

SKY

Learning Obedience
Series 1—Lesson 2

StoryTime



A Bushy Tale— It's On Fire!

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:

Exodus 3:1—4:20

Lesson Aim:

Even when you think you are unable to do what God wants you to do, you must trust God to give power and strength to do what He asks. God will never ask you to do something that you could not accomplish with His help.

Memory Verse:

"My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2).

Words to Learn:

- Excuse
- Miracle
- Believe

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

In preparation for this lesson, you may want to refresh your memory of the story of Moses by reading Exodus 1–4. It is important that you keep in mind the fact that the Egyptians found the Hebrew culture loathsome.

Most are very familiar with the story of the baby Moses. Hebrew baby boys were being killed in order to control the population of the Israelites.

Moses was a beautiful baby born into the House of Levi. He was saved from the killings by his resourceful Hebrew mother. Pharaoh's daughter found the three-month-old baby boy crying in his ark of bulrushes in the reeds of the river. Even though she knew he was a Hebrew child, she only saw a child in need and took him as her own and raised him in Pharaoh's court. He was educated and treated to the best that Egyptian life had to offer. Moses knew he was Hebrew. He was aware of his people's bondage and enslavement. It inflicted sadness, helplessness, and resentment. He finally refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

One day Moses killed an Egyptian he saw beating one of his brethren. When he realized that this act was not a secret he, knew he would be found and executed. Moses fled from Egypt and found a family and life apart from his own people in the land of Midian. He was offered a home by a priest called Reuel, and eventually married one of his daughters.

He was forty years old when he left Egypt.

Approximately forty years passed when God called Moses and gave him a special commission. Moses thought he had escaped the dangers in Egypt. But God had a plan and a use for him.

The story is an amazing example of the patience and love of God.

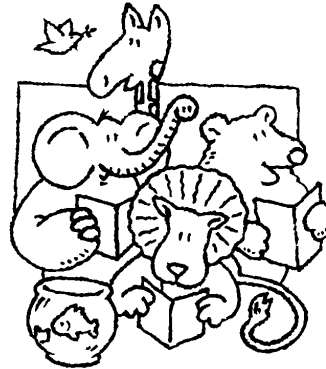
God never requires of us what we cannot possibly accomplish. He asks us to trust Him; He encourages us. Like a parent that is teaching a child He would never ask us to endure what is not ultimately for our own good.

Obedience and faith in God is one of the important examples in this story. Moses did not immediately obey God because he did not have enough faith. Rather, he chose to create excuses as to why he could not possibly do what God was asking of him. He had to believe that with God *all things* are possible. Excuses are never acceptable to God.

Faith—our trust and belief in God—is the motivator which causes us to live a godly life. It follows that one who has real belief in God and hopes in His promises will demonstrate this fidelity by his actions—by his obedience. Moses finally showed his belief in God, when he acted upon the command God gave him.

Moses' whole life had been one of miracles—now there were many more to come. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Acts 7:17–35

Hebrews 11:23–29

2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. In the story, what did Moses see one day that was curious?—*a burning bush*
2. Was Moses afraid when he realized he was in God's presence?—*YES*
3. Did God want Moses to go to Egypt?—*YES*
4. Did Moses want to go to Egypt?—*NO*
5. Did Moses try to make excuses to not have to go?—*YES*
6. Did God become angry with Moses?—*YES*
7. Did Moses choose to obey God?—*YES*
8. Does God ask you to do things you cannot accomplish?—*NO*

3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*

- **Excuse**—to seek to remove blame; to try to justify an act.
- **Miracle**—an extraordinary occurrence that God causes to happen
- **Believe**—to have confidence

SKY Story Time

A Bushy Tale— It's On Fire!

One day the man called Moses was out taking care of the sheep of his wife's father. He had taken the sheep near to a mountain called Horeb, which means "mountain of God." It was there that God spoke to Moses from a burning bush.

Moses noticed a curious sight. A bush was burning but it was never burned up! Moses was very curious and decided to go closer to see how this bush could be on fire but not become ashes!

As Moses came near to this amazing sight a voice called out to him and God began to speak to Moses. He called, "Moses, Moses!" Moses answered, "Here I am." God then told him to take off his sandals because the ground where he stood was "holy ground." When Moses realized he was standing before God he was afraid to look up.

God then said, "I have seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt and I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows." God made it clear that He was well aware of the problems His people were facing daily. God said, "I have come here to deliver them out

of the hand of the Egyptians...Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people out of Egypt."

Moses did not want to go back into Egypt. He knew that he had run away many years ago from those who wanted to kill him.

He did not feel he could do this job. God went on to assure him, "I will certainly be with you."

Moses doubted anyone would listen to him. God told Moses what to say. God knew He was asking Moses to do something that was hard. But God wanted Moses to trust in God's power to help him do it.

God told Moses what he was to say to all the elders of Israel and how He would lead His people out of Egypt.

Moses continued to doubt that the people would believe that God sent him. So God tried to encourage Moses by showing him three miracles to perform to prove that he was sent by God.

†'1 a Miracle!

The first miracle was done with the staff Moses carried with him. God said, "Throw it on the ground." When Moses

did this, the staff became a serpent. Moses ran from it. Then God told Moses to pick up the snake by the tail. Moses, even though he was scared, did as he was told to do. He obeyed God. It became his familiar staff again!

For the second miracle, God told Moses, "Put your hand in your shirt." Moses did so and when Moses pulled out his hand it was white like snow. God said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." He obeyed. When Moses pulled out his hand it was normal again.

God said, "If they do not believe you nor heed the message from the first two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water from the river will become blood on the dry land."

Don't Make Me Go!

Now Moses made the excuse that his manner of speaking would not convince the people. God said, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who made the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Go, I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

Moses, growing desperate, made his final plea for not going. He said, "O my Lord, please send someone else."

Moses was still worried and fearful after all that God had said to him. God finally

became angry with him and firmly told him he WOULD go. God was trying to teach Moses something and Moses kept resisting.

God allowed Moses to use Aaron, the brother of Moses, to be his spokesman. Moses, after making as many excuses as he could think of to keep from doing this big job, finally chose to obey God. He trusted that God would provide the power he needed to carry out the task given him to do.

Let's Talk About It

As Moses relied on God's power many great miracles happened. When we choose to listen to God's instructions, God takes care of us. You can trust God to always do what He says He will do! He NEVER fails! God would never ask you to do something that He knows you couldn't do.

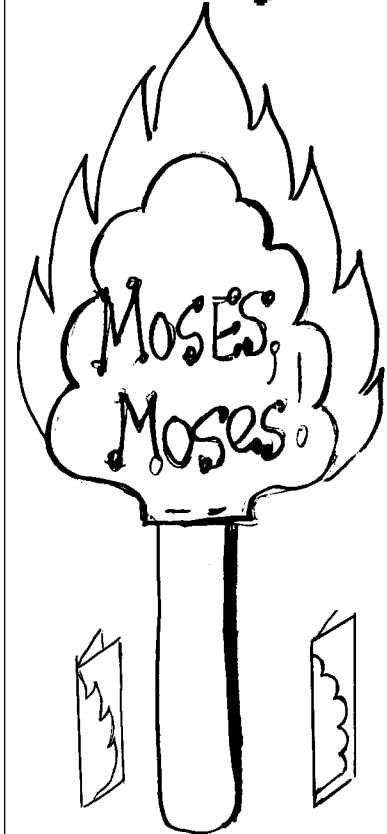
The End

Crafty Idea

Fold the colored construction paper in half. Cut the bush out of the green paper, and use the red or yellow sheets to cut out the tongues of flame. The fire pattern should be cut slightly larger than the bush to be seen. Write "Moses, Moses!" on the cutout bush. Glue the green bush onto the flames of fire. Attach to the tongue depressor. Discuss the sight of a burning bush. □

Crafty Ideas

The fire that
Doesn't Burn



Materials To Use:

- Yellow, red, and green construction paper
- Tongue depressors
- Markers
- White glue
- Scissors