

God speaks through a burning bush

**Bible verses:**

Exodus 2:11-12; 3:7-14

Moses helps his people

**Aim:**

To reflect upon how God might equip us

**Today's fruit:**

Peace



In today's session we'll discover how an encounter with a burning bush changed everything for Moses.

Even though Moses grew up in the luxury of the Pharaoh's palace, he was never at peace with his surroundings. After a fit of anger led to a terrible mistake, he was forced to leave Egypt. But God still had a plan for Moses.

Although Moses was heading into a challenge, knowing God was 'I AM' gave him peace.

Each child will need:

- A4 white card, brown crayons / colouring pencils, red, orange and yellow tissue paper, glue, scissors and pens
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Peace*



Start it

Last week, at home, the children were asked to create a game to help everyone remember the fruit of the Spirit. Choose a couple of volunteers to share how their game is played and have fun together.

If none of the children has created a game, then use the fruit of the Spirit version of *Fruit Salad* from Session Three.

Sing it

Say:

This month our memory verse reminds us that God can work even in the most challenging situations for good. Let's share the verse together and sing a song based around the same Scripture.

Memory verse

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 *NIV*)

Song

'Romans 8:28' Kids sing-along Bible Worship Song by Allstars Kids Club (1:21)

Tell it

Say:

Last week we started to learn about the story of Moses.

Ask:

What happened to Moses when he was a baby?

Say:

Let's find out what happened next in the story.

Video

Moses and the Burning Bush by Saddleback Kids (4:41)

Watch: 0:00-1:59 'God heard his people and knew it was time to act.'

Ask:

- Where did Moses grow up?
- In what ways do you think it felt strange for Moses to live in the palace while he could see his own people working as slaves?
- Why did Moses have to leave Egypt?

Read:

'Moses grew and became a man. One day he visited his people, the Hebrews. He saw that

they were forced to work very hard. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man, one of Moses' own people. Moses looked all around and saw that no one was watching. So he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.'

(Exodus 2:11-12 *ICB*)

Say:

Even though the Egyptian had been cruel to the Hebrew man, Moses was wrong to take revenge. He fled from Egypt and joined the Midianites and married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah.

Ask:

How did the new Pharaoh treat the Israelites?

Watch: 2:00-end.

Ask:

- Why do you think God appeared to Moses as a burning bush?
- What was God concerned about?
- What did God want Moses to do?

Read:

The Lord said, "I have seen the troubles my people have suffered in Egypt. And I have heard their cries when the Egyptian slave masters hurt them. I am concerned about their pain. I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them out of that land. I will lead them to a good land with lots of room. This is a land where much food grows. This is the land of these people: the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. I have heard the cries of the people of Israel. I have seen the way the Egyptians have made life hard for them. So now I am sending you to the king of Egypt. Go! Bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt!"

(Exodus 3:7-10 *ICB*)

Ask:

How did Moses feel about being given such an important task to do for God?

Read:

'But Moses said to God, "I am not a great man! Why should I be the one to go to the king and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?"'

(Exodus 3:11 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How do you think you would have felt in Moses' position?
- Have you ever experienced feelings of self-doubt when something important needs to be done? If so, what was it like?

Say:

Moses was asked to fight injustice and stand up for people who could not stand up for themselves. It is understandable that he would be nervous.

Ask:

How did God reassure Moses?

Read:

‘God said, “I will be with you. This will be the proof that I am sending you: you will lead the people out of Egypt. Then all of you will worship me on this mountain.”

‘Moses said to God, “When I go to the Israelites, I will say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors sent me to you.’ What if the people say, ‘What is his name?’ What should I tell them?”

‘Then God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, ‘I AM sent me to you.’”

(Exodus 3:12-14 *ICB*)

Ask:

What names would you give to God?

Say:

‘I AM’ sounds like an unusual name to call God, but it reminds us that he is with us always. It’s as if God is saying ‘I am here’ and that he will always be present. There may be times when we don’t feel like God is with us or we feel unsure as Moses did. Our story today reminds us that no matter what circumstances we face, God is always with us.

Action it

Explain that the children are going to create a picture of the burning bush.

Burning bush art

- Turn the card the landscape way up, and draw the branches of the bush, using the brown crayon or coloured pencil.
- Then create the flames of the bush by glueing the tissue paper to the branches. They can layer the flames on top of one another, or use them scrunched up.
- Finally, write the words of Exodus 3:12: ‘I will be with you.’



Say:

When we feel anxious or uncertain, we can be sure that God is with us, just as he was with Moses.

Display the *Peace* sign.

Say:

As Moses made his way back to Egypt, he felt a sense of peace that God was with him. We can feel that same sense of peace today.



Pray it

Say:

Moses set off to face a situation where he knew it would be difficult. He had to be brave and courageous to stand up to the cruel Pharaoh. God promised to be with him and Moses felt at peace.

Say:

As a fruit of God's spirit, peace might be within you; you feel calmer about a situation because you are now trusting God to carry you through it. But outside of us, sometimes we may feel that we are facing challenging circumstances, or see a world around us that is far from peaceful because of fighting and wars.

Ask:

Where would you love to see God's peace in the world?

Say:

To bring our *Explore It* session to a close we're going to sing a song that is a prayer of peace. It contains these words:

**'We pray your peace on earth,
From Heaven to our hearts.
We pray your peace on earth,
That never will depart.
So quiet my soul,
Your Saviour is near.
He'll cast away your fears.
God's peace is with me here.'**

(Cheeky Pandas – 'The Peace Song')

As we sing together, ask God to cast away your fears and bring his peace.

Song

'The Peace Song' by Cheeky Pandas (3:10)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

God speaks through a burning bush

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Exodus 2:11-12; 3:7-14
Moses helps his people



Aim:

To reflect upon how God might equip us



Today's fruit:

Peace



Pray

This week we used a song that helped us to pray for God's peace. Listen to the song during your own prayer time each day this week.

As the music plays, pray for peace in situations of conflict in the world. Ask for God's peace in your everyday life too, and pray for family and friends who face challenging circumstances.

'The Peace Song' by Cheeky Pandas



Bake

Using your imagination, and a little help from someone at home, create a 'burning bush' cupcake. Follow the link for a basic cupcake recipe and then add your own creative flair. Share the cupcakes with everyone at home and tell them the story of Moses and the burning bush.

Cupcake recipe by bbcgood.food.com
www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cupcakes



Song for the week

'Romans 8:28' Kids sing-along Bible
Worship Song by Allstars Kids Club



Memory verse

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 NIV)

God speaks through a burning bush

**Bible verses:**

Exodus 3:1-5

The burning bush

**Aim:**To learn about Moses
and the burning bush**Today's fruit:**

Peace



Memory verse

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 *NIV*)

Start it

Today we are going to hear about something very strange that happened to Moses when he was older, living far away from Egypt.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Exodus 3:1-5.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What do we know about fire?
- What would you do if you saw something on fire?
- God spoke to Moses. I wonder what God sounds like?
- How does it feel knowing God knows all about you?
- Moses was afraid. What things make you afraid?

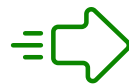
- Do you know any brave people? What makes them brave?



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Pretend to be flames moving around the room.
- Take off your shoes and pretend to be walking on 'holy ground'.
- A bush was one way, but act out some other ways God might show himself in nature, eg rainbows, sunshine, rainfall, snow falling.
- Pretend to be afraid, then pretend to be brave.