

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.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

Set out play farm, or stuffed animals. Let children play and care for the animals.

Say, Today we'll hear how God spoke to Moses while he was taking care of sheep.

OPENING

Show children a picture of a fire.

Fire can be good. When we light a fire in a fireplace and warm our home up on a cold night, that fire is good. Fire is hot. Fire creates heat, and gets very hot. You don't want to touch fire. God talked to Moses through fire, a bush was burning, but it was not burning up. Moses went to find out why. Let's listen to today's Bible lesson.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 3

Open your Bible so children can see you "reading" God's Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you're saying is coming from God's Word. Use Tell the Story idea below. Use The Beginners Bible page 98-104 to help children see the story.

One day Moses was out in the field 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 that 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) God told him that He would help.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," (Revelation 1:8)

Read this passage from your Bible. Help children learn this verse.

CREATING

Burning Bushes

Supplies

Red, orange, yellow tissue paper squares

White paper

Glue sticks

Glue tissue paper squares onto white paper in a random pattern to create the look of fire. Write today's Bible verse on the paper.

I AM WHO I AM. (Exodus 3:14)

ACTING

Moses grew up and left Egypt.

Now his job was herding sheep.

Walk in place holding a pretend staff

One day he was watching his flock,

When something made his heart leap

Put hands on cheeks

Moses saw a bush that was on fire.

But the branches and leaves were fine.

Hold arms up like branches

Then he heard a voice from the bush,

"Moses, come here. You are Mine."

Beckon with arm

"I am the Lord," said the voice.

"I have a new job for you."

Point

"You will free My people from Pharaoh.

That is what you must do!"

Nod head

So Moses listened to God.

And Aaron, his brother, came too.

Beckon with arm

God was with them as they went.

God showed them what to do.

Point outward

CLOSING ACTIVITY

God had a special plan for Moses. God has a plan for us too!

Let's sing Jesus loves me.

*Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

Pray: Dear God, thank you for having a special plan for Moses. Thank you for having a special plan for me too! Thank you for sending Jesus to take away my sins, the things I do wrong. Thank you for loving me! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.