

A Baby and a Bush

Birth of Moses and the burning bush

Exodus 1:6-2:15; 3:1-15; 4:1-17

Character Trait: Teachable

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that God used Moses despite his weaknesses.
- Children will identify the specific traits of someone who is teachable.

Supplies:

- *A Baby and a Bush* loaded ontoa tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper *(one for each child)*
- Markers
- Paint
- Sponges *(cut into small pieces, one piece for each child)*
- Pencils *(optional)*
- Glue *(optional)*
- Yellow, orange and red tissue paper *(optional)*
- Scissors *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they've ever had to do something difficult. *(Raise your hand as well.)* Next, ask the children to keep their hands up if they felt a little scared or worried at the time. *(Keep your hand raised as well.)*

SAY: It is completely normal to feel scared or worried when we attempt something new or difficult, but that doesn't have to stop us. God can use us no matter how scared or insecure we may feel.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **God was always with Joseph, even while he was in prison. What special ability did God give to Joseph while in prison?** *(God enabled Joseph to interpret dreams.)*
- **Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?** *(Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food.)*
- **How did they feel when they realized it was Joseph in front of them?** *(They were terrified.)*
- **How did Joseph respond to his brothers?** *(Joseph was kind and forgiving. He chose to help them.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Baby and a Bush* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Egypt was filled with Israelites.
- The new Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites would become too powerful. So he made them slaves and treated them very badly.
- Pharaoh ordered that all baby Israelite boys had to be killed.
- One woman put her baby in a basket and hid him by the river's edge. His sister watched him.
- Pharaoh's daughter was bathing by the river. She found the baby and decided to keep him. His sister offered their mother's help to care for him.
- Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses.
- Moses grew up. One day he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. Moses killed the Egyptian.
- Then he fled to Midian and was a shepherd for forty years.
- Moses was watching his sheep on Mount Horeb.
- The voice of God spoke from a burning bush. "My people are suffering, Moses. I have chosen you to free them."
- "I can't!" Moses cried. "I'll help you," God promised. "Throw down your staff."
- Moses did. It turned into a snake. When he picked it up, it was a staff again.
- "Put your hand in your cloak," God said.
- Moses did. He looked. It was covered with disease. When he did it again, it was healed.
- "Show Pharaoh that!" God said.
- "I'm not a good speaker," said Moses.
- "I'll give you the words," God said. "Your brother Aaron can help."
- So Moses went to tell Pharaoh to set the Israelites free.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

Why did Pharaoh want all the baby Israelite boys killed? *(Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites would become too powerful.)*

Why did the Israelite woman place her baby in the basket and hide him by the river's edge? *(She was trying to save her child's life.)*

Who found and named the baby? *(Pharaoh's daughter)*

After Moses grew up, what did he do that caused him to flee from Egypt? *(He killed an Egyptian after he saw the man beating an Israelite.)*

How did God speak to Moses? *(From a burning bush)*

What did God tell Moses to do? *(Go to Egypt and free His people, the Israelites, from slavery)*

How did Moses respond? *(He said that he could not do it and that he was not a good speaker. He was worried and doubted.)*

When Moses explained his weaknesses, did God find someone else for the job? *(No, God still used Moses to speak to Pharaoh despite his weaknesses.)*

How did God respond to Moses' worries? *(God told Moses that He would help him. God turned Moses' staff into a snake and then back again. God caused Moses' hand to become covered with disease and then healed it.)*

SAY: God was not angry with Moses for having doubts. He was compassionate. In fact, God did not just use words to encourage Moses. God performed miracles to show him that He would help. God shows the same compassion towards all of us, too. We can be honest with God about our fears, just like Moses was. No matter how we feel, we can know that God is in control and sovereign over everything.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God saw the suffering of His people during the time of Moses and sees our suffering today, too. Just like God sent Moses to free His people from Pharaoh, God sent Jesus to free us from the punishment for sin.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Now go *(extend arm, pointing forward)*!
I *(point up with both hands)* **will be with you** *(hug your shoulders)*
as you speak *(cup hands around your mouth)*,
and I will instruct you *(open your hands like a book)*
in what to say *(move index finger outward from lips)*."

Exodus 4:12 (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Have the children sit in a circle. Give one child a secret message. Then, have that child whisper it quietly to the person sitting on their left. This process continues until the message reaches the last person. Have that child share the message aloud for everyone to hear. Then, have the first child share what the original message was aloud. Play as time permits.

SAY: Moses did not try to keep his fears and worries a secret from God and neither should we. God already knows our hearts and thoughts before we even speak them (Psalm 139:4), so we can always be honest with Him.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of paper and a marker. Instruct them to draw the trunk and branches of a bush. Then, provide each child with a small piece of sponge and paint. Demonstrate for the children how to carefully tap one end of the sponge into the paint and then push it onto their paper. Let the children continue to paint with their sponges until their burning bush artwork is complete.

For younger children...
Prepare the paper for the children before the activity by drawing on the trunk and branches of the bush for them.

For older children...
Instead of paint, challenge children to make their artwork three-dimensional. Instruct them to gather small squares of tissue paper around the end of a pencil, dip the tissue paper into glue and then carefully place it down onto their bush. Allow the children to continue this process until their burning bush is covered with tissue paper "flames."

Character Trait: Teachable

(10 minutes)

SAY: Being teachable means accepting guidance and instruction from others. Moses showed that he was teachable when he admitted his fears and weakness to God. Moses was worried that he could not do what God asked of him. Moses admitted that he was not a good speaker.

SAY: Knowing what our fears are and identifying our weaknesses are very important parts of being teachable.

Encourage the children to think more about teachability by asking the following:

- **How does being teachable help you?** *(It enables you to learn and develop new skills.)*
- **What are the traits of someone who is teachable?** *(Someone who is teachable listens well, asks questions and is respectful.)*
- **In what ways can being teachable be scary?** *(It can be scary to admit we do not know something or to risk making mistakes.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: The people in your life are not there by accident. God has a purpose for everyone, including everyone in your life.

SAY: Think about someone specific who has a skill that you would like to learn. *(Invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to ask that person to teach them this new skill.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Imagine how Moses must have felt when he heard God speaking to him from the burning bush. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: How do you think Moses felt after God told him to confront Pharaoh? *(Call on a few more volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Moses showed that he was teachable by not running away from God, and God showed compassion towards Moses by telling him and showing him how He would help him.

SAY: We can all show that we are teachable, too, by learning new skills and learning more about God and His ways. And we can see and feel God's compassion towards us by identifying all the blessings He has provided in our lives.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for being compassionate towards us. Help us to stay teachable, so that we may grow into all that You created us to be.
Amen.

Notes