#### Lesson 9:

#### The Burning Bush

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Exodus 2:11-4:23

MEMORY WORK:

Insert your own

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

If I obey God, He will help me do things I might think I can’t do.

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| **ESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we talked about how baby Moses’ family protected him from being killed, and how his sister, Miriam, watched over him. In our lesson today, Moses is a grown man, but something happens to him that makes him leave Egypt and have to hide again! God asks him to do something that scares him, and he doesn’t want to obey. Let’s see what happens.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review briefly the growth of the nation of Israel, their slavery in Egypt, and the birth of Moses.
2. Moses was raised as if he were the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, the grandson of Pharaoh. Moses received the best education available at that time and became strong, both physically and mentally. But he had been with his real mother, Jochebed, during his very early years, and she had apparently taught him well about the one true God (and his Hebrew heritage).
3. Moses had seen firsthand the terrible ways the Hebrew slaves were treated. One day when he was outside the palace, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew (Israelite). He wanted to help the Hebrew, but in the struggle he killed the Egyptian, and then tried to hide the body. He thought no one saw this happen, but the next day he found out someone had seen him. When Pharaoh heard that Moses had killed an Egyptian, he tried to have Moses killed. [According to Hebrews 11:24-26, Moses made a conscious choice to give up the wealth, power, and comfort of being in Pharaoh’s household.]
4. To escape Pharaoh’s wrath, Moses ran away to the desert of Midian on the Sinai Peninsula. At this time, he was 40 years old. He traveled a long time until he came to a well. There he met the seven daughters of a man named Jethro (also called Reuel); the girls had come to the well to water their sheep. Some shepherds came and tried to keep the girls away from the well. But Moses helped the girls. They went to their father and told him about Moses’ help. Jethro invited Moses to stay with his family. After some time, Moses married one of Jethro’s daughters, Zipporah.

**NOTES:** According to Hebrews 11:24-26, Moses fled from Pharoah, but not due to fear. He made a conscious choice to give up the wealth, power, and comfort of being in Pharaoh’s household due to his faith in God.

Some have suggested that Moses broke God’s law by killing the Egyptian (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12)—that he was guilty of murder and should have been executed. However, even if he were guilty of murder, it would have been illegal to execute him without two witnesses present (Deuteronomy 19:15), and the text indicates that he would have been alone, except, perhaps, for the Israelite he saved (Exodus 2:11-12). Also, there is no indication that the death was intentional (i.e., murder), but rather accidental (i.e., manslaughter). And furthermore, as Moses rightly considered himself to be the redeemer of the Israelites and a hand for God in executing wrath on Egypt (Acts 7:25), he would have had the same authority Samson was given to destroy the wicked.

1. For 40 years, he lived the quiet but hard life of a shepherd. He learned the ways of living in the desert. One day, while he was tending his father-in-law’s sheep near “the mountain of God” (Mount Sinai or Mount Horeb), Moses saw a bush that was on fire, but did not burn up. When he came close to the bush to investigate, the angel of the Lord spoke to him from the bush and told him that he had been chosen by Almighty God to help bring the Hebrews out of Egyptian slavery, and to help guide them to the Promised Land (Canaan—a “land flowing with milk and honey”).
2. Moses did not want to go back to Egypt, even after 40 years. And he did not want to lead the

Hebrews (Israelites) anywhere. So he made excuses why he should not go:

* 1. “I am not important.” “Who am I?” (Exodus 3:11) God said that Moses was important because **He** would be with him.
  2. “The people will not listen to me.” God gave Moses three signs to prove that he was sent by God: his staff would turn into a snake, his hand could have leprosy for a short time, and water would turn to blood (Exodus 4:1-9; 3:13-15 “Who shall I say sent me?”).
  3. “I am not a good speaker.” God reminded Moses that He had made Moses’ mouth, and He would help Moses speak the right words at the right time (Exodus 4:10-12).

1. Even after all God’s promises to Moses, he still did not want to go back to Egypt. Moses told God to send someone else. God became angry with Moses because of his excuses. He told Moses to go, and his brother Aaron, whom he had not seen for 40 years, would be there to help him.
2. Moses took his wife Zipporah, his two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, and his shepherd’s staff on the long journey to Egypt.
3. Moses was 80 years old when he went back to Egypt. He was what we would call “an old man” today, but he still had many, many things that he could do. And even though he didn’t think he could do much, Moses decided that, with God’s help, he could do what God asked.
4. You and I must try very hard not to say, “I can’t,” but instead, “I will do my best because I know that God will help me.” (Talk about different things that the children think they might not be able to do. Discourage children from negative thinking about themselves; encourage them to think positively about what they can do. Discuss Philippians 4:13.) Faith in God can help us overcome our own shortcomings and weaknesses, and can help us to develop confidence in ourselves.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. This lesson has two visual files:
  + 09 (A) Shows adult Moses in Egypt and explains why he left
  + 09 (B) Shows the burning bush story
* Orange Halloween lights inside a silk plant makes a cool prop for the burning bush. Other props for the story could include a walking stick, a rubber snake, and a white skeleton type hand (for the sign of leprosy). A lot of the items are available near Halloween.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“M-O-S-E-S”**

Author: Rhonda Thompson (Tune: “B-I-N-G-O”)

There was a shepherd in Midian, And Moses was his name, Oh!

M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S,

And Moses was his name, Oh!

God spoke to him from a burning bush

And Moses was his name, Oh!

M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S,

And Moses was his name, Oh!

God said “Go” but he said “No,” And Moses was his name, Oh!

M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S,

And Moses was his name, Oh!

He gained strength, gained strength from God, And Moses was his name, Oh!

M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S, M-O-S-E-S,

And Moses was his name, Oh!

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Draw an outline of a bush and print a copy for each child. Let the children color the outline or let them glue strips of orange, red, and yellow tissue paper onto the outline. ([Bush outline](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/2-9-11-65Bush.pdf) provided in activity sheets)

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Make Lacing Sandals.
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* Discuss making excuses. How do they respond when asked to do something? Do they complain or try to find reasons not to do it? Give examples

### Review Questions

1. Where did Moses grow up?
   1. In Egypt, as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter and the grandson of Pharaoh
2. Why did Moses flee from Egypt?
   1. He saw a Hebrew man being mistreated by an Egyptian, and in trying to help the Hebrew, he killed the Egyptian; he didn’t think anyone saw him, but Pharaoh found out and wanted Moses killed.
3. Where did Moses go?
   1. The desert of Midian
4. 4. How old was Moses when he left Egypt?
   1. 40
5. When Moses came to a well to get some water, who did he meet?
   1. The daughters of Jethro
6. What was the name of the daughter of Jethro that Moses married?
   1. Zipporah
7. What did Moses do for a living?
   1. He was a shepherd.
8. How long was Moses a shepherd?
   1. 40 years
9. One day when Moses was tending his sheep, what unusual scene did he see?
   1. He saw a bush that was on fire but did not burn up.
10. When Moses went closer to the bush, what happened?
    1. The angel of the Lord spoke to him.
11. What did the angel tell Moses he wanted him to do?
    1. Go back to Egypt, free the Hebrew people from slavery, and bring them back to the Promised Land.
12. What is another word for the Promised Land, and what phrase describes its bounty?
    1. Canaan; a land flowing with milk and honey
13. Did Moses say he would go back to Egypt?
    1. No. He made up excuses for why he did not want to go.
14. What were the three excuses that Moses gave for not wanting to go back to Egypt?
    1. “I am not important;” “The people will not listen to me;” and “I am not a good speaker.”
15. Did God accept these excuses?
    1. No. He told Moses He would be with him.
16. What three signs did God tell Moses He would show to let the people know that God had sent Moses?
    1. His staff would turn into a snake; his hand would have leprosy for a short time; and water would turn to blood.
17. What did God say in response to Moses’ concern about not being a good speaker?
    1. God told Moses He would help Moses speak the right words at the right time.
18. Who all went with Moses to Egypt?
    1. His wife Zipporah and his two sons, Gershom and Eliezer
19. 19. How old was Moses when he left for Egypt?
    1. 80

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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