

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 6
The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-8)

Theme: Moses as a Hero

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. A fire in the burning bush represents a sense of the Lord's love in the letter of His Word, and in this there is promise of deliverance from all bondage of evil and of the blessings of heaven. (AC 6832)
- B. Moses' hesitation to go on his mission and to face the king of Egypt depicts the times we doubt whether the Divine Word is able to face the evils of the world and to bring deliverance. (AC 6998)

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. The children of Israel had been invited to live in Egypt a long time ago, because Joseph was a child of Israel and he became a hero and ruler in Egypt.
- 2. But as time went by, the rulers of Egypt stopped being nice to the children of Israel. They forgot about Joseph and how he helped Egypt.
- 3. The Egyptians made the Children of Israel their slaves.
- 4. Moses was saved from slavery because an Egyptian princess found him as a baby in the bulrushes (remember last week?) and raised him as her son.
- 5. When Moses grew up, he became a shepherd in a place called Midian. One day he was caring for his sheep, when he saw an amazing sight. We'll read about what he saw today.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Exodus 3:1-8

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. What was it that Moses saw? (A burning bush)
- 2. What was strange about the burning bush? (The fire was not burning the bush up - the bush was still alive)
- 3. Who spoke to Moses in the bush? (The Lord)
- 4. What did the Lord tell Moses to take off? (his shoes)
- 5. Why? (Because the Lord said that Moses was standing on holy ground)
- 6. What did the Lord tell Moses he was going to do? (Lead the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to their own land)

D. Further Ideas

- 1. Moses felt afraid to do what the Lord told him to do. Sometimes doing the right thing can be scary or hard. But the Lord is always helping you, right? Just like He was helping Moses.

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2. The Lord helped Moses free the children of Israel from slavery. Next week we'll learn about how they escaped, and about when a miracle helped them cross over the Red Sea.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Activities

1. Holy Ground Circle:

Use a piece of yarn to make a circle on the floor that is big enough for the whole class to stand in, though they may have to squeeze. Have the children stand around the outside of the circle. Say to the children, "This circle is for a special person in our class. Let's find out who belongs in the special circle. Everyone who is loved by the Lord take one step forward. Everyone who is like Moses, and wants to listen to the Lord, take a step forward. Everyone who does hard things sometimes, and needs the Lord to help them, just like Moses, take a 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." By now everyone should be in the circle. Say, "Look at all the special people we have in this class. We are all like Moses. When we are like Moses, and try to help the Lord do good things, it is like we are standing on "Holy Ground." That is what this circle could be like: holy ground."

B. Project

1. Burning bush in the desert

- a. Materials: construction paper, sandpaper, glue, and scissors.
- b. Before class cut paper shapes of bush, leaves, and flames.
- c. First the bush, stems, and leaves, and then the flames are glued on the piece of sandpaper (the "desert"). Last glue on text slips: "The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. Exodus 3:2"

2. Burning bush made out of fall leaves.

- a. Collect fall leaves before class, or with the children during class. Find ones that "look like fire. "
- b. On a piece of sturdy paper draw, or have the children draw, branches of the bush.
- c. Glue the leaves all over the bush, making it look like it is flaming.
- d. Text slip (above).

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Branch to burn, to show how it could only be a miracle if the bush did not burn up.
- B. Picture of Moses at the burning bush.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher