

“Proclaim His Name to Egypt: Moses and the Burning Bush”

Based on Exodus 3:1 — 4:17

King’s Theatre & Divine Diversions: Drama & Quiz

Materials for Drama (Quiz materials listed below, after script)

1. Map or globe
2. Bible
3. Costumes (but you may decide to do the play without them)
4. “Burning Bush” (branches with red & orange tissue, lights, fan) – made in art workshop
5. White glove, walking stick, toy snake
6. Sheep costumes (if you decide to have some children be sheep)
7. Copies of script for each leader & actor

Coordinator & Leader Preparation:

1. Read the Scripture passages prayerfully, asking God to show you what He has to say to you and to those He’s given you to teach.
2. Read the Biblical Explanation and Background, and think about what concepts you need to teach.
3. Prepare the necessary materials.
4. With younger children, plan to tell them how stage directions are enclosed in parentheses within the script, and any other needed directions.

Welcome the children and open in prayer. *Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us here today to learn together, in prayer, in worship and in fun. Amen*

Practice the two Bible memory verses (Psalm 33:8 and Matthew 28:20b). If this is the last lesson in this rotation, children can say either verse for a prize.

Recap Moses and the burning bush, briefly describing the background from Exodus 1 & 2, and relating Moses’ encounter with God in Exodus 3 & 4. Children in grades 3 — 6 may read some of the passages in Exodus 3 & 4 aloud as you are teaching, and may look up any other Bible references you use. Ask the children to relate what they’ve already learned about Moses and the Burning Bush.

PLAY: Moses and the Burning Bush

Characters

1. Prop handler
2. Moses
3. God (may be hidden, may have a microphone if available)
4. Gershom
5. Aaron
6. sheep
7. Father-in-law

Script

SCENE I: Moses and his son, Gershom, are taking care of the sheep (feeding, watering, brushing, etc.)

Gershom: Dad, why do the Israelites in Egypt have to work so hard all the time and why does the king always boss them around?

Moses: Well Son, the Israelites in Egypt have been slaves of the king for long time. He's afraid that if they were free, they'd rebel against him, and besides, he's got free labor! It's a hard life being a slave.

Gershom: I wish they could be free.

Moses: Yes, I do too.

Father-in-law: (walks over to Moses) Moses, will you please take our sheep out to graze; the feed here is becoming scarce.

Moses: Yes, I'll lead them across the desert to the Mt. Horeb where it's green.

Gershom: Bye, Dad!

Father-in-law: Bye, Moses.

Moses: (Waves goodbye, gathers his sheep, and walks toward the "mountain", where he approaches the burning bush.)

SCENE II: Moses encounters God in the burning bush.

Moses: (holding his hand up to shade his eyes so he can see better) Hey, what's that? It looks like a bush is burning, but — weird — it's not burning up! It just keeps on burning.

God: (booming voice) Moses!

Moses: (startled) Here I am...

God: Stay right there; do not come closer. Take off your sandals. The ground where you are standing is holy ground.

Moses: (kicks off shoes, hides face, trembles before God)

God: I have seen how my people are being treated badly as slaves in Egypt, and I have heard them crying out to me. I want to bring my people out of Egypt into a land rich with milk and honey. I have chosen you, Moses, to go to the king of Egypt and tell him to let my people go; you will lead the people out.

Moses: Me? I'm not a very good leader...

God: I will be with you, and when you have brought them out you will worship God on this mountain.

Moses: What if I go to my people and tell them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" What shall I say?

God: Tell them, "I AM has sent me to you." Tell the leaders of Israel that I, the LORD, promise to lead them to a new and better land: they will believe you. The king of Egypt won't let you go unless I force him to, so I will have to show the Egyptians some miracles. Finally, he will become angry and send you away.

Moses: What if no one believes me?

God: Throw down your walking stick.

Moses: (Throws down his stick.)

(Prop handler: swaps snake for stick)

Moses: (Jumps back, acts alarmed)

God: Pick it up by the tail.

Moses: (picks up snake)

Prop handler: (takes snake, hands Moses the stick)

God: This is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has appeared to you. Now put your hand inside your shirt.

Moses: (Puts the white glove on inside his shirt, pulls his hand out, looks at it amazed.)

God: See, now you have leprosy. Put your hand inside your shirt again.

Moses: (Puts his hand inside his shirt, and pulls it out with no glove on it.)

God: These miracles will help convince the king that the LORD has indeed sent you. If they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile river and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.

Moses: I am not a good speaker; I'm slow of speech and tongue.

God: I will give you the ability to speak, and I will be with you.

Moses: (whining) Please, let someone else do it!

God: (showing some anger) All right, what about your brother Aaron? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you. I will help both of you speak, and I will teach you what to do.

SCENE III

Aaron: Hey, Moses! What's up? How're you doing?

Moses: You'll never believe what just happened...Let me explain it to you; we have an important job to do, and we're going to the land of milk and honey!

Quiz

Materials:

- Two office bells
- Two teams of children eager to compete in a question/answer game
- Score sheet or use white board to tally correct answers
- Stickers/treats for the winning team

Questions (multiple choice): Score 5 pts for each correct answer

1. Who worked for the king of Egypt?

- Joseph
- Jacob
- Abraham

2. The King of Egypt was called.....

- Your highness
- Pharaoh
- The prince of darkness

3. The Israelites were also called.....

- Christians
 - Egyptians
 - Hebrews
4. The pharaoh was afraid of the Hebrews because.....
- There were so many of them
 - They had magical powers
 - The women were strong, the men were good-looking, and all the children were above average.
5. To control the Hebrews, the pharaoh.....
- Put them all in jail
 - Made them work as slaves
 - Made them pay high taxes
6. Moses was a Hebrew who.....
- Grew up as a slave
 - Grew up hiding in the land of Midian
 - Grew up in Pharaoh's palace
7. Moses ran away to Midian because...
- He had killed an Egyptian.
 - He had killed a Hebrew slave.
 - He found out he was a Hebrew.
8. In Midian, Moses worked as
- A farmer
 - A carpenter
 - A shepherd
9. The mountain where Moses saw the burning bush and met God was called...
- Mt. Horeb
 - Mt. Ararat
 - Mt. Olive
10. When Moses saw the burning bush...
- The flames burned with a strange purple glow.
 - The bush was on fire, but it was not burning up.
 - The bush was on fire, but there was no smoke.
11. As Moses got near the bush, God told him...
- "Come closer; you won't get burned."
 - "Come closer, I want to talk to you."
 - "Don't come any closer; take off your sandals."
12. God told Moses to take off his sandals because...

- He was standing on holy ground.
- They would get scorched by the fire.
- They were dirty.

13. Moses was afraid to look at God, so he...

- Closed his eyes
- Hid his face
- Turned around backwards

14. God promised to lead the Israelites to a land with plenty of...

- Fresh water
- Bread and wine
- Milk and honey

15. Moses learned that God's name is...

- I AM
- Holy One
- LORD Almighty

16. Moses was holding what in his hand?

- A jug of water
- A walking stick
- A piece of rope

17. When Moses threw down his walking stick...

- It turned into a river.
- It caught on fire.
- It turned into a snake.

18. When Moses put his hand inside his shirt, his hand

- Turned white, as if he had leprosy
- Turned red, as if burned by fire
- Turned black, as if covered in soot

19. What did God say would happen if Moses poured water from the Nile on the ground?

- It would turn to seawater.
- It would turn to blood.
- It would kill the grass.

20. Whom did God finally send with Moses?

- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Pharaoh's daughter
- His brother Aaron

Journal Topic: (If there's time) Write or draw an answer: How do we know God is with us, especially if we feel unsure or afraid? (Class could discuss the answer before writing. We have his promises; our Bible verse, Matthew 28:20 is a promise that Jesus gave. We need to choose to believe the Bible promises. Also note, one of God's names is "Jehovah-shammah", "the God who is there", from Ezekiel 48:35.)

Closing: Prayer circle; people are free to pray, sharing concerns and praises.

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