

February 20, 2013

God Calls Moses
Alpha & OmegaExodus 3:1-22
Revelation 1:4-8I AM the Lord
I AM the Alpha & the Omega

LESSON FOCUS

God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

(Exodus 3:14)

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One." (Revelation 1:8)***Today's Bible Lesson:**

When Moses became full grown, he became very distressed at seeing his own people suffer under the hands of the Egyptians. During one of these times, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrew men. Moses became so furious at seeing this injustice, that he killed the Egyptian who had been beating up his fellow brother.

After killing this Egyptian man, the Pharaoh then finds out about it and seeks to have Moses killed. At this point, Moses flees into the desert into a place called Midian. He then lives in the desert for 40 years until God calls him out to deliver His people from their slavery to the Egyptians.

After 40 years of Moses being in the desert, God hears the cries of His people under their Egyptian bondage. The Bible says that God acknowledges their cries and plight under the Egyptian rule and decides He will deliver them out of their bondage because of the previous covenant that He had made with their earlier forefathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God first makes contact with Moses through a burning bush. Initially an angel of the Lord appears to Moses in a **"flame of fire from the midst of a bush."** This bush is burning with fire, but the bush itself is not being consumed by the fire!

God then starts to speak directly to Moses. He tells Moses that He has heard the cries of His people in Egypt and that He is calling Moses out to be the one who will go in there and deliver them from their plight with the Egyptians.

God is going to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians through Moses! God then proceeds to tell Moses that he will be the one to deliver and lead them out of their captivity and lead them into a **"good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and Hittites."**

Moses' initial response to God was that who was he to go down and bring the children of Israel out from their Egyptian bondage? God then tells Moses that He will be with Moses during this entire deliverance and for him to tell the children of Israel, when they ask the name of their God, that His name is:

"I AM who I AM."

He further tells Moses to tell His people that He is the God of their fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that He is going to deliver His people and bring them into a Promised Land flowing with milk and honey.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 3

Read from your Bible. Ask students to find it in a Bible too. Those that can read can follow along. Choose the passages you would like to read aloud. Use visuals to help tell the story.

God Calls Moses from a Burning Bush

Moses had grown up in the palace, but he knew that he was different from the king. He knew that he was a Hebrew—the kind of people that the king used as slaves for the kingdom. One day he saw a guard beating up a Hebrew slave. Moses became very angry. He got so angry that he killed the guard. He looked both ways and he thought that no one saw him. (Exodus 2:11-12)

The next day, Moses was in the same place and someone told him that he knew what Moses had done. Moses was scared! He knew that he could die for what he had done. So, he ran away to another country. He thought that he would be safe there. (Exodus 2:15)

It was really hard for Moses. He had to learn how to be a shepherd. A shepherd takes care of sheep. Moses lived in the palace when he was growing up. He never had to do anything. It would be like being the president's son or daughter (or a princess). He could do anything he wanted and get whatever he wanted. Best of all, he did not have to work. All the palace slaves did everything.

As you can see, Moses had to learn how to work, and how to work hard. He didn't have anyone helping him or giving him delicious food anymore. One day, Moses was out in the fields with the sheep. As he was leading the sheep, they came to the mountain of God. All of a sudden Moses saw a strange thing.

Moses saw fire coming out of a bush—but the bush was still green. Nothing was burning up or turning brown! Moses walked closer to get a better view. (Exodus 3:1-3) God saw that Moses was coming closer, so He called to Moses, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm right here." (Exodus 3:4)

Then God said, "Stay where you are. Take off your sandals because this is holy ground. (Exodus 3:5)

God told Moses that He had seen how the Hebrew people were being treated so badly. He had heard their cries for help. He told Moses that He had a plan, and Moses was part of that plan to get the people out of their slavery. God told Moses to go and get His people. (Exodus 3:10)

Moses just stood there. He was afraid. He didn't know what the king was going to say. He knew that there was a new king now and he was even tougher than the one Moses had grown up with! So, he told God that he wasn't a good leader; it should be someone else. (Exodus 3:11) God told Moses that He would be with him. Then Moses thought of another excuse. "What will I say when they ask who sent me?"

God told him that he would say, "I am who I am sent me." (Exodus 3:12-14)

Think about it — God called Moses to do something special for Him. God knows us and has a plan for our lives too. Talk about how God can use us to help others know about Him.

BIBLE CHALLENGE

God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."
(Exodus 3:14)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One." (Revelation 1:8)

Read these passages from your Bible. Ask students to locate it in a Bible too. Help them learn these verses.

Prince of Egypt Video Clip

Chapter 15: The Burning Bush

Approx. 6 minutes

Video introduction: this scene picks up as Moses is waking early in the morning, finding he has a lamb who wants to wander away.

NOTE:

You may want to all come together to watch video clip first. Then you can dismiss and continue your classes.

GAMES

Hula Hoop Hustle

Supplies Needed:

4 chairs

4 hula hoops (in closet in room 109)

4 sheets of construction paper (in Resource Room)

Markers (on teacher carts)

Tape

Prepare for the game:

Place chairs at 4 different locations around playing space. Place a hula hoop at each station. Letter one of the following instructions on each sheet of construction paper:

1. Stand inside the hula hoop with your partner and say Exodus 3:14. *(You may want to print the words of Exodus 3:14 on another sheet of paper and post it on the wall.)*
2. Roll the hula hoop back and forth with your partner and say Revelation 1:8. *(You may want to print the words of Revelation 1:8 on another sheet of paper and post it on the wall.)*
3. Hold hands with your partner and jump in and out of the hula hoop as you say Exodus 3:14.
4. Twirl hula hoop on your arm or around your waist as your partner says Revelation 1:8, then switch.

Tape one instruction to each of the 4 chairs.

Play the Game:

We're going to play a game called "Hula Hoop Hustle."

Review today's Bible verses, point them out on the wall.

Students choose partners. Use groups of 3 if you need to.

Each pair/group starts at a different location and follows the directions. Pairs/groups travel to all 4 stations, waiting until a pair/group is finished before going on.

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Experiment 1: Hanger Gong – Listening to God

God needed to get Moses' attention. He did so by calling to him through a bush that was on fire but not burning up. Pretty spectacular and amazing. Moses listened to God, but questioned Him – a lot! God answered each of his questions, trying to make Moses understand. Try this fun experiment using a metal hanger and some string.

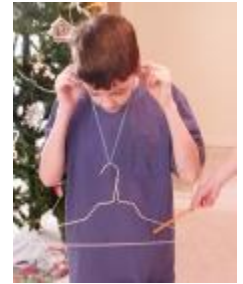
Hang a coat hanger onto a piece of string or yarn.

Hold the ends of the string in your ears, and bend over so that the hanger isn't touching you.

Carefully bang the hanger against various objects, or have someone tap the hanger with various objects.

The sound waves travel up the string, and they sound like a loud gong in your ears!

"I call on You, O God, for You will answer me." (Psalm 17:6)



Experiment 2: Can you Catch Coins Off of Your Elbow? Or – Moses, are you listening?

Do you ever make excuses? Moses tried to make excuses to God. God kept giving Moses an answer for every excuse he had. Do you try to make excuses to God? Talk about how we do not have to be afraid of what God is asking us to do.

Here's a tricky experiment with gravity!
First, balance one or more coins in a stack on your elbow.



Then straighten your arm and try to catch the coins!

