

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Leaving Egypt

THE BURNING BUSH

Exodus 3:1-4:18

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Ten

[0230]

AIM: to use the story of Moses and the burning bush to teach my class that when God calls, we must say “yes”

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A picture of a bush
A picture of fire
A picture of a rod (cane, stick)
A picture of a snake
A picture of a river
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: How many of you have ever seen pictures of the **desert**, where all you can see is the sand and the hot sun? I’m going to tell you a story today of something that happened in the hot, sandy desert.

How many of you have ever hid in the **bushes**? I’m going to tell you a story today about a bush.

How many of you have ever seen something on **fire**? I’m going to tell you a story today about something that was burning.

Does anybody here like **snakes**? I’m going to tell you a story about a snake today.

STORY: Last Sunday I told you how Moses made the choice to leave the palace in order to help deliver his people from slavery. Moses wound up leaving Egypt all together and going to live in a place called *Midian*. In Midian Moses met a girl and got married. Moses spent many years living in Midian, working for his father-in-law as a shepherd. In fact, he did that for so many years, his life in Egypt came to seem like a long, long time ago.

The Bible tells us that Moses was taking care of some sheep in the desert. He was working for his father-in-law, caring for his sheep. It was very hot and very dry in the desert. He was all alone working in the hot sun.

As Moses was walking along, he looked across the hot sand and saw that something was on fire. It did not surprise him, because in the hot desert, sometimes things caught on fire. So Moses kept walking, and forgot about it. But a little while later, Moses looked and saw that the thing that was burning was still on fire. He looked closely and saw that it was a bush that was on fire. “That’s strange,” he thought, “a bush like that should have burned up quickly; but that bush just keeps on burning.” Moses watched that bush burn as he fed and watered the sheep. The longer he watched, the more he was amazed that the bush just kept on burning. The fire never went out. It never even died down.

Moses decided that he needed to move a little bit closer to the bush to find out what was going on. As Moses drew near to the bush, the voice of God spoke to Moses and said, “Don’t come any closer. Take off your shoes. The place where you are standing is holy ground.” God had made that bush burn like that to get Moses’ attention. God had something very important that He needed to tell Moses.

Moses obeyed God’s command and took off his shoes. God continued speaking to Moses: “I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Moses was so scared that he hid his face. God said, “I have seen that my people are slaves in the land of Egypt and I have seen how terribly they are treated. They have prayed to me for help, and I am going to help them. I am sending you to go to Pharaoh, the wicked king of Egypt, and tell him to let my people go. You will lead them out of Egypt, and lead them to the land that I promised to give to them.”

Moses interrupted God and said, “B-b-b-but God...I’m just a nobody. How could I do this job?”

God said, “Be assured that I will be with you as you go.” Then God went back to telling Moses about the job.

Moses interrupted again. “B-b-b-but God...when I say, ‘God sent me!’ They might ask, ‘What God? What is the name of the God that sent you?’ What will I tell them?”

God said, “Tell them the ‘I AM’ God sent you. That’s all they need to know.” Then God continued to tell Moses exactly what He needed Moses to do.

But Moses interrupted again, as if he had not even heard what God had said. “B-b-b-but God, the people won’t believe me. They will think that I am lying.”

God said, “Okay, let me give you some ways to prove that you are not lying. What is that in your hand?”

Moses said, “This? This is my shepherd’s rod.”

God said, “Throw it down on the ground.” Moses threw the rod on the ground, just as God has said, and immediately it turned into a **snake**! Moses ran to get away from the snake, but God said, “Reach down a pick it up by the tail.”

Moses reached down, and as soon as he did, the snake turned to a rod again. Moses was amazed.

God said, “Now put your hand into your coat.” Moses put his hand into his coat, and when he pulled it out it had turned as white as snow with the awful disease of leprosy. Moses was horrified, and God said, “Put your hand back into your coat.” Moses obeyed, and when he pulled his hand out, it was healed. Then God said, “If they don’t believe those two signs, then take a bucket full of water out of the river, and when you pour it on the ground, it will turn to blood.”

Moses interrupted a fourth time and said, “B-b-b-but God, I don’t talk very well. I get all nervous, and I stutter, and get tongue-tied.”

God said, “I created your mouth, Moses! If I can create a mouth, then I can cause that mouth to talk with the words that I want it to say, can’t I?”

And would you believe it? Moses interrupted again! Moses interrupted God five times to give a reason why he thought he could not do what God was asking him to do. Moses said, “God, I just don’t think I’m the right man for the job. Why don’t you pick someone else.”

God was angry, but He said, “Moses, you are the man I have chosen. But if it makes you feel any better, I will send your brother Aaron with you to help you.” So Moses agreed that, yes, he would do the job that God needed him to do.

God made that bush to burn like that because He had a big important job that He needed Moses to do. If Moses did not go back to Egypt to deliver God’s people, who would do it? **Nobody**! If Moses did not do it, the job would not be done. Moses was the man that God needed.

Kids, all over this area where we live there are people that need to know that Jesus died for them. If nobody tells them how to go heaven, then they will die and go to hell. Somebody must tell them.

All over this area there are other boys and girls that are going to grow up and join gangs, they are going to grow up and do drugs, they are going to grow up and go to jail. Many of them will die at a young age. How sad that is! What makes it sadder is that none of them have to live like that. If somebody will tell them about Jesus while they are young, they can avoid making those mistakes. But who is going to tell them?

All over this area are people who think that nobody loves them. Some people will wind up homeless. Some people will wind up hooked on drugs or hooked on booze. Their homes will be broken and their lives will be wrecked. But all of that can be prevented if somebody will tell them about Jesus. Who will tell them?

All over the world in many different countries there are people who do not know that God loves them, who have never even heard the name of Jesus. If they die without trusting Jesus, they will go to hell forever. Who is going to tell them?

The truth is, God may call you to tell them. Now, God calls every one of us to tell other people about Jesus. But God also calls people to do special jobs, like being a pastor, or being a missionary, or being a Sunday School teacher. God calls people to reach teenagers, to drive Sunday School buses, and to do jobs in churches.

What should you do when God calls you? The same thing that Moses did: you should say “yes.” Moses did not want to, and you may not want to. But the best thing you can do with your life is to say “yes” to the call of God.

Every day we hear awful stories of terrible things that happen in the world. People killing other people, hurting other people, and doing terrible things. Many of these terrible things would be stopped if people like you and me would answer the call of God to tell the whole world about Jesus. When God calls, say “yes”!

Let’s learn our memory verse: **Psalm 1:1** – *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

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Exodus 3:1-4:18

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Ten

[0230]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **GOD KNOWS HOW TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.** 3:1-3. God knew where to find Moses, and He knew how to get Moses to listen to His voice. Sometimes people worry, “What if God calls, and I don’t recognize His call?” Rest assured, God knows how to get your attention, and He knows how to make sure you know that it was His call.

- II. **ANY PLACE WHERE GOD MEETS WITH US IS HOLY GROUND.** 3:5. The word “holy” simply means “set apart.” This place, Mount Horeb, called ‘the mountain of God,’ is Mount Sinai, where God would eventually give the Ten Commandments to Moses. It is holy because it is the place where God initiated Moses’ ministry, and where God would later establish a new relationship with His people. Though we should be careful never to worship a spot, lest that spot become an idol to us, it is often helpful to us to let a “holy ground” spot stir in us the desire to see God work among us in a great way.

- III. **GOD KNOWS WHEN WE ARE READY FOR HIM TO USE US.** When Moses had tried to deliver the people his way at age 40, he obviously thought he was qualified to make a difference. Now, 40 years later, God calls Moses, and ironically Moses does NOT believe that he is qualified. Part of what God does when He prepares us is to show us that we are not as qualified as we think we are. He must break us and humble us. After all those years, God knew that Moses had been humbled enough to be useable.

- IV. **WHEN GOD CALLS US HE ALSO EQUIPS US.** Moses gave five different objections to God: 3:11 – “But I’m just a nobody.” 3:13 – “But whom should I say sent me?” 4:1 – “But what if they don’t believe me?” 4:10 – “But I don’t talk very well.” 4:13 – “Surely you must have somebody who could do it better than me.” God answered each of these objections to show Moses that He would not have called him if He were not going to enable him. God makes this promise to us several times in the Bible, including I Thessalonians 5:24 – *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

- V. **GOD DOES THINGS TO CONFIRM HIS CALL.** 3:12. We are all human, and we all have a tendency to question whether or not God really called us. In His mercy, God provides us with confirmation of His call. That is what He was doing for Moses when He said, “When I bring you back to this spot, you will be reminded of this day, and you will know that this was real.” The success of the mission is a powerful confirmation of God’s call.

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-4:18

[0230]

God Calls Moses to Deliver His People from Egypt

I. EXODUS 3:1-10 GOD CALLS MOSES

1-3 God gets Moses' attention

4-6 God speaks to Moses

7-10 God calls Moses to deliver His people

II. EXODUS 3:11-4:17 GOD ANSWERS MOSES' OBJECTIONS

3:11 Moses' first objection: "I'm a nobody"

3:12 God's first response: "I will go with you"

3:13 Moses' second objection: "I don't know much about you"

3:14-22 God's second response: "All you need to know is I AM"

4:1 Moses' third objection: "They won't believe me"

4:2-9 God's third response: "I will empower you to do signs"

4:10 Moses' fourth objection: "I'm not a good speaker"

4:11-12 God's fourth response: "I will teach you how"

4:13 Moses' fifth objection: "There must be someone else you can send"

4:14-17 God's fifth response: "Your brother will help you, but you're in charge"

III. EXODUS 4:18 MOSES PREPARES TO RETURN TO EGYPT

Psalm 1:1

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

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[0230]

Circle the letter next to the correct answer to each question from the Scripture passage and from today's Bible story.

1. When Moses left Egypt, where did he live for 40 years?
a. Mexico b. Midian c. Maryland
2. Moses worked in the wilderness as a what?
a. shepherd b. carpenter c. car salesman
3. What did Moses see burning?
a. a bush b. a barn c. a barrel
4. Who spoke to Moses from the bush?
a. his wife b. his father-in-law c. God
5. What kind of ground did God tell Moses he was standing on?
a. holy ground b. hot ground c. humble ground
6. To whom was God sending Moses?
a. the mayor b. the governor c. Pharaoh, king of Egypt
7. If Pharaoh asked, "Who is your God?" Moses was to tell him His name is what?
a. I AM b. God c. Almighty
8. When Moses threw his rod on the ground, what did it become?
a. a lizard b. a snake c. an alligator
9. When Moses pulled his hand out of his coat, it was covered with what?
a. poison ivy b. leprosy c. hair
10. Who did God say He would send with Moses to do the talking?
a. Moses' wife b. Moses' mom c. Moses' brother, Aaron

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nor standeth in the way of sinners,
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The answers to this week's puzzle

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