

# WEEK 15: GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE: MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Main Lesson | Ages 5–11 | Read-Aloud | Scripture-Centered | Christ-Centered

April 12, 2026 | Exodus 3:1–22

## LESSON OVERVIEW

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| <b>Week #:</b>            | 15  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | April 12, 2026  |
| <b>Lesson Title:</b>      | God Rescues His People: Moses and the Burning Bush  |
| <b>Primary Scripture:</b> | Exodus 3:1–22   |
| <b>Bible Timeline:</b>    | God's people are slaves in Egypt. God is beginning the rescue that will lead to the exodus. |

### BIG IDEA

**The holy God sees His people, calls Moses, and promises to be with him as He rescues.**

## MEMORY VERSE

### MEMORY VERSE

***"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."***

**Exodus 3:10**

### What it means:

God did not forget His people. He chose Moses and sent him to help with God's rescue plan. God still calls His people to trust Him and obey Him.

## SETTING THE SCENE

Today we are listening to God's Word in Exodus. Exodus is the second book of the Bible. In Genesis, God made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Their family grew into a great people, just as God said. But by the beginning of Exodus, God's people were living in Egypt, and a cruel king called Pharaoh made them slaves.

Let's hear what God tells us right before today's passage. Exodus 2:23–25 says, "The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them."

That means today's lesson begins with something very important: God saw. God heard. God remembered. God cared. When God's people were hurting, He was not ignoring them. He was getting ready to act.

## MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE | READ ALOUD – AT LEAST 10 MINUTES

Far away from Egypt, out in the wilderness, Moses was doing ordinary work. He was taking care of sheep. Long before this day, Moses had lived in Egypt. He had even grown up in Pharaoh's house. But Moses had fled from Egypt and was now living in Midian. He had a wife, a family, and the daily work of a shepherd. Day after day he led sheep across rough ground, looking for grass and water.

Nothing in Moses' morning would have seemed unusual at first. The sky would have looked like the same sky. The ground would have felt like the same dusty ground. The sheep would have needed the same care they needed every day. But on this day, while Moses was near Horeb, the mountain of God, the Lord was about to speak.

Exodus 3:2 says, "There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up." Moses saw something no shepherd expected to see. Fire was blazing in a bush, but the bush was not being destroyed. The leaves were not curling into ashes. The branches were not collapsing into black dust. The fire burned, but the bush remained.

Moses knew this was no ordinary sight. Exodus 3:3 says, "So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight, why the bush does not burn up.'" Moses turned aside to look. That mattered. He did not shrug and walk away. He stopped. He paid attention. He moved closer because he knew something about this moment was different.

Then the Lord called to him from within the bush. Exodus 3:4 says, "Moses! Moses!" Imagine hearing your own name spoken out in the wilderness, not by another shepherd, not by a traveler, but by God Himself. Moses answered, "Here I am."

Then God said words that must have made Moses stop in his tracks: "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5). The ground was not magical. It was holy because God was making His presence known there. Moses was standing before the holy God.

Holy means God is completely pure, completely set apart, completely unlike sin. God never does wrong. God never thinks wrongly. God is never unkind, never selfish, never confused, never weak. He is perfect in all He is and all He does. That is why Moses could not treat this moment casually.

Then God told Moses exactly who was speaking. Exodus 3:6 says, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." This was the covenant God, the God who had made promises long ago. This was not a new god and not a made-up god. This was the one true God, the Creator, the faithful Lord who keeps His Word generation after generation.

When Moses heard this, the verse tells us, "At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God" (Exodus 3:6). Moses was afraid, not because God is evil, but because God is holy and glorious. Moses understood that he was standing before Someone far greater than himself.

Then God began to speak words of comfort and rescue. He said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering" (Exodus 3:7). Children need to hear that line and remember it. God said He had seen. God said He had heard. God said He was concerned.

Sometimes people wonder whether God notices pain. This verse answers that question. Yes, He does. God is not blind to suffering. He is not deaf to cries for help. He is not cold toward His people. He sees. He hears. He knows.

But God did not stop with saying He cared. He said He was going to act. Exodus 3:8 says, "So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians." That is one of the most beautiful parts of the passage. God is a rescuing God. He was going to bring His people out of slavery and into a good land, a land He had promised.

Moses may have been listening with wide eyes and pounding heart. Perhaps he thought, God is finally going to do it. God is going to rescue His people. But then came the surprise. Exodus 3:10 says, "So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Moses had just learned that God would rescue Israel. Now Moses learned that he would be the one God would send. Think about how frightening that would have sounded. Pharaoh was powerful. Egypt was strong. Moses had already fled from Egypt years earlier. He did not feel like the right man for this job.

In verse 11 Moses asked, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" That is a very human question. Moses was not saying, I am wonderful, pick me. He was saying, Why would You send me? I am not important enough. I am not strong enough. I am not the right person.

And God answered him in the best possible way. God did not say, Moses, you have more talent than you think. God did not say, Moses, believe in yourself. God said, "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12).

That was the answer Moses needed most. The rescue would not happen because Moses was strong. It would happen because God would be with him. Children need that truth too. We do not obey God because we are big enough, smart enough, or brave enough on our own. We obey because God is with His people.

Then Moses asked another question. He knew the Israelites might ask who had sent him. So in Exodus 3:13 he said, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

God answered with words that are deep and wonderful: "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Then He said, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God's name teaches that He is the eternal God. He does not begin and end the way people do. He does not need anyone to keep Him alive. He is not becoming better or stronger. He always is who He is. He is the faithful, living, unchanging Lord.

Then God said again, "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you" (Exodus 3:15). God wanted Moses and the people to know that this rescue was tied to His promises. He had not forgotten one word He had spoken.

The Lord went on to tell Moses what to do. He was to gather the elders of Israel and tell them that the God of their fathers had appeared to him. He was to tell them that God had seen what was being done to them in Egypt. He was to tell them that God had promised to bring them out into a good land (Exodus 3:16–17).

God even told Moses ahead of time that Pharaoh would not easily let the people go. This is important. Nothing in the next part of Exodus would surprise God. Pharaoh's hard heart was not stronger than God's plan. The Lord said, "I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him" (Exodus 3:19). God already knew what would happen, and God already knew what He would do.

Do you see how great God is in this passage? He knows the past, because He made promises long ago. He knows the present, because He sees His people suffering right now. He knows the future, because He tells Moses what Pharaoh will do and what He Himself will do. Our God is never surprised, never trapped, never late, and never powerless.

This passage also shows us something tender and personal. God called Moses by name. God listened to His people's cries. God knew their pain. God was not rescuing nameless crowds from far away. He was rescuing His people because He had set His love on them.

And this great rescue points us forward to Jesus. In the Old Testament, God came down to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt. In the New Testament, Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners from slavery to sin. Sin is worse than chains on your hands or feet. Sin separates us from God. Sin makes us guilty. Sin rules human hearts. But Jesus came to save.

Listen to Matthew 1:21: "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Jesus is the greater and final Rescuer. Moses was sent to Pharaoh. Jesus was sent by the Father. Moses led people out of Egypt. Jesus brings His people out of darkness and into the kingdom of God. Moses could not change hearts, but Jesus can forgive sins, make us new, and give eternal life.

There is another beautiful connection. In Exodus 3, God says, "I AM WHO I AM." Later, in John 8:58, Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!" Jesus was not saying He was merely old. He was showing that He is truly God the Son, one with the Father, worthy of our worship. The God who spoke in holiness and truth at the bush is the same God fully revealed in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

So what should children hear and remember from this lesson? Hear this: God sees. God knows. God calls. God rescues. And when God sends His people, He promises His presence. Moses was not enough by himself, and neither are we. But God is enough. The holy God who called Moses is faithful, and the Savior He points to is Jesus Christ.

## WHY WE CAN TRUST THIS ACCOUNT

We trust this account first because it is God's Word, and God always tells the truth. The Bible says, "All Scripture is God-breathed" in 2 Timothy 3:16, and Jesus said, "Your word is truth" in John 17:17.

We also trust this account because the Bible presents it as real history inside one unified story. Exodus connects to God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Later books of the Bible keep pointing back to this rescue because it really happened.

Jesus Himself treated this event as true. In Mark 12:26, Jesus spoke about "the account of the burning bush" and quoted Exodus 3:6. That means the risen Lord Jesus treated Moses and the burning bush as a real event and God's words there as completely trustworthy.

A child might say, "But bushes do not usually burn without burning up." That is exactly right. They do not. That is why Moses stopped and looked. This was a miracle, and miracles are not hard for the God who made the world. The miracle was a sign that God was truly there and truly speaking.

## WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

This passage points to Jesus in clear and beautiful ways.

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|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Jesus Our Savior</b>      | Just as God came down to rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt, Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners from sin through His death and resurrection.               |
| <b>Jesus Our Sanctifier</b>  | The God who met Moses on holy ground is still holy, and Jesus does not merely forgive His people. He also changes them, helping them grow in obedience and holiness. |
| <b>Jesus Our Healer</b>      | God saw suffering in Egypt and cared. Jesus also sees suffering and has compassion. We can bring our fears, pain, sickness, and needs to Him in prayer.              |
| <b>Jesus Our Coming King</b> | God kept His promise to rescue Israel, and Jesus will keep His promise to return. The Lord always finishes what He says He will do.                                  |

## GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY

The Bible teaches that God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this passage, we hear the one true God speaking and revealing His holy name. Across all Scripture we learn more fully who this one God is.

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>God the Father</b>      | Plans and sends.   |
| <b>God the Son</b>         | Jesus, the greater Rescuer, who came to save His people from their sins and who later said, "before Abraham was born, I am!" |
| <b>God the Holy Spirit</b> | Empowers God's people to trust, obey, and serve.   |

We do not say there are three gods. We do not use pretend comparisons that can confuse children. We say what Scripture says: God is one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## LIFE APPLICATION

**This week children can remember four simple truths:**

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|----------------------------------|--|
| When you feel unnoticed...       | God sees.  |
| When you feel afraid...          | God says, "I will be with you."                              |
| When God tells you to obey...    | His commands come with His help.                             |
| When you know you have sinned... | Jesus is the greater Rescuer who saves all who trust in Him. |

Children can practice this by praying honest prayers. They can tell God when they are afraid, when they need courage, and when they need forgiveness. They can also obey in small daily ways: telling the truth, showing kindness, helping at home, and listening to God's Word.

## DEFENDING THE TRUTH

### Question a child might ask:

#### Did this really happen, or is it just a made-up story?

Yes, this really happened. The Bible gives it to us as real history, and Jesus Himself spoke about the burning bush as a true event in Mark 12:26. We believe this because God's Word is true.

#### Supporting Scripture:

Exodus 3:1–22 | Mark 12:26 | John 17:17 | 2 Timothy 3:16

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. What strange thing did Moses see in the wilderness?

He saw a bush on fire that did not burn up.

### 2. Why did God tell Moses to take off his sandals?

Because God was revealing His holy presence, and Moses was standing on holy ground.

### 3. What did God say about His people in Egypt?

God said He had seen their misery, heard their crying, and was concerned about their suffering.

### 4. What did God command Moses to do?

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

### 5. What was Moses worried about?

He wondered who he was to do such a big job and how the people would know God had sent him.

### 6. What was God's answer to Moses' fear?

"I will be with you."

### 7. What does God's name "I AM WHO I AM" teach us?

God is eternal, living, faithful, and unlike anyone else.

### 8. How does this lesson point to Jesus?

Just as God rescued Israel from slavery, Jesus rescues sinners from sin.

### Optional Deeper Questions

#### Why is it important that God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

It showed that God was keeping His promises and continuing the plan He had already begun.

**Why does God's promise to be with Moses matter more than Moses feeling brave?**

Because God's presence is stronger and more dependable than human courage.

**HANDS-ON ACTIVITY****The Bush That Burned but Did Not Burn Up**

To help children remember that God got Moses' attention, revealed His holiness, and promised to be with him. This is a simple craft and review activity.

**Supplies Needed:**

- Plain paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Safety scissors
- Glue or tape
- Red, orange, and yellow scraps of paper if available

**Step-by-Step Instructions:**

1. Have each child draw a bush with branches on a sheet of paper.
2. Ask the children to add paper flames or color flames around the bush.
3. At the bottom of the page, write: God sees. God calls. God says, "I will be with you."
4. Read Exodus 3:7, Exodus 3:10, and Exodus 3:12 aloud while they work.
5. When the craft is finished, let each child point to one part of the page and say what it reminds them of.

**Scripture Connection:**

The fire reminds us that God truly appeared to Moses. The bush that did not burn up reminds us that this was a miracle. The words at the bottom help children remember the main truths of the lesson.

**Optional Low-Supply Alternative:**

If supplies are limited, children can simply fold a paper into three sections and write one truth in each section: God sees. God calls. God is with us.

**TEACHER CLOSING**

Let's end by hearing God's promise one more time. Exodus 3:12 says, "I will be with you."

Children, Moses was not brave enough by himself, and we are not strong enough by ourselves either. But our God is holy, faithful, and near. He sees His people. He hears their cries. He keeps His promises. And this same God sent Jesus to save us from sin.

**Close in Prayer:**

*Lord God, thank You for speaking to Moses and showing that You are holy, faithful, and full of mercy. Thank You that You saw Your people and came to rescue them. Thank You most of all for sending Jesus, our Savior. Help us trust You when we feel afraid. Help us remember that You are with Your people. In Jesus' name, amen.*