

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 understand that God is who He says He is—the one true God.

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 Read Exodus 2–4. Read “Slavery in the Bible” on page 101 in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Cell phone
- Small branches from a bush
- Construction paper leaves
- Paper towel tubes
- Burning bush sign
- Broccoli and ranch dip

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

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.**
- Hold up your cell phone and a small branch. **If you wanted to talk to someone, which of these items would be the best? Yes, I'd use my cell phone too, but wait until you find out how God chose to talk to Moses!**

PRAY

Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word. Help us to learn who You are, the one true God. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED TO MOVE** Act out the story together. Stop after each major event and make up an action to illustrate the action or feeling of that event. (Example: Pharaoh looking worried. The Israelites groaning.) Let one of the students hold a small branch of a bush when you come to that part of the story.
- FOR TACTILE LEARNERS** Wrap red tissue paper around the ends of small branches of a bush. Let students hold them up while you tell that part of the story. This may engage students who need to have something in their hands to help them focus.
- FOR COOPERATIVE LEARNING** Have students take turns retelling the story. Have each student say one sentence, then let the next student say another sentence to continue the story until you get to the end. If you created actions earlier in class, use them to jog students' memories. Or write a quick timeline on a large paper or whiteboard for reference.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose a few questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- Talk about how God spoke to Moses through the burning bush. Ask children where God talks to us.
- God protected Moses all through his life. God also protects us throughout our lives. Can you think of times when God has protected you?
- How can you share God's Word with others?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- God works through His Word to help us live as His children. We can talk to God too. We do that when we pray. God promises to answer our prayers.
- God loved His people and out of that love called Moses to lead them out of Egypt. God still loves and protects His people today. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.
- Moses didn't think he was worthy to lead God's people; sometimes we don't feel worthy to share God's Word with others. But God was with Moses and He is with us now.



CHRIST CONNECTION

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

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: To increase children's auditory memory skills, ask questions about the story as you tell it for children to answer.

Moses' family lived in a country called Egypt. A bad king named Pharaoh was the ruler. When Moses was a baby, the king wanted to hurt the baby boys like Moses. But God had a plan to keep Moses safe. Moses' mother put him in a basket and hid him in the tall grass by a river. The king's daughter found Moses. She took him to her house and adopted Moses as her son.

When Moses became a big man, he took care of sheep. But God had a new job for Moses. He wanted Moses to help His people get away from the bad king.

I wonder . . . how do you think God let Moses know what He wanted him to do? *Pause for answer.*

Let's find out.

God talked to Moses in a special way! One day, Moses led his sheep to a new eating place near a mountain. "Baa, baa," bleated the sheep. All of a sudden, Moses saw fire burning in a bush! The bush burned and burned, but it didn't burn up! "I wonder why that bush doesn't burn up?" Moses thought.

Moses went closer to the bush to find out. Then he heard a voice calling, "Moses, Moses!" Who was calling to Moses? It was God!

Moses answered, "Here I am."

God said, "Take off your sandals. You are standing on

holy ground." Then God said, "I am the Lord, your God."

Moses put his hands in front of his face. He was afraid to look at God.

God told Moses, "I have watched over My people in Egypt. I know they are sad. I hear them crying because people are hurting them. I will answer their prayers for help. I want you to lead My people out of Egypt to a new land."

Moses was afraid. He didn't think he could do the job God wanted him to do. He was just a shepherd. How could he be God's leader? He asked, "How can I do such a hard job?"

Then God promised to be with Moses and help him. He said, "I am God. I want you to do this job for Me. I will help you." So Moses went to do the job God gave him. He went back to Egypt to help God's people.

God gives us jobs to do too. He wants us to show love for others. He wants us to be kind and helpful friends. He wants us to trust and obey what He says in the Bible. Sometimes we may think we can't do what God wants us to do. Sometimes we sin and do just the opposite. But God is our Father in heaven. He loves us so much He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He forgives our sins. He promises to be with us and help us.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

God's people had been living in Egypt, away from their homeland, for many generations. **About three hundred years had passed since Joseph's death, so the Egyptian leaders did not remember him or how he had saved Egypt.** The new king was worried that the people of Israel would try to take over Egypt, so he put harsh bosses over the Israelites and made them slaves. **The Egyptians were very fearful of the Israelites so they made their lives more and more difficult.**

The people of Israel groaned and called to God to rescue them. **God heard their prayers and remembered the covenant that He had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.** God saw His people and knew how to save them.

Moses was an Israelite but he grew up in Pharaoh's house. Moses decided to trust God and let everyone know he was an Israelite. Then he left Egypt and lived in Midian as a shepherd for forty years.

One day, Moses was out taking care of his flock on the mountain of Horeb, also called Mount Sinai. **He saw that a bush was on fire, but it was not burning up.** When he got close to the bush, the angel of the Lord appeared to him and called out, "Moses! Moses! Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are

standing is holy ground." God was in the fire. Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

God told Moses, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have come down to deliver My people from the Egyptians. I will send you to Pharaoh so that you may bring My people out of the land of Egypt."

Moses said, "Who am I, Lord, to be the one to lead my people?" **God told Moses that He would be with Moses.** Moses asked again, "What do I say to the people when they ask who sent me?" **God told Moses, "Tell them that I AM has sent me to you."** This was God's special name, *Yahweh* in Hebrew.

Moses went back to the elders of Israel to tell them that God had heard their prayer and had sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt. They knew that the Egyptians would not let them go unless God made it happen. God made the Egyptians look favorably on the Israelites while they prepared for their journey. He told the women to go to their neighbors and collect all the gold and silver from their neighbors to use in their journey.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Seek and Find

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.



Sheep and Shepherd

You will need a shepherd and sheep who follow and copy his or her movements. For example, 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 to others, helping) and talk about how God gives us strength through His Word to do them.



Broccoli Bush Snack

Use broccoli to make a bush and ranch dip colored with red food coloring for the fire. Review the story.



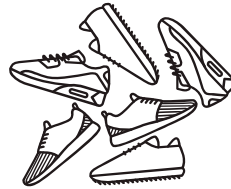
Illustrated Bible Verse

Have students draw a time when God was with them. Encourage those who are able to copy today’s Bible Verse onto their paper. For more artistic students, have them start by writing the Bible Verse and then encourage them to illustrate it, similar to a journaling Bible. Perhaps show online examples.



Shoe Relay

Do a shoe relay. Place a picture of a burning bush on one end of the room. Students place their shoes by the bush. Mix them up into a big pile. Divide students into teams behind a starting line. Have students race to the pile, find and put on both shoes, and race back to the finish line. Ask, **How did we help our teams during this game? God told Moses He would free His people from slavery in Egypt. How does our one true God help us?**



Candle Craft

Stuff red, orange, and yellow tissue paper 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. Say, **The one true 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.**



LEAVE

SAY

Today we learned that God is the one true God, 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.