



Moses and the Burning Bush

(based on Exodus 3:1-15)

When Moses was born, Pharaoh was killing all the Hebrew baby boys. To save Moses, his mother and sister put him in a basket that floated on the river. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised Moses as her own son.

When Moses grew up, he stopped an Egyptian guard who was beating a Hebrew slave. Moses knew Pharaoh wouldn't like that, so he left Egypt and traveled to another country.

Moses married a woman named Zipporah (zip-POR-uh) and settled down as a shepherd.

One day he decided to take the sheep up the mountain.

On the mountain, Moses saw something incredible—a bush. A bush on fire! A bush on fire that did not burn up!

The flames crackled. The leaves roasted. But the bush just kept on burning and burning. Moses stared in awe. What could it mean? Then he heard a voice:

“Moses, Moses!”

“Here I am,” Moses answered.

“Take off your shoes, for you are standing in a holy place.”

Moses took off his shoes right away.

“Moses,” the voice said. “I have seen how badly Pharaoh is treating my people. I have come to rescue them. I will send you to lead my people out of Egypt and take them to a new home. Go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let my people go.”

“How can I tell Pharaoh what to do?” Moses asked. “How can I lead the people out of Egypt?”

The voice said, “I will be with you.”

“But,” Moses stuttered, “who are you?”

In that quiet moment, Moses heard, “I AM WHO I AM. I am the Lord, the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Tell the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Moses heard the call to save his people. So he started the long journey back to Egypt to lead his people to freedom.



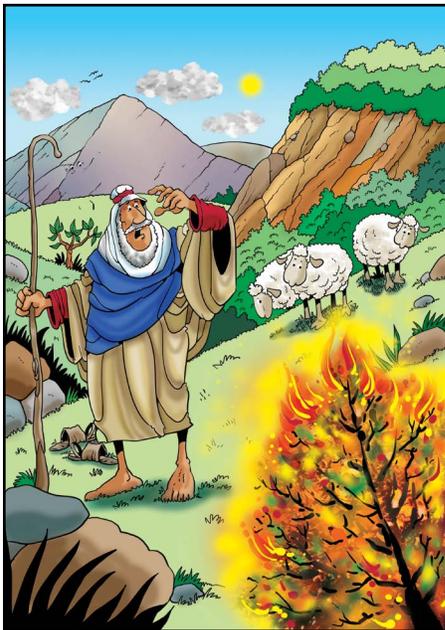
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Imagine the expressions on Moses' face. Name some of the feelings he may have had and why he might have felt that. For example, Moses was sad because his people were slaves, surprised about the bush, afraid of Pharaoh, or angry about. . . . Pass around a mirror and choose one of the feelings named, think about it, feel it, and look in the mirror to see the facial expression.
- Imagine: What questions do you have about what happened to Moses? Why do you suppose God chose Moses to lead the Israelites? Why did God choose a burning bush to speak to Moses? How does God call people today? How does God call us?



Responding to God's Grace

- Imagine God has spoken to or been with you in some way today. Instead of a burning bush, perhaps God is calling you by email or phone. (Imagine other possibilities.) God wants you to do something to help other people or our world, but this could be difficult. It will be a new experience, because you will be asked to do things you have never tried before, which may seem like a big challenge. How will you respond?
- Draw pictures to help remember the story of God speaking to Moses through the burning bush. Think about what important message you want to share with others through art: What is the most important thing about the Moses story for you? Why do you think it's important to remember and share the story? Post drawings on the refrigerator or bulletin board.
- Pray that your children begin to sense the greatness and majesty of our God, who desires our complete freedom, calls us by name, and does mighty things to show amazing love for us.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Pray this way during the week:
Join hands for a "squeeze prayer." One person says a short one- or two-sentence prayer and then gently squeezes the hand of the next person to show the prayer is finished. The next person adds a few words and so on. If preferred, pray silently and pass the prayer by squeezing the next person's hand.

Prayers could be about a concern for someone else, something for which you wish to thank God, or a concern for the world.