

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 reveals His plan to Moses to lead them out of Egypt.**WORD OF WONDER:** I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. —Psalm 77:12**CURIOSITY****BELIEF****FAITH**

- Play Stations:
 - Listening for Sounds
 - Make a Campfire
 - The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Burning Bush Hot Potato
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Burning Bush/ Shoes Off Prayer
- Closing Game: Burning Bush Hot and Cold

[Connected Easter Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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 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.



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: variety of objects or instruments that make noise (such as maracas, Easter eggs with dry beans inside, blocks to hit together, zipper, dry rice in an empty water bottle, keys on a key ring to shake); cardboard tubes or real sticks (several); red, orange, and yellow tissue paper or construction paper (several sheets of each); coloring utensils; brown paper (optional); tape (optional); gray paper (several sheets, optional)

RESOURCES: [The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Listening for Sounds

Set-up: Set out objects that make sounds, such as play instruments like maracas, Easter eggs with dry beans inside, blocks to hit together, a zipper, dry rice in an empty water bottle, keys on a key ring to shake.

Play: Let the kids take turns playing and making the various sounds for each object. Ask if they can make a new or different sound by doing something different with some of the objects.

Play Station: Make a Campfire

Set-up: Set out a pile of cardboard tubes (or you can roll brown paper and tape into a cylinder) or real sticks. Set out red, orange, and yellow tissue paper or construction paper. Encourage kids to set up the items as if they're making a campfire. They can also crumple up gray paper to make pretend rocks to surround the campfire, like a fire pit.

Play: Let the kids build and arrange the pretend campfire however they want. Even if it doesn't look perfect or realistic, it's OK. Encourage them to use their imaginations.

Play Station: The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of what they imagine camping is like.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HEARS AND SEES HIS PEOPLE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God promised to bless all nations through Abraham's family. Many years later, God did this through Jesus, Who is a relative of Abraham. Today in God's big story, we see that God is faithful to His promises and that He has the power to rescue His people, no matter what they are going through."

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Connected Easter Word of Wonder Slide (optional)

"Our Wonder Truth today reminds us that God hears and sees us. We can remember all the great things God has done and know He is with us, just like He heard and saw Moses and His people. Let's say this verse together:

WORD OF WONDER

I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.

—Psalm 77:12

In God's big story today, God spoke to Moses in a strange way—through a bush! Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder in different types of voices.

- Loud
- Quiet
- Singing
- Slow
- Fast

Now I'm going to show you some motions that go with the words, and you can mimic them as we say the words to the verse together."

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—Point to head.
- **EVERYTHING**—Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—Point up.
- **PSALM 77:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Ask the kids these questions:

- What did God do in Moses' life that Moses may have spent time thinking about?
- Why do you think God spoke to Moses from a burning bush?

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible, **Laugh and Grow Bible (1/SG)**

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, a part that comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible."

Read pages 66–71 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.

Circle Time: Burning Bush Hot Potato

SUPPLIES: beanbag, potato (optional)

Gather the kids and have them sit in a circle, then bring out a beanbag (or a real potato).

"Do you think the fire Moses saw in the bush was hot? It may have been really hot! How would you hold this item if it were a really, really hot potato?" Allow the kids to respond. **You wouldn't be holding it! You'd be passing it as fast as you can!**

Let's play a game to help us think about what we learned today. Pass this very hot (pretend) potato around the circle as fast as you can. When I say, "Stop!" you'll freeze. Whoever is holding the hot potato gets to answer a question!

Have the kids pass the beanbag or potato around the circle as fast as they can. Say, "Stop!" periodically and ask a question of the person who has the potato.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did Moses see in the desert that was strange?** (*a burning bush that didn't burn up*)
- **What did God tell Moses He saw and heard from His people, who were being held captive in Egypt?** (*God saw that they were sad and heard their cries for help.*)
- **What did God do in response to the people's sadness and cries?** (*sent Moses to save them from Egypt*)
- **How do you feel when you see that someone you love (your parent or family member, sister or brother, or a friend or a neighbor) is sad?**
- **Have you ever done something to help someone who was sad? If so, what did you do?**
- **Have you ever been sad? What were you sad about?**
- **How has God helped you when you were sad?**

When you need help, you can ask God to help you. He will hear you just like He heard His people in our story today! Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him for seeing and hearing us."

PRAYER TIME:

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Shoes-Off Prayer

SUPPLIES: tape (prep only), red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers (at least 12" per kid of each color); scissors (prep only) glue sticks, butcher paper or posterboard (optional), variety of coloring utensils(especially plenty of greens)

RESOURCES: [Burning Bush Craft Sheet \(1/kid\)](#)

Precut red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers into 3" lengths (several of each color for every kid)Make an example to show the kids and attach it to the wall at a preschooler's height.

Give each kid a Burning Bush Craft Sheet and coloring utensils, along with precut red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers and glue. Encourage the kids to color the bush green and to glue the pieces of streamers to the bush. As kids are working, talk with them about the Wonder Truth.

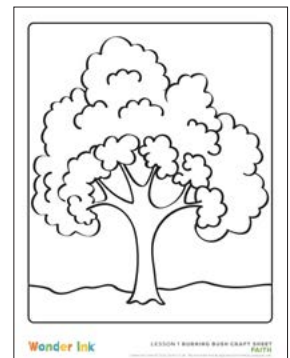
"In God's big story today, Moses saw a burning bush that was not burned up. Then he heard God's voice tell him to take off his sandals because the place he was standing on was holy ground. Holy ground means the ground was a special place because God was there. God is with us now. He is everywhere! So that means this place is holy, or special, too.

Like Moses, let's take off our shoes and talk with God. Take off your shoes and encourage the kids to do the same. **Let's thank God for making this place, where we are, special. Let's thank Him for meeting us here today. Let's learn a word from the language that was used in the Bible when it was written, Hebrew!**

We can talk to God by saying "Hineni" [hee NEH nee]. Encourage the kids to say the word.

Hineni is the Hebrew word for "Here I am!" When you say "Hineni" to God, you're telling Him you're here and you're listening.

God saw and heard His people when they needed Him. The burning bush was a sign to Moses that God was with him and that God heard and saw Him. Remember God sees and hears you too. We can pray and thank God for seeing and hearing us. If you need help with anything, pray and ask God for help.



Encourage the kids to walk to the Burning Bush picture on the wall and take off their shoes when they get to the picture. Then invite them to pray and to thank God for seeing and hearing them.

Younger kids may need help praying or knowing what to say. A leader can be available to pray with kids if needed.

Leader Tip: Tape the Burning Bush Craft Sheet onto a large butcher sheet or posterboard and give the kids coloring or drawing materials. Encourage them to draw a picture on the posterboard of a way God helps them or one thing they want to ask God for help with.

Closing Game: Burning Bush Hot and Cold

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils (optional)

RESOURCES: Burning Bush Craft Sheet (from Responding in Worship)

If you did not make a Burning Bush picture during the Craft Time, print the Burning Bush Craft Sheet and color the bush green. Then color red, yellow, and orange flames coming from it.

Show the kids the Burning Bush Craft Sheet.

"Today we learned from God's big story that God hears and sees us. He spoke to Moses through a burning bush. Let's play a game where we will get curious and try to find this bush, which will be hidden somewhere in the room."

Have the kids either close their eyes or go to another room (or hallway) with another leader for 30 seconds while you hide the bush somewhere in the room. Then have them come back to find it. To make it easier, you can play Hot and Cold. Say "hot" when the kids get close to the hidden bush and "cold" when they aren't close to finding it. For older kids, you can clap loudly and quickly as they get close to finding it and clap soft and slowly when they aren't close.

Play multiple rounds and let the kids take turns hiding the bush.