

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

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 study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

IN DEPTH Read “The Witness of ‘I Am’” on pages 1784–85 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Index cards and tape
- Story props: red and orange tissue paper or fabric, walking stick, sandals, megaphone
- Slips of paper

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities



LEADER NOTE

If you are short on time, use only the questions to begin.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 7.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Let youth share ideas for talking about God with “What Would You Say?”



LEADER NOTE

Use props for a dramatic retelling of the story: have one or two youths wave red and orange tissue, fabric, or paper flames for the bush, give Moses a walking stick and sandals, use a megaphone for the voice of God, etc.

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

Whom would you like to get to know?

WHO AM I?

Write the names of famous people or cartoon characters on index cards, one for each youth. Don't let them see the names! Tape one card on each person's back. Youth are to learn what name is on their card by asking others yes-or-no questions. Once they guess correctly, they can tape the card to their front. Play for a few minutes, then discuss.

SAY How do we get to know more about a person? How do we get to know more about God?

These questions should help learners to start thinking about how they build relationships with other humans and with God.

SAY We learn about others by talking with them and asking questions. We learn about God through His Word, the Bible.

PRAY Heavenly Father, through the centuries, people have asked, “Who is God?” Thank You for giving us Your Word so we can know who You are and what You have done for us through the work of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

▷ God revealed Himself to Moses as He spoke through a burning bush. How does God reveal Himself to us today?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Help youth think about the ways God sometimes uses to get our attention—it may be through sickness, a difficult situation, or another person. God may use different means to get our attention today, but He still *speaks* to us through His Word.

LEARN ABOUT “MOSES”

Read **Exodus 2:23-25**. Look especially at the four verbs.

▷ What do those verbs tell you about God's faithfulness to His people and to you?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- God heard, remembered, saw, and knew what the Israelites were going through. And God remembered His promise of a Savior. He was going to keep that promise, starting with freeing His people from slavery in Egypt.
- We sometimes forget how deeply God loves us and cares about us. He hears our prayers, sees our needs, knows everything about us, and remembers His promise to forgive us and make us His own for Jesus' sake.

Now read or listen to all of **Exodus 3**.

▷ What is the name that God gave Moses to tell the people (**Exodus 3:14**)?

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

▷ Now read **John 8:58**. What is Jesus clearly declaring here?

By calling Himself “I am,” Jesus is declaring His divinity, that He is God.

LIVE

DISCUSS “KNOWING GOD”

Turn to the journal section “Knowing God.” Give time for learners to consider the question there and below. Learners may want to add their own questions, thoughts, or concerns prompted by the lesson.

► How do we get to know God?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Nature—God’s creation shows us a God who is all-powerful, orderly, creative, and caring. When we look at an incredible sunset, a sky full of stars, or the uniqueness of each person, we see God the Creator at work in the world.
- Other people—God works through people to teach us more about Him as they share their experiences and Bible knowledge with us.
- Media—We can learn more about God through Christian books, songs, blogs, and so forth. But the Internet, television, and popular culture can also be filled with misinformation about God.
- God’s Word—Nature, other people, and media can’t tell us the whole story. Only in God’s Word, the Bible, can we come to know and believe in the true God and His plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. As we read, hear, and study God’s Word, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to create and strengthen faith.

CONSIDER “BIO: GOD”

Make connections with our knowledge of God and the Bible by guiding youth to create a simple profile, or bio, of God. Encourage use of the Bible to fill in the bio. Use the suggestions as prompts, if needed.

Name(s): I AM; God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Jesus, Lord, Savior, etc.

Three adjectives to describe God: loving, faithful, merciful, just, creative, almighty, etc.

What God has done: created the universe, redeemed all mankind, defeated the devil, still cares for His creation, rescued His people from slavery, etc.

What God wants to see happen: (Read **1 Timothy 2:4**) [God our Savior] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

As a check for understanding, have each youth write his or her answer to the question **Who is God?** on a slip of paper and hand it to you before leaving.

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

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

Ask for prayer requests. Invite a willing student to pray, or offer to pray for the group.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is true God, one with the Father and the Spirit. He is the promised Messiah, the Son of God.



LEADER NOTE

Use “Apologetics Helps” on the back of this leaflet for support as you discuss this question and related topics of interest.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Dig into the Word to find more names for God with “God’s Name.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson using shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

We get to know God through His Word, the Bible. But how do we know that the Bible is reliable?

- Cross-checking of Old Testament and New Testament manuscripts from different time periods and languages show amazing accuracy.
- There are more ancient copies of the New Testament (over 24,000) than of any other ancient book.
- The biblical record of events is confirmed by the archaeological record.
- Historical writers such as Josephus and Tacitus confirm the biblical account of Jesus.
- Christians do not rely on these things in order to believe that the Bible is true. Instead, these things confirm what we believe by faith: that the Bible is God's true, inspired Word.

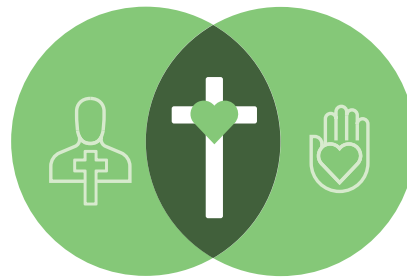
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► **What does the Bible say about who we are and who God is?**

In the Bible, God shows us who we are—sinners in need of a Savior—and who He is—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all. The Bible shows us who Jesus is and what He has done for us. John 20:31 tells us, “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

► **How do I know if God is speaking to me?**

Because we are corrupted by sin, we can't say for sure that any voice speaking “in our heart” is God speaking to us. Instead, to hear God's voice, listen to Him speaking through Scripture. Hebrews 1:1–2 tells us, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.”



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has revealed Himself to me in His Word and Sacraments and has called me to be 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

GOD'S NAME

5–10 minutes

How does God describe Himself in Scripture? Give students five minutes to look up names for God in the Bible or on a Bible app. Have them write down as many names for God as they can find. What do these names say about who God is?

HOLY BOOKS?

10–15 minutes

Search online for books that are considered “holy” by other religions. Compare these with the Bible. Read 2 Peter 1:21. Discuss how God used human beings to write the Bible but because it is divinely inspired by God, it is truly His Holy Word.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

15–20 minutes

Role-play by dividing students into pairs and having them act out what they would say if someone asked them the question “Who is God?”