

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

TEACHER BACKGROUND & PREPARATION SHEET | FOR TEACHER STUDY ONLY – NOT READ ALOUD

April 12, 2026 | Exodus 3:1–22

## LESSON IDENTIFICATION

<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>	Israel is in slavery in Egypt after Joseph's generation has died. God is now beginning the rescue He promised, raising up Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and toward the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

## PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON

Children should learn that God sees His people's suffering, speaks truthfully, reveals His holy name, and acts to rescue. They should see that God is holy and merciful, that people need God's help and cannot save themselves, and that this rescue points forward to Jesus, our Savior, who came to save His people from sin. Children should also begin to understand that when God calls His people, He does not leave them alone. He promises His presence.

## BOOK & PASSAGE BACKGROUND

<b>Book Name:</b>	Exodus
<b>Traditional Author:</b>	Moses
<b>Date Written:</b>	Commonly understood to have been written during Israel's wilderness period after the exodus.
<b>Original Audience:</b>	The people of Israel, especially God's covenant people learning who He is, what He has done, and how they are to trust and obey Him.
<b>Purpose of the Book:</b>	Exodus shows how the Lord rescues His people from slavery, reveals His name and holiness, makes covenant with them, and dwells among them. The book teaches that salvation belongs to the Lord and that His redeemed people are called to trust, worship, and obey Him.

## HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT

Moses had once lived in Pharaoh's household, but after fleeing Egypt he had been living in Midian as a shepherd for many years (Exodus 2:15–22). Shepherding meant long days in the wilderness, guiding sheep to grass and water. The event in Exodus 3 takes place near Horeb, also called Sinai, a mountain region connected with God's covenant revelation later in Exodus.

The Israelites were living in harsh slavery in Egypt. Exodus 1:11–14 describes forced labor, hard service, and suffering. Pharaoh used God's people for building projects and treated them cruelly. By the time of Exodus 3, Israel had been waiting a long time for the Lord to act, but Exodus 2:23–25 says God heard their groaning, remembered His covenant, saw the Israelites, and was concerned about them.

The bush that burned but was not consumed was not a trick of nature. Scripture presents it as a miraculous sign of God's holy presence (Exodus 3:2–4). When God told Moses to remove his sandals, it showed reverence before the holy God. Sandals were ordinary footwear for dusty ground, but this ground was holy not because the soil was magical, but because God had made His presence known there (Exodus 3:5).

God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:6). That mattered because it tied this moment to the promises of Genesis. The Lord was not starting a new plan. He was continuing His faithful covenant purposes across generations.

## IMMEDIATE BIBLICAL CONTEXT

### What Happens Before This Passage

Israel multiplies in Egypt just as God had promised, but a new Pharaoh oppresses them (Exodus 1:7–14). Moses is born, preserved from death, raised in Pharaoh's house, and later flees to Midian after killing an Egyptian (Exodus 2:1–15). At the end of Exodus 2, Israel cries out under slavery, and God hears, remembers His covenant, sees, and knows (Exodus 2:23–25).

### What Happens After This Passage

God continues speaking with Moses in Exodus 4, gives confirming signs, and appoints Aaron to help him speak. Moses returns to Egypt to confront Pharaoh. The conflict between Pharaoh and the Lord unfolds through the plagues, the Passover, and finally the exodus itself.

### Why This Moment Matters in God's Plan

Exodus 3 is the turning point where God publicly calls His chosen deliverer and announces His intention to rescue His people. This passage begins the great redemption event of the Old Testament. That rescue becomes a major pattern for understanding salvation throughout the Bible. Just as God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, He delivers sinners from slavery to sin through Jesus Christ (Luke 9:31; 1 Corinthians 5:7).

## KEY THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS

### CORE TRUTH #1: What This Lesson Teaches About God

God is holy, personal, truthful, and compassionate. In Exodus 3:5, God says, "Do not come any closer... Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." God is not ordinary. He is perfectly pure and set apart. Yet this holy God also sees suffering and comes near in mercy. In Exodus 3:7–8, the Lord says, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt... So I have come down to rescue them." God is not distant or uncaring. He is the living God who sees, hears, knows, speaks, and acts.

This matters today because children need to know that God is not like us. He is greater than us, never sinful, never confused, and never late. At the same time, He cares deeply for His people. He sees pain, hears prayer, and keeps His promises.

### CORE TRUTH #2: What This Lesson Teaches About People

People are weak, limited, and often fearful, but God knows this and calls them to trust Him. Moses does not appear bold in this passage. He hides his face because he is afraid to look at God (Exodus 3:6), and in the next chapter he questions whether he can do what God commands (Exodus 4:1, 10, 13). This shows that even chosen servants need God's help.

Children should see that fear is real, but fear does not have to rule us. Like Moses, we are not strong enough in ourselves. We need God's presence, God's truth, and God's power. This also teaches humility. The hero of the passage is not Moses. The hero is the Lord.

**CORE TRUTH #3: What This Lesson Teaches About Salvation**

God rescues by His own initiative and power. Israel did not free itself. In Exodus 3:8, God says, "So I have come down to rescue them." Salvation begins with God. This rescue from Egypt points forward to a greater rescue in Christ. Jesus came down from heaven to save His people from their sins (John 6:38; Matthew 1:21). Through His death and resurrection, Jesus rescues all who trust in Him from the guilt and power of sin (Colossians 1:13–14).

For children, this means salvation is not earned by trying hard. We are rescued by God's grace. Jesus is our Savior. The exodus helps children see that God is a rescuing God.

**CORE TRUTH #4: Trusting God's Word**

This passage teaches that God's Word is true, authoritative, and dependable. God names the patriarchs, recalls His covenant promises, and speaks of what He will do before it happens (Exodus 3:6, 15–17). Later events in Exodus confirm exactly what God said. What the Lord promises, the Lord performs.

This matters because children live in a world full of changing opinions. God's Word does not change. Scripture is trustworthy because God is truthful. When God speaks, He is never guessing, never lying, and never mistaken (Numbers 23:19; John 17:17).

**CORE TRUTH #5: God as Trinity**

The full doctrine of the Trinity is revealed across Scripture: God is one God in three Persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). In Exodus 3, the passage especially reveals the one true God speaking as Lord. The Father is the One who sends and plans rescue. The Son is not yet incarnate in Exodus 3, but this rescue points forward to Jesus, who would come as the final and greater Deliverer (John 8:58; Luke 24:27). The Holy Spirit is not named in Exodus 3, but throughout Scripture He is the divine Person who empowers God's servants and applies God's saving work (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:17).

Teachers should speak carefully and simply: God is one God in three Persons. We do not use pretend pictures or confusing comparisons. We teach what Scripture teaches. In this lesson, we can say: the one true God who spoke from the bush is the same God fully revealed in Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE**

This passage stands inside a unified, consistent biblical account. Exodus continues promises first spoken in Genesis. God's words in Exodus 3 about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob connect directly to Genesis 12:1–3, 15:13–14, 17:7, and 26:24. That unity across the books of the Bible supports the truthfulness of Scripture's message.

The Bible also presents this event as real history, not make-believe. It is rooted in named people, real places, and a continuing chain of events. Moses, Midian, Egypt, Pharaoh, Horeb, and the descendants of Jacob are all presented as part of the same historical storyline carried through the Old and New Testaments.

Jesus Himself treated Moses and the exodus as true history. In Mark 12:26, Jesus refers to "the account of the burning bush" and quotes God's words from Exodus 3:6 as fully authoritative. That matters deeply. If Jesus, who rose from the dead, treated this passage as true, we should too.

Theologically, Scripture is reliable because it is God-breathed. Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed," and 2 Peter 1:21 says men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Children do not need all the big words, but teachers should know that our confidence in this passage rests first on God's own truthfulness.

**APOLOGETICS FOUNDATION****Why is this event believable?**

First, because it is given to us in God's Word, which is true and trustworthy (Psalm 19:7; John 17:17). Second, because this passage fits inside a coherent historical account that continues through the rest of Exodus, the prophets, the Gospels, and the teaching of Jesus. Third, because Jesus Himself affirmed this event as real and used it to teach truth about God and resurrection (Mark 12:26–27).

### **Why did the bush burn without being destroyed?**

A child may ask whether bushes normally burn without being destroyed. The answer is no. That is exactly why Moses turned aside to look (Exodus 3:3). The point of the passage is not that nature did something unusual on its own, but that God gave a miraculous sign of His holy presence. Miracles are not hard for the God who made heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 32:17).

### **Why did God wait so long to rescue Israel?**

Exodus 2:23–25 and 3:7–10 show that God had not forgotten His people. He was working according to His covenant promises and His perfect wisdom. Waiting is not the same as forgetting.

## **ANTICIPATED CHILD QUESTIONS**

### **Why did God speak from a bush?**

God chose a visible miracle to get Moses' attention and show that this was no ordinary moment. The burning bush showed God's holy presence and prepared Moses to listen carefully to God's Word (Exodus 3:2–5).

### **Why did Moses have to take off his sandals?**

Because God is holy. Taking off his sandals showed reverence and humility before the Lord. The ground was holy because God was there (Exodus 3:5).

### **What does "I AM WHO I AM" mean?**

It means God is eternal, self-existent, and unlike anyone else. He does not depend on anyone to live, speak, or act. He simply is. He is always God, always faithful, always present, and always true (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2).

### **Was Moses brave?**

Not by himself. Moses was afraid, and later he hesitated. But God promised, "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12). Real courage comes from trusting God's presence, not from pretending not to be afraid.

### **Did God really care about the people in Egypt?**

Yes. God said He had seen their misery, heard their crying, and was concerned about their suffering (Exodus 3:7). God is never uncaring toward His people.

### **How does this point to Jesus?**

God came down to rescue Israel from slavery, and Jesus came down from heaven to rescue sinners from sin. The exodus is a rescue picture that helps us understand the greater salvation Jesus gives through the cross and resurrection (John 6:38; Colossians 1:13–14).

## **COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS**

### **Misunderstanding: Moses was the main hero because he was strong.**

Correction: Moses was important, but the Lord is the true hero. God chose, called, sent, and empowered Moses. The emphasis is on God's holiness, compassion, and saving power.

**Misunderstanding: Holy ground means a place is magical by itself.**

Correction: The ground was holy because God made His presence known there. Holiness comes from God, not from magic.

**Misunderstanding: God's name is just a label like our names.**

Correction: In Scripture, God's name reveals His character and truth. When God says "I AM WHO I AM," He is telling Moses that He is the eternal, faithful Lord (Exodus 3:14–15).

**Misunderstanding: If God calls someone, that person will never feel afraid.**

Correction: Moses was afraid, and God still used him. God's presence is the answer to fear.

**GOSPEL CONNECTION**

Exodus 3 shows a rescuing God who comes near to save. That rescue points ahead to Jesus Christ. Just as God saw His people's suffering and came down to deliver them, Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He lived the holy life we could not live, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again in victory. In Jesus we see the fullest rescue of all.

**This week, connect the passage clearly to the Fourfold Gospel:**

<b>Jesus Our Savior</b>	Jesus rescues us from sin through His cross and resurrection (Matthew 1:21; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4).
<b>Jesus Our Sanctifier</b>	The holy God who called Moses also calls us to belong to Him and walk in obedience. Jesus helps believers grow in holiness by the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24).
<b>Jesus Our Healer</b>	The God who sees suffering is compassionate. We can bring pain, sickness, fear, and weakness to Him in prayer, trusting His wisdom and care (James 5:13–16).
<b>Jesus Our Coming King</b>	The God who keeps His promises will finish His saving plan. Jesus will return and make all things right (Revelation 21:3–5).

**TEACHER HEART PREPARATION****Prayer Focus**

*Holy God, help me teach this lesson with reverence, clarity, and joy. Keep me from making myself or Moses the center. Help me show the children that You are holy, compassionate, truthful, and mighty to save. Let Your Word lead. Help me speak simply and faithfully about who You are and how this passage points to Jesus.*

**Encouragement for the Teacher**

You do not need to make God seem impressive. He already is. Your task is to open the Scriptures and let children hear what God says. Some children in your class may quietly wonder whether God sees them, whether He cares, or whether He can use weak people. This passage answers all three with hope. God sees. God cares. God calls and helps. Teach with calm confidence. The same Lord who was with Moses is faithful to help you as you teach His Word.