



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for September 5, 2010
Released on Wednesday, September 1, 2010**

"God's Words to Moses"

Lesson Text: Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15

Background Scripture: Exodus 3

Memory Verse: "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" (Exodus 3:6).

Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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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?

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.

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

TEACHER'S NOTES

One of the greatest truths we can learn is that God looked for us and revealed Himself to us when we were not looking for Him. This is superbly illustrated by God's revelation of Himself to Moses.

Moses was minding his own business, tending his father-in-law's sheep. He had made one big mistake forty years earlier when he killed an Egyptian in hopes of

rescuing his people. As a result of that poor choice (and sin), he had to flee. He appears to have settled down to a quiet life in the back-country. He had married and was simply going about the daily business of making a living.

It was then that God sent His angel to call Moses. God revealed Himself to Moses two ways. First, He revealed Himself as the God of Moses' ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That was a way of identifying Himself in a way that Moses had at least heard about.

Then God went on to identify Himself further as "I AM," the self-existent, eternal One. He was not just another god like the idols worshiped in Egypt and by the other nations. He was the Creator, the one true and living God. He has lived forever and will never die or come to an end.

He is self-existent, not dependent on another. He was not made by another or caused by another. He has always lived just because He is! Far from being made or invented, He is the Maker of all things.

Most of the world believes that God is unknowable. Yet the truth is that God loves to reveal Himself to us. He wants us to know Him. He is the eternal God; yet He wants to know us. Do you find that as encouraging as I do?

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God wants to show us who is He and what He is like.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God spoke to Moses' ancestors, showing them who He is.
2. God spoke to Moses, showing Moses who He is.
3. God wants to speak to us. He wants us to know who He is.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of Moses and the burning bush, or twist small pieces of red and orange tissue paper onto a twig to represent the burning bush.

For Helping to Remember, let the children make small burning bushes. For each child bring a small twig, safety scissors (blunt tip), pieces of orange and red tissue paper, and a clump of modeling clay.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each child.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

What happens when you meet someone for the first time? There may be many things about that person you would like to know. Where does he live? Where was he born? Does he have brothers and sisters? Is he the oldest in the family? What games does he enjoy? Most important, you might like to know whether he is a good, kind person or someone who is mean.

God wants us to know what He is like. We cannot travel to heaven and look for Him; so we would not have a way to know about God unless He chose to tell us. So, what do you think? Would God tell us what He is like?

Yes, He has shown us who He is and what He is like. God has spoken to us.

TELLING THE LESSON

God speaks to people in different ways. The Bible tells us about how He spoke to Moses. Moses was living a quiet life, taking care of some sheep. The sheep belonged to his wife's father.

One day Moses took the sheep out to a mountain called Horeb to find something for the sheep to eat. The Bible calls it "the mountain of God" (Exodus 3:1). It might be that God had shown Himself to others in that spot.

As Moses watched his flock, he noticed that a bush was on fire. (Teacher, show the picture or the model bush.) As he watched, he noticed something unusual. The bush burned and burned, but it did not burn up.

As Moses was watching and wondering how that could be, another unusual thing happened. God spoke to him from the bush.

God wanted Moses to know that He was talking to him. God called him by name. "Moses! Moses!" He said.

Moses answered, "Here I am." God told Moses to take off his sandals. The ground where he was standing was holy ground, set apart because of God's special presence in that place.

God did not leave Moses wondering who was speaking. He told Moses He was the God of his fathers or great-great-great-great-grandfathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was not some strange, new god. He was the God Moses' family had known about for a long time.

Was Moses happy that God was speaking to him? No, he was afraid. He hid his face from God.

God had a job for Moses to do. To do this job, he would have to go back where he used to live—back to his people, the people of Israel. At that time they were living in the land of Egypt. They were slaves there, but now God was sending Moses to lead them out of slavery. That was the big job God was giving him to do. Moses would need to go back to his people, the people of Israel, who were living in Egypt.

When he did, he was sure his people would ask God's name. They would want to know who sent him.

God told Moses His name. His name was "I AM THAT I AM." God was telling Moses that He was the eternal One, the One who has lived forever and ever. He never had a beginning, and He will never have an end.

God's name "I AM THAT I AM" also means that God lives just because He lives! He has always lived. No one made Him. He is the one who made all things. No one caused Him to start being. He always was. He is the one who caused everything else to start being.

When people asked who sent him, Moses could tell them God's name, "I AM THAT I AM." Now that was a name that was different from all the idol gods of the people all around them!

Moses could also tell them that God was the God of their great-great-great-grandfathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses' people knew that God had spoken to their great-great-great-grandfathers. They would know that God was speaking to Moses too.

God was not some new god that they had never heard of before. He was the God their family had known for a long time. The people had heard how He had spoken to their great-grandfathers. In the same way, He had spoken to Moses.

Are you not glad that God has shown us who He is and what He is like? Be glad He wants us to know Him!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

God wants to speak to us too. He wants to speak to you. He wants you to know who He really is.

God speaks to us when we listen to His Word, the Bible, and when we read it for ourselves. When we read the Bible, we need to listen for what God is saying in it.

God may also speak in our conscience, showing us what is right and wrong. When we have a feeling that something might be wrong, we need to listen to that feeling. It may be God speaking to us.

When you pray, you can tell God that you want to hear from Him. You can ask Him to help you understand better what He wants to tell you in His Word.

God does not speak to us for no reason. He speaks to us because He wants us to know Him and to be His friends. When God speaks to us, we need to pay attention. We need to do what God tells us to do. When we obey what God has already told us, He will tell us more.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Give each student a small twig to represent a bush like the one Moses saw. Let him cut or tear small strips of red and orange tissue paper and twist them around the twig for flames. Anchor the twig in a small clump of clay.

Encourage students to practice telling the lesson to one another, using the bush as a visual aid. As they tell it, encourage them to emphasize that God made the fire that did not burn the bush because He wanted to show Himself to Moses.

Encourage the children to tell their families and friends about Moses and how God spoke to him. God wants to speak to them too.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6).

God was speaking to Moses, but this was not the first time He had spoken to a person. God had also shown Moses' family who lived long before him who He was. Moses' people thought of Abraham as their first father or founder. God had spoken to him too—and to his son Isaac and to his son Jacob. God loves to speak to His people. He wants us to know who He is.

These men lived many years apart, but God spoke to all of them. He will never die; so He can keep on speaking to us even though we live in a different time from Abraham and Moses. God speaks to us because He loves us and wants us to know Him and be His friends.

CONCLUSION

If God was there with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, He will be there for us today. He is the same I AM, and He calls us to work with Him.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for giving us confidence in You. The service we do for You will not necessarily be easy or without challenges; hence, a strong faith in the One who call is essential in order to preserve. Therefore, we ask that You continue strengthening our faith daily, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "God Gives Rules." On Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandment. Study Exodus 20:1-11.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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WORKS CITED

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"God's Words to Moses" (Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

ABRAHAM

AFRAID

APPEARED

BUSH

CALLED

CHILDREN

FATHERS

FEET

FIRE

FLOCK

GENERATIONS

GOD

GROUND

HOLY

HOREB

IAM

ISAAC

ISRAEL

JACOB

MOSES

MOUNTAIN

SAY

SENT

G M B E W D F A I M F I R E X
B E D E E S P P S O K Z S U V
O F N L R P O B R U N X R H D
M W L E E O O W A N E J E W P
I A E A R C H P E T Z N H T T
C X R V A A M A L A U W T Y E
N E W J Y X T A M I M T A W M
D A F R A I D I H N B S F O C
N E R D L I H C O A X U S T A
K C O L F G H D Q N R E S J A
S T E E F O R X O J S B M H S
E J Y J L R Q O V G W Z A I I
N Y W Y E S G W U L W A I L O
T L P S Z Y L T M N O D Y E C
C N H M B O S W D A D N W Y H

23 words were placed into the puzzle.

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"God's Words to Moses" (Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15)

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G + B + + D + A I M F I R E +
+ E + E E + P + S O + + S + +
+ + N L R P + B R U + + R + +
+ + L E E O O + A N + + E + +
+ A + A R C H + E T + + H + +
C + R + A A M + L A + + T Y +
+ E + J + + T A + I + + A + M
D A F R A I D I H N B S F O C
N E R D L I H C O A + U S + A
K C O L F G H D + N R E S + A
S T E E F O R + O + S B M H S
E + + + L + + O + G + + A + I
N + + Y + + + + U + + + I + +
T + + + + + + + N + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + D + + + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

ABRAHAM (13, 12, NW)

AFRAID (2, 8, E)

APPEARED (8, 1, SW)

BUSH (11, 8, SE)

CALLED (1, 6, NE)

CHILDREN (8, 9, W)

FATHERS (13, 8, N)

FEET (5, 11, W)

FIRE (11, 1, E)

FLOCK (5, 10, W)

GENERATIONS (1, 1, SE)

GOD (10, 12, NW)

GROUND (6, 10, SE)

HOLY (7, 10, SW)

HOREB (7, 5, NW)

IAM (13, 13, N)

ISAAC (15, 12, N)

ISRAEL (9, 1, S)

JACOB (4, 7, NE)

MOSES (15, 7, SW)

MOUNTAIN (10, 1, S)

SAY (12, 8, NE)

SENT (1, 11, S)