

General Church Education



# The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-22

## Lesson 4

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

# The Burning Bush

## Exodus 3:1-22

### For Parents and Teachers

This lesson focuses on the middle part of Moses' life. He lived forty years in Egypt where his life was preserved, then forty years in Midian where he was a shepherd. His final forty years were spent leading the Hebrews through the wilderness to Canaan. Perhaps we can see parallels with the second part of Moses' life as preparing him to "shepherd" the Hebrews out of Egypt and lead them back to the promised land. We remember that David was similarly called from being a shepherd boy to become king of his people.

The Midianites were named for Midian, who was a son of Abraham. The Midianites had remained in this wilderness and they also preserved the faith and worship they had received from Abraham. Moses had much to learn from his father-in-law Jethro, a wise Midianite priest. From Jethro Moses gained the ability to become a great leader. We learn from the Writings that the Midianites represent a simple, childhood state of faith. Sometimes we need to return to this state for a while. Even in adult life things can get to be too much for us to handle. At these times we can return to our core beliefs to gather enough strength and wisdom to go back to the use we are serving.

### Ideas for Children

- Moses is a hero whose power to lead came from the Lord.
- The Lord is powerful (miracles).
- The Lord is always with us and will help us do His will.

### From the Writings

The Lord appears to each individual person in a way suited to the kind of person he is for this is suited to the way he receives the Lord.

The Lord hears everyone and so brings help to everyone, but each according to his needs. Those who cry out to Him and call for help solely in support of themselves, and so in opposition to others, as the evil are accustomed to do, are also heard by the Lord, but He does not bring them help; and when He does not bring help it is said that He does not hear.

Those who lead the life of faith repent daily. They pay attention to the evils present with them, acknowledge them, are on their guard against them, and implore the Lord for help. For by himself a person is constantly falling, but the Lord is constantly putting him on his feet again. By himself he falls whenever his mind desires something evil, but the Lord puts him on his feet again whenever he resists evil and therefore does not carry it out. This is the condition of all who are governed by good. *Arcana Coelestia* 6832, 6852 and 8391

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Exodus 3:1-22

## Words to Understand

**miracle**—an amazing thing done by the Lord

**oppression**—a feeling of being weighed down with worries or problems

**plunder**—to take the property of another

**wilderness**—an open area where few people live

**sacred**—something that is respected because it belongs to God

**burden**—something one has to bear or put up with; a heavy load, work, sorrow

**humble**—not being proud, but aware of your own shortcomings

## Moses' New Life in Midian

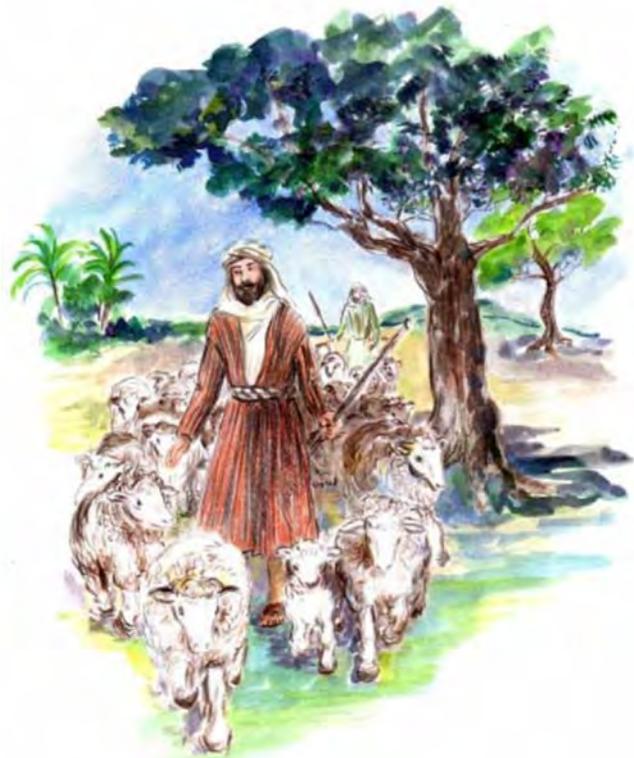
Do you wonder what became of Moses after he fled from Egypt? We know that the Lord was guiding and protecting Moses for the great work he was going to do. The next part of his life was much different than the first part and a very surprising thing happened to Moses.

Moses settled in the land called Midian. It is part of the Sinai Peninsula that lies between Egypt and Canaan. There are many mountains in this wilderness region. Horeb is the name of one of the mountain ranges there and Mount Sinai, where the Commandments were later given, is part of this range. These mountains are bare, rocky and full of desert trees and shrubs, many of which have thorns.

Moses found the Midianites who lived in this wilderness and became a shepherd for a priest named Jethro. Later he married one of Jethro's daughters, Zipporah. Moses lived with Jethro for forty years. His job was to lead the sheep through the mountains to find any grass there was for them to eat. **Read Exodus 3:1-22.**

## A Great Miracle

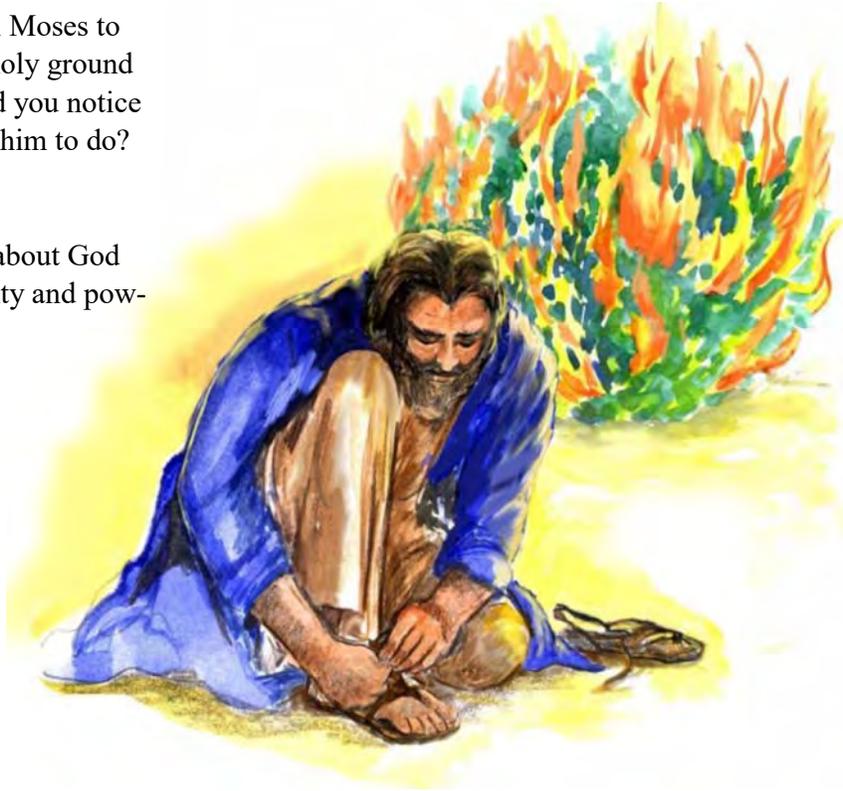
What did Moses see in the burning bush? Yes, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him. Then Moses heard the Lord Himself calling him by



his name. Why did the Lord tell Moses to take off his sandals? This was holy ground because the Lord was there. Did you notice that Moses did as the Lord told him to do?

### Moses Is Given a Great Job

Moses did not know much about God but he knew that God was mighty and powerful, that He should be respected and obeyed. The Lord told Moses who He was. He said, “I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look upon God. The Lord identified Himself to Moses in this manner because all of the Hebrews thought of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as their fathers.



During all the years that the Hebrews spent in Egypt, they had forgotten about Jehovah. They did not even remember His name. Did the Lord forget about them? No, the Lord’s love for all of us burns continually like the flame on this bush. He constantly cares for us even when we forget about Him.

The Lord wanted to save the Hebrews who were still slaves in Egypt and told Moses to go to Egypt and free the children of Israel. Then Moses would lead them into the land of Canaan, a beautiful land with plenty of space for all the Hebrews. “A land flowing with milk and honey” means that there would be plenty of good things to eat from the good land there. And, best of all, the people would not be slaves in this land that the Lord had long ago promised to the patriarchs. It would be a huge job to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt and get them to Canaan. The wicked Pharaoh would try to stop him. It is no wonder that Moses was afraid! But the Lord helped Moses in three ways.

### The Name of God

First, the Lord told Moses that He would be with him. He would give Moses the strength needed to do this great work. Then He told Moses His name. The Hebrews had forgotten the Lord’s name during their slavery in Egypt. “I AM WHO I AM” is the meaning of the name Jehovah. This is the Lord’s most holy name, for it tells us that *only He* has life in Himself. We are alive because *He is Life*, and He gives life to us.

Then the Lord told Moses to go to Egypt. He was to tell the Hebrews that the Lord had appeared

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to him, and was to lead them out of slavery. Moses was to see Pharaoh and ask him to let the children of Israel go three days' journey into the wilderness to worship their God. Did you notice that the Lord warned Moses that Pharaoh would not want to lose his slaves and would refuse to let them go? So the Lord would then strike Egypt with wonders, or miracles, to convince them to let the people go. On the way out, the Hebrews were to plunder the Egyptians by borrowing articles of silver, gold and clothing from them. They would have the materials that they would later need for something very important.

### Moses as Leader

Did Moses have a great task ahead of him? Yes and he was a humble man who was very aware of his own shortcomings. He did not think he was wise enough or strong enough to lead the children of Israel. But he was willing to obey the Lord and go to Egypt. We can see that the Lord had called Moses to this purpose and that He would help him complete this work. The Lord is with each of us at all times, and we can be confident of His help in the hard tasks of life if we are willing to listen to His instructions and follow them. Do you think Moses will be able to do what the Lord asks when he goes back to Egypt? We will find out in the next lesson.



### Discussion Ideas

- What is the “holy ground” in our own lives? What is appropriate behavior towards things that are sacred? Why do we speak of and handle the Lord’s Word with care, come into worship quietly and fold our hands when we pray?
- Sometimes we feel we have been given hard things to do. How can we ask for the Lord’s strength and wisdom at these times? Do you feel the Lord will help you?
- When Lord is printed in small capital letters in the Word His name is Jehovah in the original language. Jehovah means “I AM WHO I AM,” or simply “I AM.” In the new testament the name Jehovah appears in the name Jesus. “Jesus” means “Jehovah our Savior.” Discuss why it is important to keep the Lord’s name holy.

# Activity Overview | The Burning Bush

## Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—  
From whence comes my help?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.      Psalm 121:1-2

## Songs

*The Lord in His Righteousness*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-lord-in-his-righteousness-judges-the-people/>

*Moses in the Bulrushes*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-in-the-bulrushes/>

## Projects

Choose one or two activities.



- Activity 1 | Holy Ground
- Activity 2 | Mix and Match Activity—the Burning Bush
- Picture to color—Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3)

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch *Moses in the Bulrushes* video at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-moses-in-the-bulrushes-song/>
- The Lord speaks to us today through the Word. Talk about how the Lord has spoken to you in true ideas you have learned from the Word.
- Think about the Lord's name, "I AM WHO I AM" or Jehovah, and write down your thoughts about why it is important to know and think about the Lord. How does knowing more about the Lord help your ability to listen to Him?



## Activity 1 | Holy Ground

The Lord told Moses to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Shoes protect our feet, the lowest part of our bodies, from dirt. Taking shoes off pictures setting aside our most natural concerns (e.g. food, comfort) and raising our thoughts to higher spiritual concerns—to the Lord Himself. Children will take off their shoes and practice walking on “holy ground,” and then making sandals to remember that we can choose to walk on holy ground.

### Materials Needed

- two pieces of sturdy paper in earth-tones for printing
- scissors
- staples
- copy of stencil (over)
- long piece of yarn or string tied in a circle

### Directions

1. What did the Lord tell Moses to do as he walked closer to see the burning bush? (To take off his shoes.)
2. How do shoes protect our feet? When do you take off your shoes? Moses’ shoes protected his feet in the mountains. The Lord told him to take his shoes off because he was on “holy ground”. Create Invite children to stretch out a large circle of yarn or string on the floor so that that the whole class can step into it. Stepping inside the circle means stepping on “holy ground”.
3. Have all children take two or more steps back from the circle and take off their shoes.
4. Now all stand and face the center of the circle. Say, “This circle is for a special person in our class. Everyone who is loved by the Lord take one step forward. Everyone who is like Moses and wants to listen to the Lord take one step forward. If you are sometimes brave, and want to help the Lord do great things in your life, just like Moses, take a step into the circle.”
5. By now everyone should be in the circle. “Look at all the special people in this class! When we are like Moses, and try to do good things, it is like we are standing on “holy ground.”
6. Finish by making sandals as a reminder that the true ideas in the Lord’s Word that protect our feet as we walk in His Way. Follow *Holy Ground Sandals Directions* to complete the activity.



# Holy Ground Sandals Directions

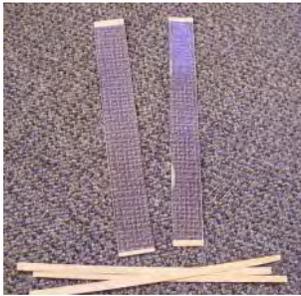
1. You will need a copy of the *Holy Ground Sandals* printed on stiff paper, tape and scissors.



2. Fold the Holy Ground Sandals in half on the line. Cut off the sandals straps (at top and bottom of page.)



3. Trim the straps if desired.



4. Cut the sandal page in two as shown.



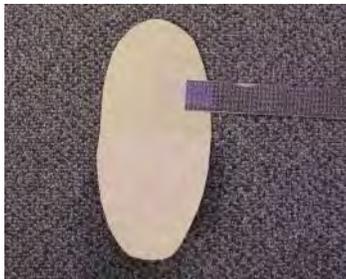
5. Cut around the sandal shapes. Trim edges.



6. Put tape on both ends of the sandal straps.



7. Fasten one end of the tape to **bottom** of the sandal.



8. Place foot on the sandal. Bend the strap around to fit your foot. Fasten the second tape underneath the sandal to fit foot. Repeat with the second sandal.



Take your sandals off your feet



For where you stand is holy ground

## Activity 2 | Mix and Match Activity

Read each question. Write the letter from the correct answer on the line before each question.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ___ 1. What is a miracle?   | A. The shoes from off his feet.                 |
| ___ 2. How did Moses help Jethro?   | B. Strength and wisdom.                         |
| ___ 3. What strange thing did Moses see on Mount Horeb?                         | C. A wonderful thing that only the Lord can do. |
| ___ 4. Who spoke to Moses from the bush?  | D. Jehovah—I AM WHO I AM.                       |
| ___ 5. What did the Lord tell Moses to take off?                                | E. The Lord spoke to Moses.                     |
| ___ 6. Whose cry had the Lord heard?  | F. He took care of Jethro's sheep.              |
| ___ 7. What hard job was Moses asked to do?                                     | G. To free the Children of Israel.              |
| ___ 8. What is the Lord's most holy name?                                       | H. The cry of the Children of Israel.           |
| ___ 9. When we have a hard job to do, what will the Lord give us if we ask Him? | I. A bush was on fire but didn't burn up.       |



Answers  
1. C  
2. F  
3. I  
4. D  
5. E  
6. H  
7. G  
8. H  
9. B

