

FIERY DIRECTIONS

Moses
Exodus 2:23–3:22
1526–1486 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God shows who He is.

BIBLE VERSE

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

LEARNER GOAL

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

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.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Exodus 2:23–3:22 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Review the section “The First Petition” in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017), about the importance of God's name to who He is and how we honor His name.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Seashells & Bible story books
- Career items (e.g., hats, apron, toy medical kit)
- Paper cups & string
- Red or orange tissue paper
- Burning bush picture & masking tape
- Broccoli, ranch dip & red food coloring or Nutter Butter cookies, frosting & M&M's
- Tissue paper or red cellophane & paper towel tubes

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities



LEADER NOTE

Greet children and get them started in an activity that builds a foundation for what they will learn in class today, or start with Jesus Time.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Buddy Talk” to introduce the Bible story.



LEADER NOTE

Make a paper-cup phone by cutting a long piece of string (20 yards or so). Poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup. Thread the string through each cup and tie knots at each end to stop it pulling through.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

EXPLORE Set out seashells, Bibles, and Bible story books. Have children hold the shells to their ears. Ask, **What do you hear?** Talk about how we can hear the sound of waves even though we can’t see them. Point to the Bibles. Say, **We can’t see God, but we can hear what He says. God talks to us in the Bible. Today, we’ll hear how God talked to someone in a different way.**

RELATE Set out items representing different jobs, like a firefighter hat, a construction helmet, a toy stethoscope, an artist’s picture, and an apron. Have children name the item and the person who uses that item in his or her job. Say, **In today’s Bible story, God asks someone to do a very important job for Him.**

JESUS TIME

SING “We Are in God’s House Today” (digital resource center) or “Happy Now We Gather” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

SAY **What job does your daddy or mommy do? What are some other jobs big people do? Today we’ll hear about a special job God asked someone to do.**

PRAY **Dear God,* help us use our ears* to listen* and to learn* that You talk to us* in Your Word* and give us strength* to do the jobs* You give us.* We pray* in Jesus’ name.* Amen.***

*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Have two children each take one end of a paper-cup phone and walk apart until the string is taut and not touching anything else. Ask them to talk to each other through the cups. See if they can feel the vibrations of their voices. Give others a turn. Say, **We can hear the other person’s voice using this phone. But it only stretches so far. When people are far apart, we use real phones to talk to them. We can hear their voices and know who they are. In our Bible story, God wanted to talk to a man named Moses. But God didn’t use a phone. Let’s find out how God talked to him.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God’s Word are true. Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **God spoke to Moses from a burning bush and told him He was God, his Father in heaven who loved him. He gave Moses a special job of rescuing God’s people from their enemies. Moses was afraid. But God has all power. He told Moses He would help him. God doesn’t talk to us from a bush. He talks to us in His Word, the Bible. Show Bible. He tells us He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He loves us and gives us jobs to do too. Sometimes we are afraid. But God is our loving Father. He gives us strength through His Word.**

Read the Bible Verse from Isaiah 41:10: **He says, “Fear not (*shake head*), for I am with you (*point to everyone*). . . . I am your God (*make cross with arms*); I will strengthen you” (*lift arms to show muscles*).** Have children say the words and do the actions with you.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with the children. Hand out the second page of the leaflets, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Tell children to look for the hidden sandals, add stickers, and color the bush. They can glue snippets of red or orange tissue paper to the bush for fire. Review the story as they work.

SIDE 2 Talk about how God spoke to Moses through the burning bush. Ask children where God talks to us. Say, **God works through His Word to help you live as His children. He forgives you and gives you power to do the things He wants you to do. You can talk to God too. You do that when we pray. God promises to answer your prayers.** Have children color the hearts and smiley faces and add stickers to the scenes. Have them find and circle the hidden crosses.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Reinforce the Learner Goal with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to “Active Learning” on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Get children moving with a shoe relay. Talk about how God told Moses to take off his shoes, because he was on holy ground, and gave him a new job. God talks to us in the Bible. He gives us jobs to do too.

□ SNACK

Make a burning bush or sandal snack to review the story.

□ CREATE

Make candles and teach children to say the Invocation after you: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Can children verbalize that God speaks to them in His Word and helps them live as His children and show love for others? Check for understanding by asking children where God speaks to them and have them give examples of some of the ways they live as God’s children.

LEAVE

SING “The B-I-B-L-E” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 48) or “God’s Word for Everyone” (digital resource center)

SAY Today we learned God is our Father in heaven, who loves us and helps us. He talks to us in His Word, the Bible, and gives us jobs to do as His children. God promises to help us, and He forgives us for Jesus’ sake when we mess up.

PRAY Dear God, thank You for the Bible, where You talk to us. Give us strength to live as Your children and do the jobs You want us to do. Thank You for Jesus, who forgives all our sins. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God talks to us through His Word, the Bible. He tells us He loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior.



LEADER NOTE

Ask children when they hear the words of the Invocation in church (e.g., at the beginning of the service and at Baptism). Share that when we say these words, we are confessing (telling) that we believe in the one true God.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Play “Sheep and Shepherd.”



BONUS ACTIVITY

Do “Seek and Find,” and then close in prayer.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

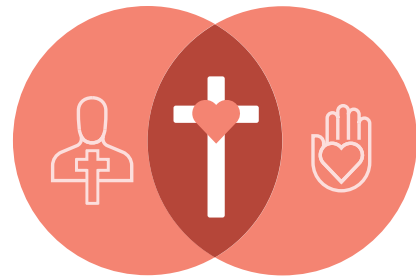
Clear a space and put a picture of a burning bush at one end. Have children take off their shoes near the bush. Mix them up in a big pile. Divide children into two teams behind a starting line made with masking tape. Vary directions for getting to the shoe pile (e.g., hop, take big steps, walk backwards, walk and clap). Have them find their shoes, put them on, then go back to the starting line. The team that finishes first can sit down. Ask, **How did you help the friends on your team? What jobs does Jesus give you? How does He help you do them?**

□ SNACK

Use broccoli to make a bush and ranch dip colored with red food coloring for the fire. *Option:* Make sandals from Nutter Butter cookies. Add lines of frosting with M&M's on top to make them look like flip-flops. Review the story.

□ CREATE

Make candles. Stuff tissue paper or red cellophane in paper towel tubes or rolled-up construction paper taped into a tube. Let children color or decorate the outside of their candles as they wish. Pull up the tissue paper or cellophane to “light” the candles. Say, **God talked to Moses from a burning bush. He was right there with Moses. We light candles at the beginning of church to show that God is with us too. We begin in His name.** Say the Invocation. **God talks to us through His Word, the Bible. He tells us He loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior. He helps us live as His children and do the jobs He wants us to do.**



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has revealed Himself to me in 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.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

BUDDY TALK

10 minutes

Buddy arrives shaking. He is worried and afraid. He says his mom told him he can set the table by himself, but he is worried he will forget where things go or drop a dish.

Tell him setting a table is a big job for someone so small, but you are sure he can do it if his mom asked him to. Tell him he can always ask his mom for help. In today's story, God asks a man to do a job for Him that the man didn't think he could do. But God promised to give him strength and help him. God will help us too! Buddy stays to listen.

SHEEP AND SHEPHERD

15 minutes

You will need a shepherd and sheep who follow and copy his or her movements (e.g., if the “shepherd” hops, the “sheep” hop). Let children take turns being the shepherd.

Say, **Moses led sheep as a shepherd. God gave him a new job to lead God's people out of Egypt.** Tell children that Jesus is our leader. He talks to us in the Bible. He gives us jobs to do. Ask for examples (e.g., doing chores, being a friend, showing love, helping). Talk about how God gives us strength through His Word to do them.

SEEK AND FIND

15 minutes

Draw crosses, Bibles, and praying hands on red, orange, and yellow paper leaves as a reminder of how we talk to God through prayer and how God talks to us through His Word and tells us about Jesus. Place the leaves around the room for the children to find. Let the children stick the leaves on a green paper bush in the shape of a flame to make the bush “burn.” Ask, **How did God talk to Moses? How does He talk to us?** End with a prayer circle, giving the children time to talk to God.