



# MOSES

## THE BURNING BUSH

EXODUS 3, 4:1-20 AND ACTS 7:30-34

### GOAL

▶ **Understanding who God is leads to unwavering confidence and true courage.** Moses asked God two questions: 1) "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?", and 2) "What should I tell them when they ask for your name?" God's response to Moses was, "I am who I am." In this lesson, God reveals mysteries about Himself to Moses: "I am" the one who hears (Exodus 3:7); "I am" the one who rescues (Exodus 3:8); "I am" the one who reigns over Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 8:19); "I am" the one who enables a person to carry out my plans (Exodus 4:11-12); "I am" the one who makes the impossible possible; and "I am" the one who is the mastermind behind the great story of deliverance. God said to Moses, "This is my name forever, and it is how I will be remembered throughout all generations." (Exodus 3:15). I AM.

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### WORDS TO KNOW

▶ The name "I Am" - "I Am" is the name God uses to reveal Himself to His people. God's name in Hebrew, "Yahweh," is built around it. It is the name by which God will be remembered forever. The One who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. (Revelation 1:8).

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### MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Exodus 3:14:** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

**Psalms 9:10:** And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.



## OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Exodus 3, 4:1-20, and Acts 7:30-34:**

Staff in hand, Moses set out on a journey to bring his sheep to safe pastures on what he expected to be another ordinary journey. But when he reached his destination on Mount Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai, God called to him from a burning bush. “Moses, Moses,” He said, “I have seen the pain of my people and I have heard their cry. I have come to deliver them!” Moses was completely in awe but unsure of his calling as he asked, “Who am I that I should lead them?”; and later, “What shall I say to them if they ask me your name?” And God, who rewards those who diligently seek Him, revealed to Moses His personal name: “I am who I am,” He said, “The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

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## SUGGESTIONS

▶ Talk about names and their meanings. Google the names of the children in the group and read their meanings to the class. In Bible times, names meant a lot. Not only did names label and describe people, but many times names were a statement of the faith and hope of the person who named them. When God was involved in naming or renaming a person, the name given would someday define them. When Moses encountered God on Mount Sinai, he wanted to know God’s personal name. God said, “I Am.” The closest Hebrew word for “I am” is Yahweh. In fact, the word “Hallelujah” means, “Praise to YAH” (Yahweh)! By singing Hallelujah, you are praising God using His unique and personal name.

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## MEMORY VERSE MEANING

▶ **Exodus 3:14:** God reveals himself to Moses as “I am,” representing His endless number of attributes as the always existing, never changing, and eternal God.

**Psalms 9:10:** Our God isn’t just some generic nameless god; He is the one and only true God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose name is “I am.” We trust in Him.



## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

### **Ages 5-7** Shoes and Confused

Divide the group into teams. Have each team take off their shoes and place them in a pile. Line up each team about 5 feet away from their pile. Mix the shoes together. On go, have the first child from each team find his or her shoes, put them on, and run back to the end of the line. The second child will do the same, and so on, until every pair of shoes is found and on the proper feet. The first team to return with every team member wearing their shoes, wins.

God told Moses to take off his shoes, “For the place where you stand is holy ground.”

### **Ages 5-7** and **Ages 8-10** Fiery Bush, Freeze!

Choose one child in the group to be the designated burning bush, AKA the chaser. On “Go,” the chaser will try to tag as many kids as he or she can. When the chaser tags a person, he or she will yell “Fiery bush!”, then the person tagged will freeze. This goes on until all the children are “frozen.”

When God spoke through the burning bush, he was frozen with fear and too terrified to look at Him.

### **Ages 8-10** Guess the Verse, Bible Trivia | *Supplies:* two buzzers or bells

Preparation: Create a list of 25 questions reviewing today’s lesson and other Bible trivia (e.g. What was burning, but not being consumed? [bush]; Who did God choose to speak for Moses? [Aaron]; etc.). On the chalkboard draw a blank (line) representing each letter (like the game show, Wheel of Fortune) in the following phrase from today’s Bible verse: “And those who know your name put their trust in you.”

Split the kids into two teams and have each team line up behind a table holding the buzzer or bell. Read the first trivia question to the first contestant from each team. The first contestant to hit the buzzer or bell and give the correct answer gets to guess a letter that might be in the puzzle. If the letter is in the puzzle, write the letter on the appropriate blank and give the contestant 5 seconds to guess the phrase. Move on to the next question, and so on, until someone guesses the phrase correctly.



## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

### **Ages 5-7** The Shepherd and the Snake

Divide the group into two teams. Form two lines that face each other. One team will be snakes, the other shepherds. Ask true and false questions—some that are from today's lesson, and some that are just fun facts. The teacher will announce the question to the first two in line. If the answer is true, the shepherd chases the snake to the end of the snake line. If the shepherd tags the snake before making it to the end of the line, the snake joins the shepherd line; otherwise the shepherd joins the snake line. If the answer to the question is false, the snake chases the shepherd to the end of the shepherd line. If the snake tags the shepherd before returning to the line, the shepherd joins the snake line.

**Ages 5-7** **Pin the Flame on the Fire** | **Supplies:** orange, red, and yellow cutouts that look like flames; two large drawings of a big bush; and at least two blindfolds.

This game is similar to "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" except flames are pinned to a bare bush. Divide the kids into teams and give each child at least one flame cutout. Line each team behind an outline of the bush. Have a teacher or group leader tie blindfolds on the first child on each line. Spin the child around a couple of times and set them on a path toward the bush. Once the child has had a chance to fasten the flame to the bush, the next child goes. When all the children have had the opportunity to stick their flame on the bush for their team, compare the two bushes. The one that looks the most like an intact flaming bush, wins!

**Ages 8-10** **What's My Name** | **Supplies:** Post-It notes or small pieces of paper with names of characters in the Bible, including characters from today's story; tape.

Attach a character name to each child without letting them see their own character. They must go around the room and ask one question from each child about their character, such as: Is my character male or female? Young or old? Righteous or evil? A hero? A prophet? Once a student figures out the character, he or she should sit down and wait for the other students to finish.



**TAKE  
HOME**

God wants us to know who He is. Discuss the various ways God has reached down to mankind to reveal Himself:

1. God is revealed in creation. The Bible says "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. (Psalm 19).
2. God is revealed in His word (The Bible).
3. God is revealed in Jesus the Messiah. Jesus is God in flesh. He came down to show us God, to show us God's kingdom, and to make a way for us to be sons and daughters of God.
4. God is revealed by His Name. Moses asked God for His name and God revealed it. "I am who I am," He said. I am is His personal name, the one that begins to define who He is.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** For how many years had Moses been a shepherd?

**A1:** Moses had been a shepherd for 40 years.

**Q1b:** Would you rather go camping with a trusted family member or someone you've met at school a couple of times?

**TN:** Even if we really liked the person we've met at school, we don't know him or her enough to go out into the wilderness alone. When going camping, knowledge of the area and ability to set up camp and keep us safe are important attributes for the person leading us to have. We'd be more comfortable with a family member we trust to keep us safe. Moses' sheep followed Moses into unfamiliar territory because they had nothing to fear with Moses as their shepherd.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Was the fire destroying the bush?

**A2:** No, the bush was on fire, but the fire was not destroying it.

**Q2b:** Have you ever sat by a campfire or in front of a wood-burning fireplace?

**TN:** Let the students answer, then ask them what happens to the wood in the fire. In a normal fire, the wood turns black and gets smaller and smaller until it becomes a pile of glowing embers. To keep the fire going, more wood needs to be added. The fire consumes and destroys the wood. The fire that engulfed the bush that Moses saw was normal fire with flames that put off heat. Fire is something that Moses would have been familiar with and could understand, but not this fire. God created everything, including fire. God is all powerful, and He can make anything in this world work however He wants it to, even if it goes against our understanding of how nature works. God used something that is common in nature to display His power.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** Why did Moses have to take off his shoes?

**A3:** Moses had to take off his shoes because the place he was standing was holy.

**Q3b:** After walking through puddles and mud, what should you do when you come home.

**TN:** We should take off our shoes when we get home. If we don't, then we are going to track all kinds of dirt into the house and make a mess of the clean floor. Moses took off his shoes because the ground where he stood was holy, which is something that is completely clean.

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### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** God told Moses to get ready to do what?

**A4:** God told Moses to get ready to go to see Pharaoh and set God's people free.

**Q4b:** What would you do if you were told to make sure everyone on the planet has a place to live and food to eat?

**TN:** That's a huge task! We would feel overwhelmed and completely incapable of doing something so big. Moses takes his sheep out one day when he encounters the God of the universe who then begins to speak to him through a bush that is on fire. And if that isn't overwhelming enough, God then tells Moses to go free the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. It must have been a lot for Moses to process! Based on the line of questions Moses asks God, it is clear that Moses doesn't feel up to the job and doesn't know how to even start on such a task. He is so unsure of his ability to do what God has asked that he questions whether God has asked the right person. While we may not have been created to do something as huge as Moses, God created each of us with a specific purpose. He gave us every traits and ability necessary to be successful at the mission assigned to us. We may not feel up to the task, but God knows we can do it!

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did God say His name is?

**A5:** God said His name is I Am.

**Q5b:** Do you have a nickname?

**TN:** Maybe we are called by a shortened version of our full names. Maybe our parent calls us Tiger or Princess. Whatever it is, most of us have a nickname that we go by. God has many names, and He tells Moses one of them: I Am. God is also known as Heavenly Father, Almighty, and Creator. There are many more listed in the Bible. Each of these names reveals a different aspect of God's character.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What happened to Moses' hand when he put it inside his cloak?

**A6:** Moses' hand was full of leprosy when he put it inside his cloak.

**Q6b:** Without a photo, how could you prove that you met a celebrity?

**TN:** Without a photograph, there is no way to prove absolutely that we've met a celebrity. A signature could be faked, a voice could be impersonated. God saw that Moses was hesitant to take the huge mission God had laid before him. Moses was afraid that no one would believe that God sent him. To give him a bit more confidence and courage, God showed him how God would show everyone He was with Moses. If anyone doubted that God sent him, God would make it obvious by showing His power. Moses was a shepherd, not a magician; and even if he were a magician, Moses wouldn't be able to do what God did in this story. God would be with Moses every step of the way. The same is true for us. If God gives us a mission, no matter how big, we can rest easy knowing that God will give us the tools we need to succeed. God will never set us up for failure.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** Who did God appoint to go with Moses to speak to Pharaoh?

**A7:** God appointed Moses' brother, Aaron, to go with him to speak to Pharaoh.

**Q7b:** Could you paint a whole house by yourself?

**TN:** While it would be a lot of work for one person to do, it could be done, but it would be a lot easier and faster with someone to help us. Moses faced a huge task, and while God told him and showed him that He would be with Moses every step of the way, Moses was still too afraid to take a step toward Egypt. While God is all we'll ever need to get through anything, He saw Moses' need for support, so He appointed Aaron to go to Egypt. Again, God will always equip us and support us through any task He gives us.



**MEMORY  
VERSES**

▶ **Exodus 3:14:** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

**Psalms 9:10:** And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

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**BIG IDEA**

▶ God prepares and equips us for every part of His plan for our lives.

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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▶ Dear Lord, thank You for revealing Yourself through Your Son, by Your Word, through Your creation, and by the very definition of Your name. Thank You that we can have a personal relationship with You. Help us to put our trust in You, the great I Am. We pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



One day, Moses decided to take his flock of sheep away from Midian to the far side of the wilderness toward Mount Sinai. Though this journey was unfamiliar to his sheep, they trusted Moses. For more than 40 years, Moses had learned the confidence and compassion of a good shepherd. He led and protected his sheep. God was using Moses' time as a shepherd to prepare him for an incredible task: Moses was going to lead God's people out of slavery and into freedom.

### SLIDE 2



As Moses led his sheep, they eventually came to a canyon near the base of Mount Sinai. It was surrounded by a range of smaller hills, so it would be safe, and it had some grass for his sheep to graze. As Moses searched the area for wolves and other dangers, he noticed, off in the distance, a large bush covered in flames! Moses rushed toward it. As he neared the bush, he could see that it was burning, but the fire did not destroy it. Alarmed and curious, Moses moved even closer.

### SLIDE 3



Suddenly a voice came from the bush, "Moses, Moses! Do not come any closer. Take off your shoes because the place you are standing is holy." Moses fell back in awe and did as the voice commanded, taking off his sandals and bowing low. Moses gave this strange and wonderful sight his full attention, and the voice continued to speak, "I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



God, speaking to me? Moses trembled and did not dare to look at Him. The Lord God continued, "I have seen the sorrow of my people who are in bondage under Egypt's great power. I have heard their cry, and I am familiar with their pain. It is time for me to deliver them!" Moses continued to listen as God spoke, "Get ready! I am sending you to Pharaoh to set my people free!"

### SLIDE 5



Long ago Moses had dreamed of helping his people, but so much time had passed, and Moses was uncertain. He asked, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead your people out of Egypt?" God assured him, "I am with you, and I am going to prove it by bringing my people safely out of Egypt." Moses continued to hesitate, "What should I tell the children of Israel when they ask who you are, and what your name is?" God replied, "Tell them, 'I AM who I am' sends you," and He added, "tell them that this will be my name forever."



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 6



But Moses became afraid and wondered how he could do this. The Egyptians hated him, and the Hebrews, his own people, despised him. But God assured Moses that He would go with him. Still, Moses was afraid and asked, “But what if they don’t believe me?” God answered, “Throw your staff onto the ground.” Moses did as he was told, and it became a live snake. Then God ordered him to pick up the snake, and it became a staff again. God showed him another sign: “Put your hand in your cloak, and pull it out.” When he did, his hand was full of leprosy. God instructed him to do it again, but this time, the leprosy disappeared. It would be clear to the Hebrews and the Egyptians that God was with Moses.

### SLIDE 7



But Moses was still afraid, too terrified to speak to pharaoh. “I am not a very good speaker,” he argued. By now, God was angry at his unbelief and reminded Moses that He, the God of the Universe, had created Moses and prepared him for what he was called to do. Even so, God assigned Aaron, Moses’ brother, to be a spokesman and to support Moses in the days ahead.

So, Moses returned his flock of sheep safely to their home and, with his brother Aaron, left on the great adventure. He would shepherd the people of Israel, deliver them out of the slavery of Egypt, and lead them safely to a land promised to them by God!