



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children
Lesson 26

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

The Burning Bush

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

The Burning Bush

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

The Burning Bush

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

The Burning Bush

**Level E— Bible Bits: Flashback—God's House /
Topic Treasures—Many or Few?**

The Burning Bush

Moses didn't like the unkind way that Pharaoh was treating the Israelites living in Egypt. Pharaoh was unkind and made the people work too hard.

When Moses was a grown man he left Egypt and became a shepherd for many years in a place called Midian.

One day while watching the sheep God appeared to Moses in a bush that was all lit up, like a fire! The bush was burning in a very special way, without getting burned up. God spoke to Moses from that burning bush.

God told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let all the people leave. God said He would do amazing things to help convince Pharaoh to obey.

Moses' brother Aaron came to see him, and God had the brothers be a team to do this very big job. There were many people to lead out of Egypt, but they had faith that God would be there to help them.



The Burning Bush

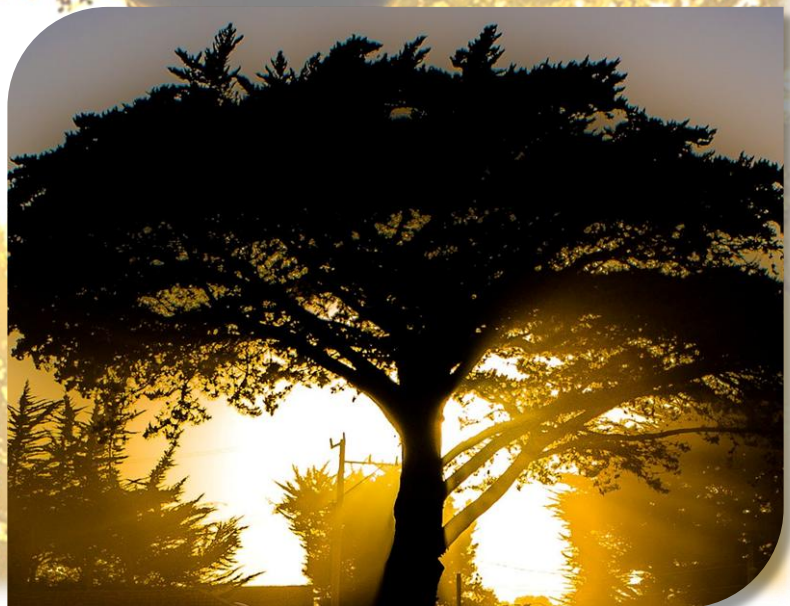
Moses got to live in the palace of Pharaoh where he had all that he needed. There was something that upset him, however, and that was to see the unkind way that Pharaoh and the Egyptians were treating the Israelites—Jacob's many descendants.

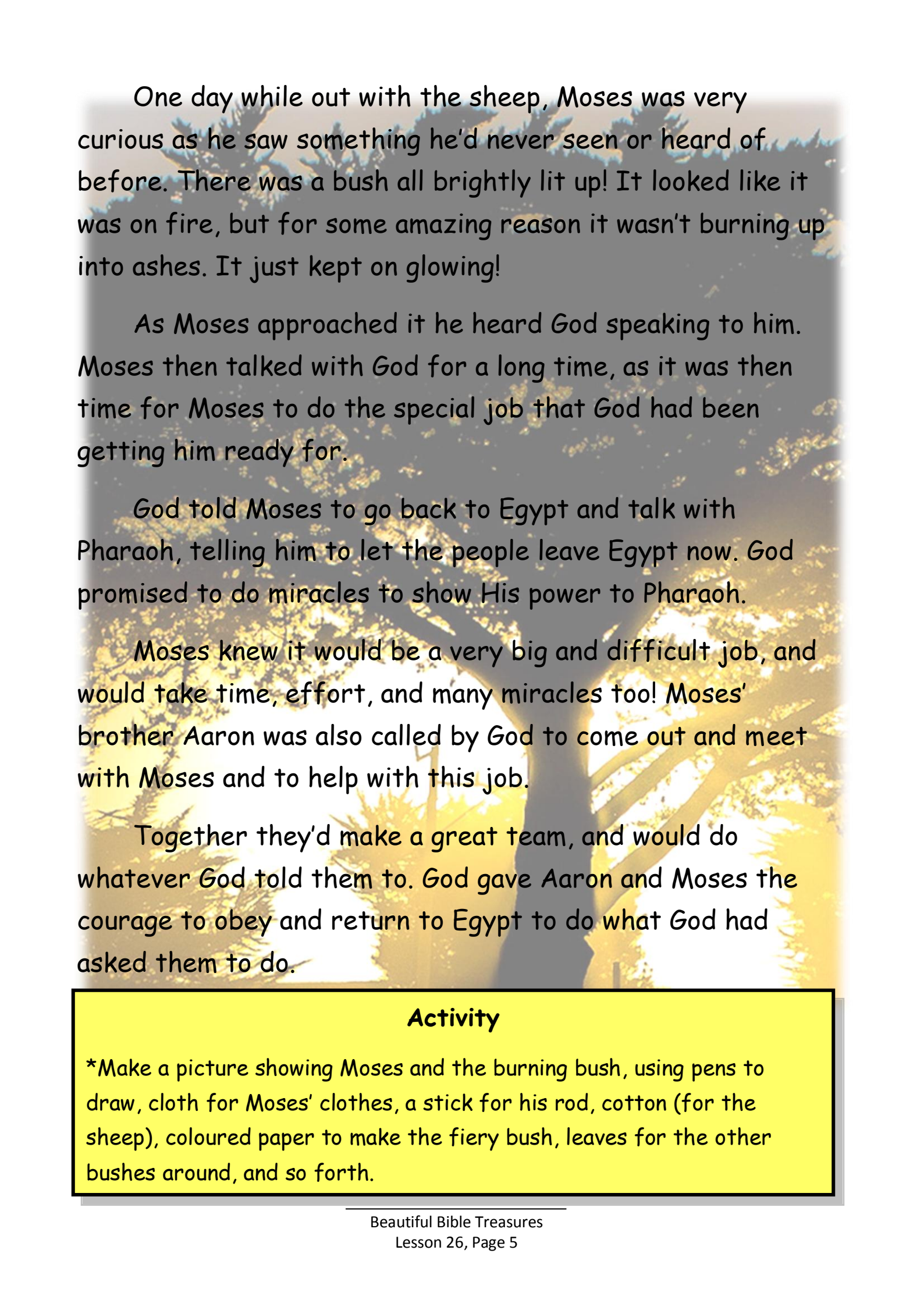
Moses wanted to stop them from acting that way, but it made Pharaoh not want to have him around there. So Moses went to live far away in a place called Midian.

Moses became a shepherd while living with a man called Jethro, and his family. He helped with the flocks as a patient shepherd, and married Jethro's grown-up daughter, Zipporah.

God was preparing Moses day-by-day for a big job later on.

Moses was a shepherd for 40 years, learning patience and learning to talk to God and hear from Him.





One day while out with the sheep, Moses was very curious as he saw something he'd never seen or heard of before. There was a bush all brightly lit up! It looked like it was on fire, but for some amazing reason it wasn't burning up into ashes. It just kept on glowing!

As Moses approached it he heard God speaking to him. Moses then talked with God for a long time, as it was then time for Moses to do the special job that God had been getting him ready for.

God told Moses to go back to Egypt and talk with Pharaoh, telling him to let the people leave Egypt now. God promised to do miracles to show His power to Pharaoh.

Moses knew it would be a very big and difficult job, and would take time, effort, and many miracles too! Moses' brother Aaron was also called by God to come out and meet with Moses and to help with this job.

Together they'd make a great team, and would do whatever God told them to. God gave Aaron and Moses the courage to obey and return to Egypt to do what God had asked them to do.

Activity

*Make a picture showing Moses and the burning bush, using pens to draw, cloth for Moses' clothes, a stick for his rod, cotton (for the sheep), coloured paper to make the fiery bush, leaves for the other bushes around, and so forth.

The Burning Bush



When Moses was young he had no idea what the future held for him. As he grew to be an adult, and then became a more mature, older adult, he saw things that upset him very much.

He greatly disliked the way he saw the Egyptians treating the Israelites, or "Children of Israel" as they were also called, making them work so hard, and causing them great difficulty and sorrow. Moses got very upset, and tried in his own way to stop them from acting so roughly.

Although it was a good idea to stop people from harming others, just getting upset and angry about things, and trying to stop one person's wrong actions wasn't the best way for him to do it.

God had a bigger plan and idea. He didn't just want to make the Egyptians behave more nicely; He wanted all the Israelites to not even live there anymore—to get on the move once again.

So the next part of training for Moses began. He left Egypt, the palace, and all that he'd known all his life so far. He began to live far away in a place called Midian, where a man called Jethro was living and camping out, with his family and flocks.

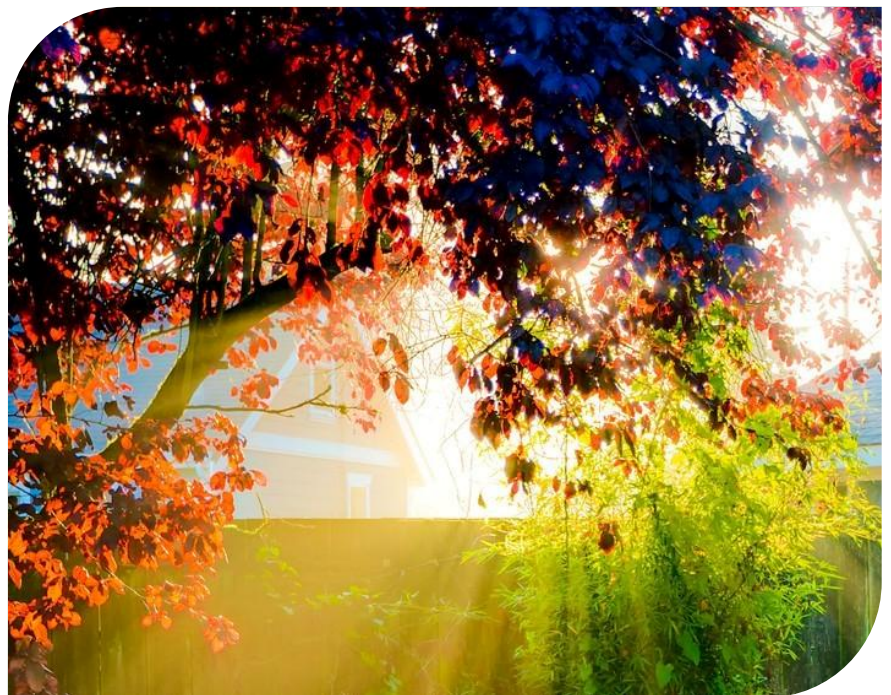
When something goes wrong or others are doing wrong, we often want to fix things immediately. But doing something quickly, in haste, right then and there, can be like putting a band-aid on the outside of the skin, for an injury that is deep inside.

We may want things to happen right away, but sometimes the best and more long-lasting solutions take time. God likes to make sure to give people enough time to learn, and to experience what they need to on Earth, and to learn to make the right choices themselves.

The next part of Moses' training and preparation took a long 40 years, as he lived a completely different lifestyle, as a shepherd. He also married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah. When the time was right at last, he was ready to be called to do the big job that God had been preparing him for all along.

While caring for the sheep in the mountainous area, Moses saw something that caught his attention.

It seemed to be a bush that was on fire, but the bush wasn't burning up. This indeed was strange. It just kept on glowing and shining. He'd never seen anything like that.



The only way he knew to make light on Earth was using fire. There wasn't electricity back then. So to see a bush filled with a fire-like light, that wasn't burning up, seemed very odd. Moses went to get a closer look at it.

All of a sudden he froze in his tracks as he heard God speaking directly to him. Moses quickly removed his sandals, as God's voice told him to.

Next he found himself having a long conversation with God himself, Who was commissioning Moses to now go back to Egypt, and to speak to Pharaoh, telling him to let all the people leave the country.

That was no easy task! Moses of course felt completely unable to do it, and wondered if people would even believe that it really was God who had sent him.

Often the jobs that God calls people to do, can seem too big and hard, and there's lots of opposition from people who don't understand or see things God's way. Additionally, Moses felt unable to speak well. He made all the excuses that he could, trying to get out of the job.

It was a very hard one indeed, and would take nothing less than the great power and miracles of God to accomplish it. But if God wants something done, and you're the one He's prepared for it, and who He's called to do it, He can do whatever it takes to help it all happen. With Him helping you, you will be capable and qualified for the job.

After God gave Moses a few examples of some of the types of miracles that He could do, to help Moses convince Pharaoh to let the people go—like turning a stick into a snake, and back into a stick again—Moses was starting to gain faith that with God helping him it would be possible.



He just needed to obey and give this new job a try. It wouldn't be easy, but God would do most of the job anyway. God just needed someone to be there, to speak His words to Pharaoh and to the people, someone to pray, and to lead the people on their long journey.

Moses' brother Aaron was still living in Egypt. God called him too, to come and see Moses and be his helper. Aaron could do the talking for Moses, who would tell Aaron what God had said. Together they would make a good team for the job.

So Moses at last agreed to do the very big, long, tiring, and difficult task. He and his wife and child then left Midian. On the way in the wilderness they met Aaron and they returned to Egypt, in obedience to God.

The people's prayers to be free had been answered. They would soon be free of the hard work for Pharaoh and the very difficult times in Egypt. At last the person He'd prepared for the job was ready, and had agreed to do it. The victory was right around the corner now.

Activity

*Try to make a pair of sandals, just for fun, using cardboard for the soles, with holes punched to thread yarn or cloth strips through it. Tie them on to your feet and try to walk!

Let's Talk About It

*Moses was worried that people wouldn't believe that he was sent from God, and he didn't feel confident that he was good at talking to people. If you had been in his place, what aspects of the job would you have felt concerned about, or felt unsure you could do, and needed to ask for God's help and encouragement in?

*God wants to talk to people all the time, every day, and give them ideas and plans and call them to do things for Him—both small jobs and big. Why do you think He chose to appear in this special way to Moses at that time? And can you think of some good reasons why He doesn't appear flashy like that all the time, every day, to everyone, every time He wants to tell people things? How does He usually choose to tell people things?

The Burning Bush



Connect and Communicate

*Someone suggests a topic, and everyone says how that reminds them of the Lord in some way—a quality of God, or something you are glad that He does for you and others. (For example: "Water!" Ideas might be offered like, "We need it daily, just like we need God every day to help us and give us life!")

Study Fun

Find: These words and mark them: flame, glad, honey, tail, blind, milk, shoes.

Learn: Verse 12, of chapter 4. Memorizing it may help you one day when you need that encouragement!

Demonstrate: The miracle signs that occurred at the burning bush.

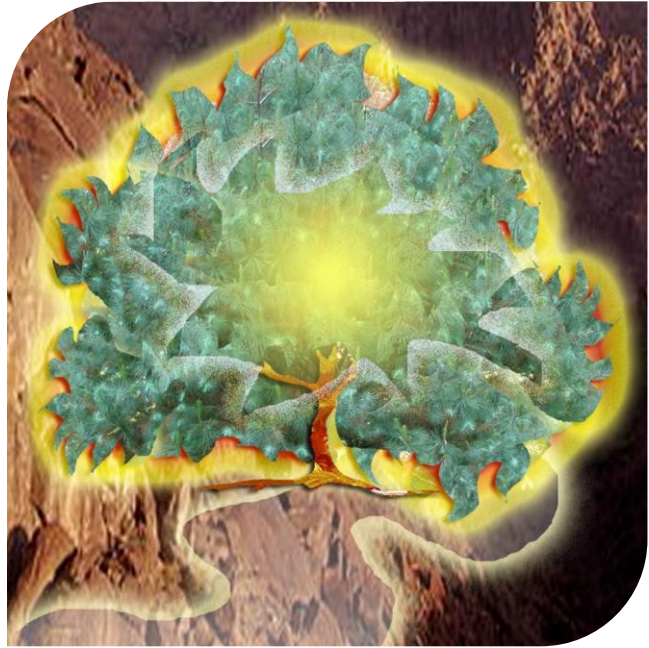
Exodus

3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

3:2 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3:3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

3:4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.



3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

3:6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

3:7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;

3:10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

3:12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.

4:2 And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

4:3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

4:4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

4:5 That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

4:6 And the Lord said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

4:7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

4:10 And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.



4:11 And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?

4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

4:14 Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

4:15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

4:17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

4:18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.



Activity

*Plan to perform a dramatic presentation of this story. Choose parts and lines, and collect props. Practice it, and plan a time and audience for the show!

Fountain of Faith

1 John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.



Psalms 40:1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Flashback—God's House

Prayer

2 Kings 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, which dwellest *between* the cherubims, thou art the God, *even* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

*Set up a chair as a throne, and pretend that it's God's throne in Heaven. Have two people stand on either side, as angels in Heaven, and place a cushion on the floor in front of the throne. Take turns praying while kneeling on the cushion, as if you are coming before the "throne of grace" in Heaven. (Hebrew 4:16)

This was spoken by Stephen to the council of elders of the Pharisees. Stephen witnessed to the entire group of them boldly, holding back nothing. Some of what he said, he quoted from the last chapter of Isaiah.

Old Testament

Isaiah

66:1 Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord.

New Testament

Acts

7:47 But Solomon built him an house.

7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

7:49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

7:50 Hath not my hand made all these things?

Activity

*Play a "who said it" game. Take turns reading or quoting some things that people (or God) said in the Bible, and have others guess who said it!



Topic Treasures —Many or Few?

Study Fun

Find: All the words that refer to few, weak, not important or not so amazing, that God can do miracles for and use for important jobs anyway.

Learn: The meanings of the words: confound, despised, restraint.

Demonstrate: Some of the descriptive words mentioned in the passage 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the Lord?

1 Samuel 14:6b There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.

John

6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

6:9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

6:10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

6:11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

6:13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

1 Corinthians

1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:



1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.



Daily Diary

*Write a prayer asking the Lord to use you and your life for something wonderful, and just what He has in mind for you—whether it's to fill a humble, quiet role, or something showier.

No matter how you feel you are, whether you feel important or not able to do as well as you think others can, God isn't limited, and can do wonderful things with you and Him as a team together.