



# MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

## Exodus 3-4

### Memory Verse

**“God said, ‘I will be with you.’ Exodus 3:12a**

### Context/Background

The Israelites (God's Chosen People) were enslaved in Egypt. God's plan to deliver the Israelites involved Moses as their leader. Although he was an Israelite by birth, Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household. He would have learned to be a leader, but he always stayed loyal to his own people. This forced him to flee into the Sinai wilderness. He married the daughter of Jethro, a Midianite, and worked as a shepherd. The place where God chose to meet 80-year-old Moses was Mount Horeb (also called Sinai).

### Summary

God appears to Moses in the form of a burning bush. God identifies himself as “I Am” (Yahweh), the God of Moses' ancestors. God outlines the rescue plan to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and invites Moses to lead them into freedom.

Moses doubts his ability to achieve God's mission so God shows Moses his power in a simple act of obedience. Moses throws his staff on the ground and it turns into a snake, then when he picks it up it transforms back into a staff. Moses trusts God's plan and agrees to lead the rescue mission.

### Relevance/Application

**Themes: Service, Courage, Faith, Christian Leadership, Purpose, God's Promises, Reverence**

### Younger students:

- God is powerful and he can do anything.
- God hears his people when we cry out and wants to help us.
- God reveals himself in surprising ways and through unexpected people.
- God calls us to serve him and has a purpose for each of us.
- If God wants us to do a job, he will help us even if we are scared or don't think we can do it.
- With God's help, anything is possible.

### Older students:

- God reveals himself to us as the one to be worshipped and served confidently.
- God has a plan for us.
- We have a calling/purpose.
- We have been gifted to achieve that purpose.
- God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called.

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## Christian Studies Framework

**Christian Beliefs Key Idea 1 Christians believe God is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

**Christian Living Key Idea 2 Christians are called to love and serve all people**

**Key Idea 3 Christians have a responsibility in and for the world**

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## Catechism Connections

In the Lord's Prayer the second petition says: *Hallowed be your name.* When Moses knew that it was God who was speaking to him from the burning bush, he hid his face. God is so great and holy that Moses couldn't even look at him. When we pray 'Hallowed be your name,' we remember that God is holy. We ask God to keep his name holy among us. This happens when we tell the truth about God and when we live our lives to please and honour him.

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## Discussion/Wondering Questions:

### Early Years

- What does a fire do?
- How was the fire in this story different?
- What did God ask Moses to do?

### Primary

- Show a photo of a burning fire. What do you see happening in this photo? What do you think will be left once the fire is put out?
- Why would God choose to show up in a burning bush?
- How would you feel if you were Moses? When you first saw the bush? When you heard God speak? When you found out what God wanted you to do? When you saw the staff turn into a snake? By the end of this story?

### Secondary

- Have you ever felt unprepared / under-qualified for something?
  - What does God look like / How does God reveal himself to us today?
  - Why did Moses's staff turn into a snake (Snake-crusher imagery of Genesis 3)?
  - Does God still perform signs / miracles today?
  - Can you think of another time when flames appeared but didn't burn anyone? (The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace, Pentecost) What connections can you make?
  - What calling / purpose has God placed on your life?
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## Images or objects to spark discussion

- Draw similarities between Mission Impossible "Your mission should you choose to accept it."
  - Shepherd's Staff / Snake
  - A Burning Bush (Cellophane to resemble fire)
  - Ask students to take off their shoes as they approach the altar/enter the worship space
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## Telling the Story

**Bibles:** The Beginner's Bible  
The Big Rescue Bible  
The NIV Bible

### Creative Storytelling:

- Act out a skit where the story is told in a Mission Impossible style.
  - Personal Story: Share a story about a time you felt compelled to help, even though you weren't entirely sure you were the right person.
  - Personal Story: Share about your sense of calling / purpose, where that comes from, and how you live it out with God's help. Or invite a special guest like a pastor who has had a calling from God.
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- Light a candle and ask students when we use candles. Share that in this story, God spoke to Moses through the flames of the burning bush. Whenever we see a candle, we can remember that God made to Moses, "I will be with you." Then we'll know we are never alone.

### **GROW Ministries**

GROW Kids - [Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Year B Exodus 3:1-15 God calls Moses](#)

### **Audio Stories/Podcasts**

[Bible.Is](#) - Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. Searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Kids' Corner Bible Stories – [Moses and All the Excuses](#)

### **Videos: Early Years / Junior Primary**

[The Burning Bush- Care Bear's Bible Stories for Kids](#)

[Moses and the Burning Bush - \(Bible Stories\) - Catholic Kids Media](#)

### **Middle – Upper Primary**

[Moses And the Burning Bush Bible Story Animation - Exodus 3 | Online Sunday School | ShareFaith.com](#)

### **Secondary/Staff**

[Exodus 3-4 | The Call of Moses | Bible Study - Spoken Gospel](#)

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## **Invocation**

In the name of God who calls us to live a life of purpose,  
Jesus who selflessly gives of himself for the benefit of others,  
And the Spirit who empowers us to achieve what God has set out for us to do.  
**Amen.**

OR

God called to Moses out of the bush: 'Remove the sandals from your feet,  
**for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.**' (Exod 3:5 NRSV)  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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## **Prayers**

### **Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for your promise to be with us always. Help us to remember the promise. Amen.

Holy God, help us to realise how wonderful you are. Help us to know that you are always with us. Help us to listen to your word when you call us to do things for you. Amen.

Prayer points:

- For those who are persecuted / downtrodden.
- For those questioning / discovering their purpose or calling in life.
- For the leaders in the community.

### **Mealtime Prayer**

Gracious God, we thank you for this food. Let it nourish our bodies to make us strong in your service. Amen.

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## **Blessing**

Go with the knowledge that God has called you to a mission greater than yourself, to serve and help others. Go inspired by the example set by Jesus, who

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humbly and without hesitation sacrificed himself for the sake of those who were in trouble. Go empowered by the Spirit to act in confidence and without the constraints of fear and doubt.

OR

(Name), know that God promises to be with you always.

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## Music

[The Burning Bush - Bible Story Songs](#)

[Called Me Higher – All Sons & Daughters](#)

[I Will Follow You – Kristene DiMarco \(Jesus Culture\)](#)

[Hear Me, Lord - Emu Music](#)

[Here I Am, Lord – Dan Schutte or John Michael Talbot \(All Together 296\)](#)

God himself is present (Lutheran Hymnal 501)

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## Activities

### Early Years:

- Create a burning bush by drawing a bush with brown trunk and branches and green leaves. Create flames of red, orange and yellow scrunched-up cellophane and glue onto the bush. Write the memory verse underneath.

### Primary:

- Work together to create a classroom altar display which reflects this story.

### Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Give everyone a secret mission for the day to serve someone else.
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