



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears and Sees His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

When Moses glanced up and saw a burning bush, he likely didn't give it a second thought.

Why should he? Fires happened all the time. A lightning strike, embers drifting from a campfire, a couple tinder-dry branches scraping together in the hot wind until something sparked.

But a bush blazing away that wasn't consumed by the flames? *That's* something that deserved a closer look.

So Moses hiked over to investigate ... and his life changed forever.

God never explains why He chose to speak to Moses through a burning bush. But that bush—on fire yet not consumed—is a perfect picture of what becomes of anything or anyone fully yielded to God. Take a few minutes to read Exodus 3:1–15. Notice how it's not just shrubbery that starts to ignite and shine bright for God.

It's Moses too.

We're praying that, as you lead this week, you shine just as brightly. That the Holy Spirit empowers you to connect with your kids, pointing them toward the God who hears them and sees them. The God who loves them and invites them into an eternal friendship.

Kids are used to adults telling them stuff—it's the soundtrack of their lives. But an adult who's clearly on fire with love for them and God? Who's sharing from the heart?

That's something they don't see every day. That's something that deserves a closer look ... so they'll be looking.

Shine brightly, friend. Be on fire.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household after his mother placed him in a basket on the Nile River to save him from Pharaoh's decree that all Hebrew male infants be killed. Pharaoh's daughter found him.

WHAT?

While Moses was shepherding his flock at Mount Horeb, God spoke to him from the burning bush. God told Moses to go to Egypt to bring His people out of slavery because God had seen their suffering. God also revealed His name to Moses.

WHERE?

Mount Horeb, also called Mount Sinai in the book of Exodus, is thought to be in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula, which is east of Egypt and west of Midian.

WHEN?

By the end of Genesis, Jacob's family, including Joseph and all his brothers, had come to dwell in the land of Egypt. Moses was born after that generation died out, approximately 300 years later. By the time of the exodus, Moses was 80 years old.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised to bless all nations through Abraham's family, which He eventually did through the work of Jesus, a descendant of Abraham. This story shows that God is faithful to His promises and has the power to rescue His people no matter the circumstances.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Curiosity Activity: What Do You See and Hear?

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Sights and Sounds Pictures

Ahead of time, print the Sights and Sounds Pictures and cut apart the pictures.

Show the kids the pictures. As you hold up each one, encourage the kids to say what they see and to make the sound that each thing (or animal) makes.



- Train
- Bird
- Horn
- Racecar
- Cow
- Rain

You did a great job paying attention to sights and sounds. What sound do you like to hear? Allow the kids to respond. What sound do you not like to hear? As I read this list, give a thumbs-up if you like the sound or a thumbs-down if you don't like the sound:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Music | • Waves at the beach |
| • Alarm | • Rain |
| • Someone yelling | • Birds chirping |
| • A siren from a first responder vehicle | • Thunder |
| • Laughter | |

Today, we'll hear about a time when God heard and saw His people. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HEARS AND SEES HIS PEOPLE.**



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, we invite You to teach us through Your Word and help us understand by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that You hear and see us and care for us so well and thank You for sending Jesus! We love You and pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 98-103

The Burning Bush

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did Moses see in the desert that was strange?** (*a burning bush that didn't burn up*)
- **What did God tell Moses He saw and heard from His people, who were being held captive in Egypt?** (*God saw that they were sad and heard their cries for help.*)
- **What did God do in response to the people's sadness and cries?** (*sent Moses to save them from Egypt*)
- **How do you feel when you see that someone you love (your parent or family member, sister or brother, or a friend or a neighbor) is sad?**
- **Have you ever done something to help someone who was sad? If so, what did you do?**
- **Have you ever been sad? What were you sad about?**
- **How has God helped you when you were sad?**

When you need help, you can ask God to help you. He will hear you just like He heard His people in our story today!

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.**

—Psalm 77:12



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Shoes Off Race

SUPPLIES: tape (prep only), green coloring utensil (optional)

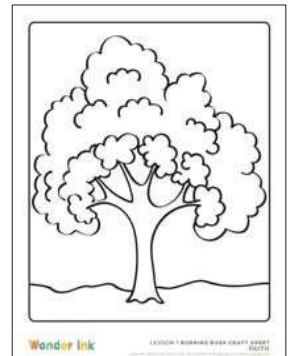
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Burning Bush Craft Sheet (from the Craft section)

If you did not make the Burning Bush Craft, print a copy of the Burning Bush Craft Sheet and color the bush green, then color red and orange flames coming from it.

Tape the Burning Bush Craft Sheet to the wall on one side of the room and gather the kids on the other side of the room.

Today we learned about when Moses heard God's voice from inside a bush. What did God ask Moses to do? Allow the kids to respond. **God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and set God's people free. God told Moses to take off his sandals, because he was standing in a holy place—that means it was God's special place. To help us remember this story, let's play a game where we'll run over to the bush, take our shoes off, and then run back to where we started!**

When you say, "Go!" the kids will race to the picture of the bush, take off their shoes, then race back to you without their shoes. Then play again and instruct the kids to put their shoes back on when they get to the bush.



Leader Tip: Younger kids may need help getting their shoes on and off. Also, not all kids will feel comfortable removing their shoes, and that is OK. Let them know they can still participate in the activity even with their shoes on! You could even trace their feet on paper and let them place the paper footprints by the bush.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

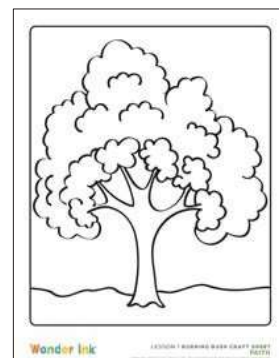
LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Responding in Worship: Shoes-Off Prayer

SUPPLIES: tape (prep only), green coloring utensil (optional), butcher paper or posterboard (optional), variety of coloring utensils (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Burning Bush Craft Sheet (from Craft)

If you did not make a Burning Bush picture during the Craft, print the Burning Bush Craft Sheet and color the bush green, then color red and orange flames coming from it. Tape the Burning Bush Craft Sheet to a wall.



In God's big story today, Moses saw a burning bush that was not burned up. Then he heard God's voice tell him to take off his sandals because the place he was standing on was holy ground. *Holy ground* means the ground was a special place because God was there.

God is with us now. He is everywhere! So that means this place is holy, or special, too.

Like Moses, let's take off our shoes and talk with God. Take off your shoes and encourage the kids to do the same. **Let's thank God for making this place, where we are, special.**

Let's thank Him for meeting us here today. Let's learn a word from the language that was used in the Bible when it was written, Hebrew!

We can talk to God by saying "Hineni" [hee NEH nee]. Encourage the kids to say the word. ***Hineni* is the Hebrew word for "Here I am!"** When you say "Hineni" to God, you're telling Him you're here and you're listening.

God saw and heard His people when they needed Him. The burning bush was a sign to Moses that God was with him and that God heard and saw Him. Remember God sees and hears you too. We can pray and thank God for seeing and hearing us. If you need help with anything, pray and ask God for help.

Encourage the kids to walk to the Burning Bush picture on the wall and take off their shoes when they get to the picture. Then invite them to pray and to thank God for seeing and hearing them.

Younger kids may need help praying or knowing what to say. A leader can be available to pray with kids if needed.