

MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Exodus 3:1-8

OVERVIEW OF STORY

Moses was protected and prepared to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and back to Canaan. The Lord spoke to Moses from a bush that was burning but not consumed. He told Moses about the job ahead, that He would be with Moses, give him the power to work miracles and that his brother Aaron would go with him.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS

- ❖ The Israelites had gone down to Egypt during the seven years of famine and became so comfortable there that they did not go back home to the land the Lord had given them. They increased in numbers and prospered, but eventually the Egyptians came to fear them and made them slaves.
- ❖ In good times we are likely to forget that we are created not only to enjoy the pleasures of natural life but also to develop spiritually so that we might come into the joys of eternal life. The land of Canaan to which Moses was to lead the Israelites represents heaven, the true home the Lord intends for each of us.
- ❖ Real freedom is to be led by the Lord. "If you abide in My Word...the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). "Those who have received a heavenly selfhood enjoy true freedom; for being led by the Lord constitutes freedom since one is then led within the sphere of good, from good, and to good" (Arcana Coelestia 5660).
- ❖ As long as the natural part of our being is not ruled by the spiritual—that is, by spiritual principles drawn from the Word—we are bound by the loves of self and the world, and in a state of spiritual slavery. As the Lord sent Moses to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, so He sends His Word to deliver each of us from being dominated by natural thoughts and affections.

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IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILD

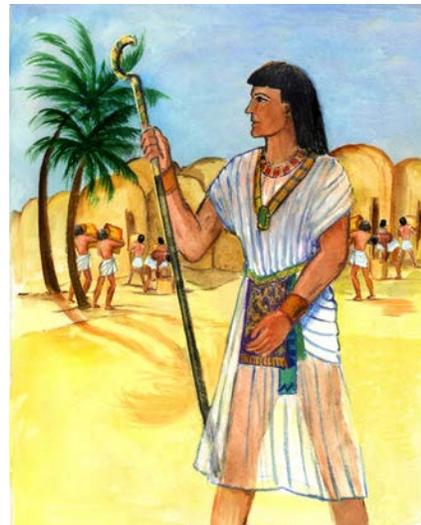
The Lord protected Moses and prepared him to do a very important job.

The Lord spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire.
This miracle shows that the Lord has power over everything.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **What special gift from the Lord did Joseph have?** (He could tell the meaning of dreams.)
- ♦ **Do you remember what Joseph told Pharaoh his dreams meant?** (There would be seven good years with lots of food followed by seven poor years of famine.)

Joseph suggested that Pharaoh store the extra grain in the good years so there would be food during the famine. Pharaoh liked Joseph's plan. Joseph was made ruler right under the Pharaoh. In this position he was able to help his family. He sent for his father, his brothers and their families. They lived in the very best part of the land of Egypt and had plenty of food during



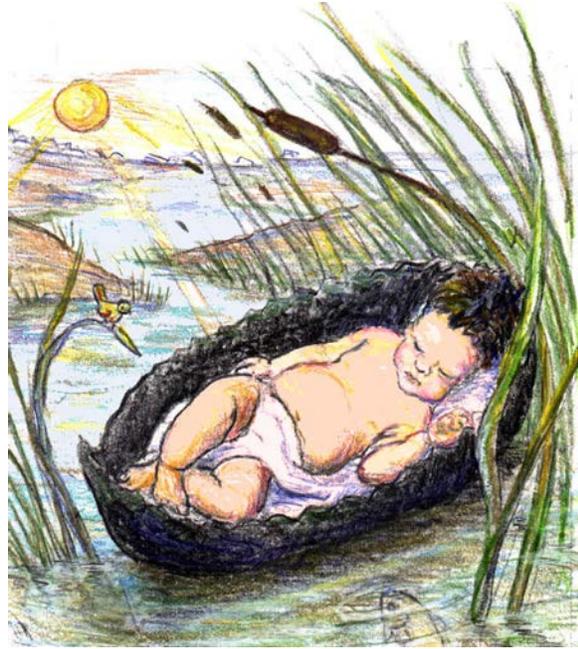
OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

When the famine was over, however, the Israelites stayed in Egypt and did not go back to their home in Canaan or the Holy Land, as they should have done. After a time Joseph died and more children were born. When they first settled in Egypt, there were only seventy of them. Their numbers increased until there were thousands of Israelites. Then came a time, under one of the later Pharaohs, when the Israelites were disliked and made slaves.

Do you know what a slave is? It is a person who is owned by another person and has to do whatever he is told to do. The Israelites had to work hard for the Egyptians building big cities. They had no choice but to do what they were told. Now the Israelites were very sad and wished they were free, not slaves. Many years passed. They forgot about their own country and even forgot the name of their own God.

However, the Lord had not forgotten them. He knew about their sadness and hard lives. He protected and prepared a special baby to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and out of slavery. The baby's name was Moses.

Do you remember that baby Moses' mother made a special little ark or watertight basket and floated him on the river where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and then raised him? In this way Moses was saved and grew up in the palace of the Pharaoh.



When Moses was grown up Pharaoh became angry with him and he had to run away. The Lord protected Moses again. Moses found a place to live in the mountains of a country called Midian far from Egypt. He became a shepherd for a man named Jethro. He married one of Jethro's daughters and had children. He was there for forty years. One day a marvelous thing happened. As Moses was walking in the mountains of Horeb with his sheep, he saw an amazing sight.



Read **Exodus 3:1-3**.

Where was Moses when the Lord spoke to him? (In the mountains of Horeb.) What was he doing? (He was a shepherd and was taking care of his flock of sheep.) What amazing sight did Moses see? (A bush on fire but not burning up.) It says an angel of the Lord appeared to him. You remember that an angel is a messenger of the Lord. When Moses came closer to get a better look, the Lord spoke to him. Let's find out what Moses was told to do.



Read **Exodus 3:4-6**.

What did the Lord tell Moses to do? (Take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground.) Yes, it was holy ground because the Lord was there. The Lord told Moses that He was the God of his fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moses hid his face in fear and honor of such power. Then the Lord told Moses what He was going to do for the Israelite slaves. The descendants or children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are called by two names: Hebrews and Israelites or sometimes the Children of Israel. You might remember that Jacob was called Israel later in life. All these names mean the same people. The Lord was going to free these people from slavery in Egypt and lead them back to their home in Canaan or the Holy Land.



Read **Exodus 3:7-8**.

Were the Israelites happy or sad being slaves in Egypt? (Very sad.) Yes, their task-masters forced them to work very hard. The Lord was going to send Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses was afraid he would not be able to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go. So the Lord gave Moses the power to do some miracles. A miracle is a wonderful thing done by the Lord. One of the miracles done to show Pharaoh the Lord's power was changing a rod into a snake. He also told Moses that his brother Aaron would go with him and help him. Then Moses was willing to go.



Do we sometimes forget about the Lord too? (Yes.) What can we do each day so that we think about our loving Heavenly Father? (Answers vary: pray, read the Word, say recitations.)

In the next story about Moses, we will find out how difficult this job was and the amazing miracles he did. Do you think Moses will be able to make Pharaoh let the children of Israel go?

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **After Moses left Egypt and went to Midian, what job did he have?** (Shepherd.)
- ♦ **What amazing sight did he see?** (Bush with flames of fire but not burning up.)
- ♦ **Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **What did the Lord want Moses to do?** (Go back to Egypt and free the Israelite slaves so they could go home to Canaan.)
- ♦ **How did Moses feel about this job?** (He was afraid.)
- ♦ **Would you like to be Moses? Why or why not?**

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LESSON 10 ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart. Practice it for three lessons.

And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Exodus 20:1-17 (parts).



Projects:

Make the "The Burning Bush" project.
Color the outline drawing of Moses.



Songs:

"Moses in the Bulrushes"—Track 11
"Crossing the Red Sea"—Track 12
"Moses Went to Sinai's Peak"—Track 13
"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"—Track 14



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Build a fire and observe the flames. It gives heat and light similar to the sun. Imagine being Moses and seeing flames on a bush that did not burn up.
- ❖ Help your child think of a job that has seemed too hard to accomplish by himself. Point out that it is easier if someone helps out.
- ❖ Remember, a miracle is a wonderful thing done by the Lord. Talk about the miracles in your everyday life with your child.

The Burning Bush Lesson 10

The purpose of this project is to help your child visualize the incredible sight Moses saw when the Lord spoke to him, a bush on fire but not burning up.

Supplies:

1 printed page
crayons or markers
1/2 piece of red construction paper
1/2 piece of yellow construction paper
1/2 piece of orange construction paper
1 piece of orange construction paper
glue

Project instructions:

1. Color the bush with crayons or markers.
2. Tear the red, yellow and orange construction paper into flame-like shapes and glue them onto the upper part of the bush.
3. Glue the page in the center of the full piece of orange paper to create a frame for your picture.





The Burning Bush

