

FIERY DIRECTIONS

Moses
Exodus 2:23–3:22
1526–1486 BC

BIBLE TRUTH

God shows who He is.

LEARNER GOAL

I can express, from the text, who God is and how He desires that we approach Him.

BIBLE VERSE

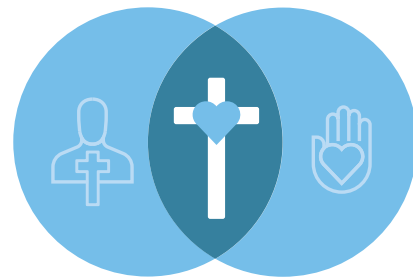
Fear not, for I am with you. . . . I am your God; I will strengthen you. Isaiah 41:10

LAW & GOSPEL

We turn away from God and see no need for Him in our lives. **God reveals Himself and His great love for us in His plan of salvation, fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Miraculously rescued through the waters of the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter, Moses escapes the condemnation pronounced on the other Hebrew boys. Leaving behind his life of privilege, Moses flees to Midian, where he encounters the living God in a burning bush. Through this encounter, God directs and equips Moses to rescue His chosen people from their slavery in Egypt.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has revealed Himself to me His Word and Sacraments and has called me His own.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I listen to God through His Word, and thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can express, from the text, who God is and how He desires that we approach Him.

YOUTH

I can understand that our Savior God reveals who He is through His Word.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is who He says He is—the one true God.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God talks to me in His Word, the Bible.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the narrative and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read through the First Petition in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017)* for a more in-depth view of how God desires that we use His name.

IN DEPTH Review “The Lord Is One!” under Topic 3 of *The Lutheran Difference*.



LEADER NOTE

The opening question may lead to some spirited discussion. Encourage this as group-building time for your learners. Ultimately, the point is to get the group considering why names matter. God's name matters to Him, in part because it reflects to the world who He is and what He does for us. As we use His name, we proclaim what we believe about Him to the world. Above all, we are to use it to pray, praise, and give thanks to Him.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Look up these other instances of the angel of the Lord appearing to sustain God's plan of salvation: Genesis 16:7–10; 18:1–15; Numbers 22:31–35; Joshua 5:13–15.

LAUNCH

WELCOME

Welcome the group and open in prayer. It may be a good time to take prayer requests; pray for those requests either now or at the conclusion.

REVIEW

Review the Bible Truth, Learner Goal, and Bible Verse. Then, begin with the opening reflection question on the lesson handout.

OPENING REFLECTION

Are you good at remembering peoples' names? What sorts of people do you have the easiest time recalling the names of? Which are more difficult?

LEARN & LIVE

EXODUS 2:23–25

BIBLE COMMENTARY

Some four hundred years have passed since the time of Joseph, and a lot has happened. God's people, brought to Egypt as privileged guests, are now enslaved. God spared from death the child Moses, who was then raised by Pharaoh's daughter. Forty years later, he killed an Egyptian taskmaster, fled to Midian, and spent the next forty years as a shepherd. But God is faithful to His promise to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Despite Moses' checkered past, God uses him to restore His people and, through them, bring salvation to the world.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Identify the different verbs that the author, Moses, uses to describe God's actions here. Pick one; how does that verb describe God's faithfulness to you when you are in trouble?

REFLECTION HELPS

Verses 24–25 note that God heard, remembered, saw, and knew the plight of His people in their bondage. God is faithful to His promises. He hears our prayers through Christ; He remembers us in our weakness and forgives us; He sees us in our trouble and promises redemption—He knows us through and through.

EXODUS 3:1–6

BIBLE COMMENTARY

God calls Moses, who is now eighty years old. God appears to him in a flame of fire out of a bush that does not burn up. From here on out, God will often choose to reveal Himself out of a flame of fire for His people, showing not only His power but also His visible presence among them. The speaker is the angel of the Lord; this is often interpreted as the Second Person of the Trinity prior to His incarnation. The God who would one day put on human flesh to fulfill His epic promises is now working behind the scenes to bring about that plan, just as He was with Hagar, Abram, and Joshua.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Look for details in the text that show how God chose to reveal Himself to Moses. Why do you think that is? Then, look for clues about how God wanted Moses to approach Him. How might these apply to how we approach God today?

REFLECTION HELPS

God could have revealed Himself to Moses in any sort of way, but He chose to do so in a visible and auditory way, through fire and words. Today, God still chooses to reveal Himself to us through means: His Word and Sacraments. Like Moses, we should approach God not simply with a respectful attitude but also in reverence, remembering that although He is God and we are not, He still chooses to come to us and give His good gifts to us.

EXODUS 3:7–12

BIBLE COMMENTARY

God recalls His promises to His people throughout His plan of salvation. Four hundred years after Joseph, God's silence is broken. Moses, understandably, is shocked that God has chosen him to do His work. Yet God, through all this, reminds Moses that He is the God who is and who will work salvation for His people in spite of, not because of, Moses' character.

REFLECTION QUESTION

God reveals to Moses who He is and what He plans to do for His people. Identify from the text different lines or passages that reveal God's character to Moses. Pick one that really sticks out to you and, in a few sentences, explain why.

REFLECTION HELPS

God sees affliction and shows care, God knows suffering and delivers from it, God keeps His promises, God calls people as His messengers and means of fulfilling His work, and God is with His people in their doubts and accomplishes His promises despite human weakness.

EXODUS 3:13–22

BIBLE COMMENTARY

God reveals His name to Moses: I AM WHO I AM, or Yahweh. The God who had promised Abraham the great covenant and had been faithful to the patriarchs is still at work. The great wonder is that God chooses to reveal Himself in a personal way, comparing Himself to people who think and act and get involved. God will use humble means like Moses and Aaron to deliver His people from slavery. Around 1,500 years later, Christ demonstrated not only God's plan of salvation but also the humble and personal means by which God restores His creation to Himself. Through the Means of Grace, God pours out His gifts in Christ to us. God is with us, and by His Word and through His Sacraments, we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. We worship the name of the God who is and who saves!

REFLECTION QUESTION

Look over this long section again, and summarize in your own words what God wanted Moses to say and do in Egypt. Most important, what is striking about how God describes Himself to Moses and to Israel?

REFLECTION HELPS

Moses was given the task to go to Egypt, gather the elders, and pass on the message that God was going to fulfill His promise to deliver His people to the Promised Land. Knowing full well that Pharaoh would refuse, God would send wonders, and Israel would plunder the Egyptians on their way out of slavery. God reveals His unique and unchangeable name here. It is a personal name, not the name of a far-off god or force of the universe. I AM, or Yahweh, is the sacred name by which God's people acknowledge their holy, faithful, imminent God of salvation.

LOVE

FINAL REFLECTION

How do we model for future generations a proper and reverent approach to God in personal prayer and corporate worship?

TAKE HOME

Equip your learners with ideas for taking the lesson into their households by giving them access to the Enduring Faith Page.

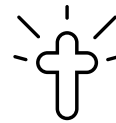
CLOSE WITH PRAYER

If you haven't yet, take prayer requests or encourage a volunteer from the class to pray before you leave.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Ask your learners to each write their answer individually on a note card, and either reveal it in small groups or leave it for you to check after your session is done.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God is not far from us. In fact, in Christ, God is present among His people through Word and Sacrament. As we receive His gifts, we respond in thanks and praise.



LEADER NOTE

We, like Moses, reverently approach God in worship and devotions, remembering that He is God and we are not. Yet we also focus our worship on remembering God's promises, which were fulfilled in the Scriptures and promised for the future.

