the verse back and forth to each other, allowing one partner to start when the other finishes. After one minute, kids will find a new partner to practice the verse with, and you will reset the one-minute timer. Do this several times until most of the kids can recite the Word of Wonder.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. If this activity is too challenging for younger kids, consider pairing them with an older kid or practicing the verse as a whole group. After a few rounds of practicing, ask all kids who think they know the verse to stand up and try saying it together. Each round, try to add more kids who know the verse.

Make It Inclusive!

Kids with learning challenges can lead their partners (or the whole group) in the Word of Wonder by saying the first word each time

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Exodus. As kids find the passage, 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.

Read Exodus 3:1–15 aloud. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **What strange sight does Moses see today in God's big story?** (A bush that was on fire but did not burn up)
- **What does God tell Moses to do with his sandals?** (take them off)
- **What does God tell Moses He is going to do because He has heard the Israelites' cry?** (save them from the Egyptians)
- **How do you think Moses felt when God chose him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?**
- **What is something hard that God might want you to do?**
- **God hears and sees you, just like He heard and saw the Israelites. How does that make you feel?**

"God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt because He heard their cries for help. We have an amazing God who cares for His people. Let's pray and thank God for hearing and seeing us too."

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to enter a time of prayer. Allow kids to share their different prayer requests and then pray for those requests together. Thank God that we can know that He hears all these different prayers and sees all our needs.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Exodus. As kids find the passage, 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.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

Invite two volunteers to join you. in reading Exodus 3:1–15. One person can read the words spoken directly by God, one person the words spoken by Moses, and one person the rest of the text. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **What is different about the bush Moses sees on Mount Horeb as he leads his flock of sheep?** (It was on fire but didn't burn up.)
- **What does God tell Moses He will do because He has heard the cries of His people?** (save them from the Egyptians)
- **What does God tell Moses His name is?** (I AM WHO I AM)
- **Why might Moses have been unsure about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt?**
- **When was a time that you were worried or afraid to do what God wanted you to do?**
- **God heard the cries of the Israelites and saw their suffering. How does it make you feel to know that God hears and sees you too?**

"When the Israelites cried out to God, He heard their prayers. We know that God hears and sees us too. Let's go to Him now in prayer with grateful hearts, knowing that He is listening and cares about us."

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share their prayer requests with the group, knowing that God hears them. Ask for different volunteers to pray for each of the needs mentioned. Then allow kids time to pray for these different requests as a group. Close your prayer time by thanking God for being the God who hears and sees His people.

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Responding in Worship: Worship Stations

SUPPLIES: pens or pencils; sticky notes (1 per kid); masking or painter's tape; red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers; butcher paper (optional); markers (prep only, optional); burning bush prop from Experience It! (optional)

RESOURCES: [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#); [Burning Bush Outline Sheet \(2/campus\)](#)



Ahead of time, set up two areas within your space for worship response stations. (If your space and ministry are large, consider setting up multiples of each station.)

Station 1: In this area, set out sticky notes and pens or pencils. Print the Burning Bush Outline Sheet and tape it to the wall, or **use the sheet as a guide to draw a larger burning bush outline on a piece of butcher paper.** Alternatively, set the burning bush prop from the Experience It! storytelling at this station (leaving the streamers on the prop for kids to adhere their sticky notes to).

Station 2: Tear red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers into 2'-3' lengths, enough for every kid to have one strip of each color. Lay the streamers in neat piles or place a small piece of tape at one end of each and attach them to a section of wall that kids can easily reach.



"We are going to enter a time of worship and reflection, so let's remove our shoes just as Moses did to show that this time with God is special. Invite kids to remove their shoes and quietly place them at one end of the room. Then they can return to their seats.

Make It Inclusive! Some kids may not be able to easily remove their shoes. Have volunteers available to assist kids who need help. If a child is unable to remove his shoes for physical reasons or is simply not comfortable doing so, assure him that is OK.

In a few moments, we are going to play some music. As the music plays, half of you will go to Worship Station 1 and half will go to Worship Station 2.

Stand at each station as you explain to kids what they will do at each. **At Station 1, you will remember different times God has heard and seen His people. You can write down or draw a picture on a sticky note of something you remember from your own life or from the Bible. Today in God's big story, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush.**

Point to the burning bush outline or pop. **This burning bush reminds us that God hears and sees us too, and when you are finished writing or drawing on sticky notes, you can stick them to this bush.**

At Station 2, you will think about your own needs. God hears and sees you! What do you need from Him today? These streamers are the colors of fire, like the fire in the bush Moses saw. Once you have a need in mind, you can grab three streamers, one of each color. As you hold the streamers, talk with God in prayer. Tell Him about what you need. He hears and sees you and cares for you! When you are finished praying, you can hold on to your streamers for later.

Designate which kids will start at each station. You might divide the group based on where they are sitting, their ages/grade levels, or any other way that works in your setting. When kids finish at one station, they can move to the other. Quietly play music from the [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids visit the two stations.

After several minutes, gather kids together.

We just spent time remembering how God has been faithful to His people, and then we prayed to God knowing that He hears our prayers. Let's worship God by singing and dancing because He is the God who hears and sees us!" Play a song from the [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#) that is familiar to the kids, and encourage them to wave their streamers in the air as they worship! At the end of the song, invite kids to put their shoes back on.

