



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: variety of objects or instruments that make noise (such as maracas, Easter eggs with dry beans inside, blocks to hit together, zipper, dry rice in an empty water bottle, keys on a key ring to shake); coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Listening for Sounds

Set-up: Set out objects that make sounds, such as play instruments like maracas, Easter eggs with dry beans inside, blocks to hit together, a zipper, dry rice in an empty water bottle, keys on a key ring to shake.

Play: Let the kids take turns playing and making the various sounds for each object. Ask if they can make a new or different sound by doing something different with some of the objects.

Play Station: The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of The Burning Bush Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of what they imagine camping is like.



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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



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Burning Bush Craft

SUPPLIES: red, yellow, and orange tissue paper squares; coloring utensils; glue

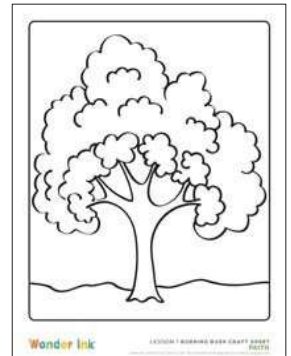
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Burning Bush Craft Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print a Burning Bush Craft Sheet for each kid. Precut red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers into 3" lengths (several of each color for every kid).

Give each kid a Burning Bush Craft Sheet and coloring utensils, along with precut red, yellow, and orange crepe paper streamers and glue.

Encourage the kids to color the bush green and to glue the pieces of streamers to the bush. As kids

are working, talk with them about the Wonder Truth. You may want to make an example to show the kids. You will also be able to use it in the Game and Worship Response activities. You could also use tissue paper instead of crepe paper streamers.



Leader Tip: Younger kids may need help with the glue. You could use glue dots to help them and cut down on the mess.



What do you think Moses saw when he was in the desert? Allow the kids to respond. **What do you think Moses heard when he was in the desert?** Allow the kids to respond. **God was with Moses and His people, the Israelites, even**

when things were hard for them. God is always with us too. He sees us and hears us. He saw His people being treated badly. He heard His people asking for help, and He sent that help!

You can take this Burning Bush craft home as a reminder that God sees and hears us. It can also remind you that God had a plan to help His people. He loves you!