



The Burning Bush

Lesson Aim: To know God calls us to be His messengers.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Speaks

THE WORD

Bible Story: Exodus 3:1-5, 9-10, 16-17; 4:12

What He has done: God called to Moses from a burning bush.

Key Verse: Exodus 4:12

THE WAY

Christ Connection: John 3:16

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:23

Unit 8: The God Who Speaks			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Joseph and His Jealous Brothers, Genesis 37:2-11, 18-24, 27-28, 32-34	God spoke to Joseph in a dream and protected him from death.	To know God speaks to us and wants us to respond.
39	Joseph Forgives His Brothers, Genesis 45:1-15	God meant for good what the brothers meant for evil.	To challenge children to forgive others.
40	The Burning Bush, Exodus 3:1-5, 9-10, 16-17; 4:12	God called to Moses from a burning bush.	To know God calls us to be His messengers.
41	God Sends the Plagues, Exodus 7:16-18; 8:1-4, 20-21, 28; 10:3-6	God kept His promise to send plagues if Pharaoh would not listen.	To see the importance of listening to and obeying God.
42	God Parts the Red Sea, Exodus 14:5-6, 9-10, 13-16, 21-22, 31	God kept His promise to deliver His people from slavery.	To show God has made a way for us to be saved. (Salvation Message)

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 6. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for calling us to serve the children. Equip them and fill them with Your Spirit to answer Your call. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Foot Messengers	20 sheets of sturdy paper, 4 baskets, yarn
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Well Done" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "Search Me, O God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Holy, Holy, Holy" "Spirit of the Living God" "This Is My Father's World" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 96:8-9	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 40 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Exodus 3:1-5, 9-10, 16-17; 4:12	Map—Midian near the Sinai Peninsula, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, bush branch or photo of a bush
		Christ Connection: John 3:16	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Leaf (real or artificial), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "Well Done," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Flaming Fruit	Green apples, red or orange-colored yogurt (such as strawberry or orange-flavored)
	Up to 10	Game: Baby Moses Story	Basket, 10 squares of blue cotton cloth or paper, black marker
	Up to 10	Craft: Message Leaves	Poster board, sturdy green paper, scissors, pencils, markers
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Stones	Paper plates, markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Bible Memory Verse Message Ball	2 hula-hoops, 2 large foam balls, 2 large pieces of paper, marker, floor tape, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What do you want to be when you grow up?

GAME: FOOT MESSENGERS

Purpose: Teams will race to see who can be the first to deliver message scrolls using their feet.

Supplies: 20 sheets of sturdy paper, 4 baskets, yarn

Prepare: Roll each sheet of sturdy paper into a scroll. Cut a length of yarn and tie it around each scroll to secure them. In two of the baskets, place ten scrolls each.

In our Bible story, we will discover how God spoke to Moses and called him to be His messenger. When God spoke to Moses, He told him to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Why do you think God said it was holy ground? (God was there and He is holy.) Let's take off our shoes and play a game in which you will deliver messages using only your feet.

Directions:

1. Form two teams. Have children remove their shoes.
2. Have each team lay on their backs, shoulder to shoulder. Place a basket with ten scrolls at one end of each team's line and place an empty basket at the other end of each line.
3. On your signal, the player for each team that is closest to the basket of scrolls, picks up a scroll (with their hands) and places it between his or her feet. The next player takes the scroll by grasping it with his or her feet. Players continue to pass the scroll down the line using only their feet. The last player in the line puts the scroll in the basket (with their hands).
4. Repeat the process with each scroll. Depending on the time you have to play the game, you can choose whether the players must wait until one scroll has been deposited into the end basket before the next scroll can be started or whether they can pass the scrolls without waiting.
5. The goal is to be the first team to transfer all of their scrolls into the end basket.



The God who speaks

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting the offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Today, we worship the God who speaks to us. He invites us to come into His Holy Presence. When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He said Moses was standing on holy ground. When we worship God, we are also standing on holy ground.



Read Psalm 96:8-9.



As we give our offerings, let's take time to worship God for His holiness. Sing: "Holy, Holy, Holy" while offering is collected.

Sing Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Well Done."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's Holy Presence.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 8, Lesson 40.



God speaks to Moses

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Joseph forgave his brothers. What good things happened for Egypt and for Joseph's family as a result of Joseph being sold and taken to Egypt? (His family and all of Egypt had enough to eat during the famine.) **Joseph was one of Jacob's twelve sons. They each had large families, and together they were called the Israelites. They were also called Hebrews. Hebrew was the language they spoke. Several hundred years after Joseph died, life in Egypt was very hard for the Israelites. The new Pharaoh (king) did not know about Joseph and how he wisely governed the Egyptians. He forced the Israelites into slavery. Moses was one of those Israelites.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Exodus 3:1-5, 9-10, 16-17; 4:12.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

When Moses was a baby, his mother hid him on the bank of the Nile River to protect him from Pharaoh. Pharaoh's daughter found and raised baby Moses as her own son. Even though Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace, he knew he was an Israelite. He was angry that his people, who were slaves to the Egyptians, were mistreated. When he saw a man beating a slave, Moses killed the man and ran away to Midian. If a map is available, point out Midian near the Sinai Peninsula. **Let's read what happened to Moses.** Read Exodus 3:1-5, 9-10, 16-17. **Moses was afraid to be the messenger, but God made him a promise.** Read Exodus 4:12.



God speaks to us

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Bush branch or photo of a bush

What did Moses see while he was tending his sheep in Midian? (A burning bush.) **Whose voice came from the bush?** (God's.) Hold up branch or photo of bush. **Imagine what it must have been like to see a bush on fire, yet not burning up. Imagine hearing God's voice from the burning bush calling your name. What do you think His voice sounds like?** (Children respond.)

Why do you think God made Moses take off his shoes? (He was standing on holy ground.) **God wanted Moses to understand just how special it was for God to speak to him. Whenever we talk with God, we are in His presence. That means we are standing on holy ground. When we pray, we take a position that reminds us we are on holy ground. We may close our eyes, bow our heads, fold our hands, stand, sit, or kneel. What prayer position helps you remember you are in God's holy presence?** (Children respond.)

What did God say He had seen and heard? (He had seen the Israelites suffering. He heard them crying.) **God told Moses to carry His message that He would free the Israelites to both the Israelites and to Pharaoh. How would you feel if God told you to deliver a special message for Him?** (Children respond.) **How does God describe the new land where He promised they would live?** (The land of milk and honey.)

Moses was worried about being God's messenger. He wondered why God had chosen him; he was not good at speaking. How did God promise to help him? (God would help him speak and teach him what to say.) **God gave Moses everything he needed. He even chose Moses' brother Aaron to help because he was good at speaking.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In God's message to the Israelites, He showed He cared and He promised to bring them a new life. In the same way, God sends us to others with a message about God's love and the promise of a new life with Him. 1500 years after God spoke to Moses, Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about this new message which was for all people.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: John 3:16. Let's find this scripture. Read John 3:16.

We can tell others this message. It is good news! God will help us speak His message, even when we are not sure what to say, and He will help people believe the message. Let's take seven seconds of silence and silently ask God to help us share this message of good news with everyone. After a brief silent prayer, conclude prayer time with the Golden Bowl prayer.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a leaf. Each time you look at the leaf, remember God called Moses to be His messenger from the burning bush. He wants you to be His messenger, too!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 40 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Moses and the burning bush. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Well Done," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FLAMING FRUIT

Purpose: To enjoy a snack that reminds the children of the amazing burning bush.

Snack Suggestion: Green apples, red or orange-colored yogurt (such as strawberry or orange-flavored)

Prepare: Slice the apples.

In our Bible story, we heard how God spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. That bush must have been an amazing sight!

Directions:

1. Give each child a few apple slices with a small “flame” (spoonful) of yogurt on each slice.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen?**

GAME: BABY MOSES STORY

Purpose: To help children learn or review the story of baby Moses.

Supplies: Basket, 10 squares of blue cotton cloth or paper, black marker

Prepare: Write one of the following ten phrases each on a cloth square and place them in the basket.

- The new Pharaoh did not know about Joseph.
- Pharaoh thought there were too many Israelites.
- Pharaoh ordered Israelites to become slaves.
- Pharaoh ordered all baby boys to be killed.
- Moses was born.
- Moses' mother hid him in a basket on the Nile River.
- Moses' sister watched the basket.
- Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the basket.
- Pharaoh's daughter asked Moses' mother to take care of him.
- Moses grew up in the palace with Pharaoh's daughter.

Listen as I read the story of baby Moses. Then, we will play a game to see how well you listened. Read Exodus 2:1-10.

Directions:

1. Choose ten volunteers to each pick a cloth from the basket. For smaller classes, have each child pick more than one cloth and lay the cloths on the floor to put them in order.
2. Each volunteer reads the phrase on his or her cloth. (You may need to assist non-readers.)
3. Have the class work together to place the ten volunteers with their cloths in the correct order of events. (The phrases are listed in correct order above.)
4. Have a volunteer read all the phrases in the correct order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: MESSAGE LEAVES

Purpose: Children will decorate leaves with a special message from God to share with others.

Supplies: Poster board, sturdy green paper, scissors, pencils, markers

Prepare: Write out the words to John 3:16 in a place where the children can easily copy them. From poster board, cut out several leaf templates.

Variations: Provide precut paper leaves or craft foam shapes. Create a "Burning Bush Candle" by cutting three smaller leaves from sturdy green paper or craft foam. Print the words of John 3:16 across the 3 leaves. Glue the leaves on the sides of a small glass jar. Insert a small votive candle in the jar.

Today, we discovered God called Moses to be His messenger. What message did God want Moses to deliver to the Israelites? (God had heard their cries and was going to rescue them.) **God wants us to be His messengers, too. Let's write a special message to give away to someone who we can tell about Jesus. We will write our message on a green leaf to remember God spoke to Moses through a bush that did not burn.**

Directions:

1. Use a pencil to trace the outline of a leaf template onto a piece of sturdy green paper.
2. Cut out the leaf.
3. Use a marker to copy the words of John 3:16 onto the leaf.
4. Decorate the leaf with markers.
5. Give the leaf to a friend or family member. Tell them how much Jesus loves them and that He wants them to believe in Him.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” Matthew 25:23

GAME: STEPPING STONES

Purpose: Children will walk across “stepping stones” to learn the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Paper plates, markers

Prepare: Write the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse on paper plates; one word per plate. Place the plates word side up and in order on the floor.

Directions:

1. Children step on the plates in order, saying each word as they step.
2. Play the game again, but this time turn over a few of the plates so they must remember the missing words when they step on those plates.
3. Repeat step 2 until all the plates are upside down and the children are able to say the Bible Memory Verse from memory.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE MESSAGE BALL

Purpose: Teams will play to earn puzzle pieces of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 hula-hoops, 2 large foam balls, 2 large pieces of paper, marker, floor tape, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: On paper, make two copies of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse in large letters. Cut out each word to create two sets of Bible Memory Verse puzzles. Mix up the pieces. Display the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster.

Teacher’s Tip: Have an assistant or older child assist non-readers with the ordering and reading of the Bible Memory Verse.

Today, we will discover how God spoke to a teenager named Joseph in a very special way. God speaks to us, too! One way God speaks to us is through the Bible, God’s message to us. Our new Bible Memory Verse is from God’s Word and is a message to us. Let’s say it together. Read the Bible Memory Verse together.

Directions:

1. Use floor tape to mark two start lines.
2. Have assistants hold the hula hoops at a distance from the start line which may be adjusted based on the age and ability of the children.
3. Form two teams. Instruct each team to line up behind a start line.
4. Give a ball to the first player on each team.
5. On your signal, the first player of each team tries to throw the ball through their team’s hoop. When the ball goes through the hoop, that team gets one word of the Bible Memory Verse puzzle. The first player gets the ball and gives it to the second player.
6. Teams repeat step 5 until the team has all the puzzle pieces.
7. Teams must put the puzzle pieces together to say the Bible Memory Verse. The first team to collect the words, put them in the correct order, and say the Bible Memory Verse out loud wins.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) **What did Jacob do to Esau?** (He tricked him out of his birthright. He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.) **What did Jacob dream about when he ran away from Esau?** (Angels on a ladder going to heaven.) **What did Jacob do the whole night before he reunited with Esau?** (He wrestled with a mysterious man until God gave him a blessing.)

Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) **What did Jacob give his son Joseph?** (A colorful robe.) **What did Joseph's jealous brothers do to him?** (They threw him in an empty well and sold him into slavery.) **What good things happened for Egypt and for Joseph's family as a result of Joseph being sold and taken to Egypt?** (His family and all of Egypt had enough to eat during the famine.)

Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) **What did Moses hear and see while he was tending his sheep?** (God's voice coming from a burning bush.) **What did God tell Moses to do?** (Tell Pharaoh and the Israelites God would bring the Israelites out of Egypt.) **What did God say His name was?** ("I Am.")

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)