LESSON 1

Moses and the Burning Bush

Before You Teach

Understanding Moses

Moses is an inspirational character from the Bible. We can learn many spiritual lessons from his life, such as how to form a personal connection with God. Without question, Moses accepted that the voice he heard from the burning bush belonged to God.

Moses teaches us to listen to the voice of God when He speaks. God does not always speak loudly from a burning bush, an earthquake, fire, or the wind. When we hear His voice, we must say, "Here I am!" and do His will.

At the burning bush, Moses discovered that God had a plan for him. Although he was reluctant at first, through faith, he eventually responded to God's calling. He taught us to take action when God speaks to us. We do not know why many things happen to us, but we must have faith and trust that God has a purpose.

The Staff of Moses

It was customary for shepherds to have a staff; Moses had one, too. A staff was usually made of wood and sometimes had a crook at the end of it. The staff, though simple, had several functions: it helped the shepherd to traverse hilly or rough country; it was used as a weapon; and it was used to control the sheep.

At the end of the day, the shepherd used his staff to count the sheep, passing over them one by one as they entered through the narrow gate. The staff was also used to mark the sheep. The end was dipped in dye, and as the sheep passed under the staff, every tenth one was marked and given to God as tithe.

Exodus 4:20 says that it was no ordinary staff in Moses' hand, but rather "the rod of God." God used Moses' shepherd staff to perform great miracles.

In the presence of the elders of Israel, God turned Moses' staff into a snake to convince them that He would bring the Israelites out of Egypt. With the staff in Moses' hand, God parted the waters of the Red Sea and brought water out of a rock.

But despite the many miracles the staff was used to perform, it was not the staff itself that possessed power. It was only by the power of God, the true source of power, that all these things were possible.



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 3:1-4:17

BIBLE TRUTHS

- 1. God is holy and where He is, it is holy.
- 2. God wants us to serve Him, and He has given us the gifts to do so.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1. To understand that we must use our gifts and talents to serve God and our brothers and sisters.
- 2. To recognize that God will give us the necessary gifts and powers to accomplish the work He wishes us to do.
- 3. To realize that God has a purpose for every one of us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

(Deuteronomy 10:12b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord! This quarter, we will be learning about what You want us to do in order to enter the heavenly kingdom. Please help us and give us the strength to always do Your will. We praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

Understanding Your Students

Serving God is not limited to adults. Children should begin learning the importance of servitude at a young age. Samuel began serving God from a young age, ministering to Eli the priest.

Children in this age group are willing helpers and are eager to please. Teach them that the motivation for service is to show our gratitude to God for all the wonderful things He has done.

We should educate the students that they can perform many tasks to serve God. They may begin by helping the people around them, such as family members and church brothers and sisters. By cleaning up after themselves and helping with simple chores, they are helping their parents and serving God.

They can throw away the trash, return church hymnbooks and Bibles to the bookshelves, and keep God's house clean. Peter encourages the members to use the gifts they have received to serve others (1 Pet 4:10).

The Greek word for "gift" contains the word for "joy." When we use our gifts to serve God, we find joy because we have done something good. Encourage your students to discover their gifts and use them to serve God. They can ask Him to help them use their gifts and work joyfully while glorifying Him.

Vocabulary

miracle: an extraordinary event that cannot be explained by human knowledge and is considered a work

of God

staff: a stick, pole, or rod that helps with walking or climbing **leprosy:** an infection showing white spots or patches on the skin

gift/talent: a special natural ability or skill given by God

Review

We ended last quarter learning about a Hebrew boy called Moses. His name means "to draw out." From what was Moses drawn out? (Water.)

Before Moses' birth, Pharaoh, who did not know Joseph, ordered his people to throw all newly born Hebrew boys into the river. Pharaoh gave this order because he didn't want the Israelites to become a great nation. He thought that by killing the boys, they would not be able to grow up and take over the land. But Moses' mother could not bear having him drowned. So she made a basket, placed Moses in it, and hid him among the reeds by the Nile River.

When Pharaoh's daughter came to the Nile to bathe, she saw the basket. To her surprise, in it was a Hebrew baby boy. She named him "Moses" because she had drawn him out of the water. She brought Moses to the palace and made him her son. Moses grew up in the palace and was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22). That means he understood many things.

When Moses turned forty, he decided to visit the Hebrews, his own people. That day he saw an Egyptian abusing a Hebrew. This made Moses angry. After making sure no one was around, he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. Pharaoh eventually heard about what Moses had done and wanted to have Moses killed. Moses was scared and fled to the wilderness of Midian. For forty years, he hid there working as a shepherd. Today, we will find out God's plan for Moses.

BIBLE STORY

A Burning Bush

One day while Moses was near Mount Sinai tending his sheep, he saw a strange and amazing sight. He saw a bush on fire, but the fire was not burning the bush. What usually happens when something such as a house, a tree, or a piece of paper catches fire? Normally, it starts to turn black, makes a lot of smoke, and reduces to ashes. Moses walked to the bush to get a better look. As Moses got closer to the bush, he heard God call out, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses answered, "Here I am."

Then God said, "Don't get any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

God was talking to Moses and He asked him to take off his sandals. Why did God ask Moses to do that? (Because Moses was standing on holy ground.) God is holy, so wherever He is, that place is also holy. God is everywhere, but today, He especially lives in the church, in our hearts, and in our family. So we must keep our church, hearts, and family holy by taking off our sandals. This doesn't mean that we take off our shoes when we enter the church. It means that we should not take sin from the world and bring it into the church, into our hearts, or into our family.

After Moses heard these words, he hid his face because he had not met God like this ever before. God continued to talk because He had some special words He wanted to say to Moses.

God Gives Moses an Important Job

God said to Moses: "I have seen the sadness of My people, and I have heard them crying out because of their cruel slave masters. I am sorry for them, and I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians. I will bring My people out of Egypt into a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Now go to the king! I am sending you to bring My people out of Egypt and I will be with you."

What was God asking Moses to do? God's important job for Moses was to order Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to let the Hebrews (God's people) leave Egypt. At that time, there were over 2 million Hebrew people. This would be a very difficult task to do. Moses might have been thinking that he was nothing more than a shepherd. How was he going to lead all those people out of Egypt? He probably also thought that Pharaoh would never listen to him.

God Tells Moses What to Say to the Hebrews

So Moses said to God, "Who am I that Pharaoh should listen to me?"

God replied, "I will be with you." But Moses had more questions.

"What if the Israelites ask me who sent me to rescue them? What if they ask me what Your name is? What should I say?"

God said to Moses, "Tell them that the one whose name is 'I Am' has sent you. This is My name forever, and it is the name which people must use from now on." (In the time of the Old Testament, God did not reveal His real name. He used "I Am" instead.)

"What if the Israelites still do not believe that You sent me or do not listen to me?"

Then God showed Moses three miracles.

God asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," replied Moses.

"Throw it on the ground," God commanded.

When Moses threw his staff on the ground, it turned into a snake.

Then God said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses did as God said, and the snake turned back into a staff.

God then said to Moses, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he drew it back out, it had become leprous, white as snow.

"Now put it back into your cloak," God said.

Moses put his hand back into his cloak and when he took it out again, his hand was completely healed.

God said to Moses, "If the people still do not believe you when you show them the first two signs, take some water from the Nile and pour it on dry ground. When you do, it will become blood."

These miracles demonstrate God's power. Can any of you perform these miracles?

[Drop a stick to the ground.] The stick did not change into a snake. But God can change a stick into a snake. This shows that God can give life to objects. God controls life.

[Put your hand into a jacket or pocket and pull it out.] Our hand will not become leprous when we do this. But God performed this miracle. This demonstrates that God controls disease and healing.

[Fill a cup with water and pour out the water.] Did this water turn into blood? No. So God's third miracle shows that He can change one thing into something completely different. Only God can do that.

With God's great power, He can change our lives. He can bless us or He can curse us. He can heal us or He can make us sick. Everything is in His control.

The Hebrew people were slaves. That meant they had to listen to their masters. They couldn't do whatever they wanted or they would get into trouble. That wasn't a very good way to live a life. They probably felt awful and believed that nothing could change their lives. They thought that the Egyptians and Pharaoh had the most powerful. But with His miracles, God demonstrated that He could rescue the Hebrews. He was more powerful than the Egyptians.

God Makes Aaron Moses' Helper

[Note to Teacher: Prepare the following paper faces.]

- Face 1: Has eyes, ears, nose, but no mouth represents those slow of speech or without eloquence.
- Face 2: Has eyes, ears, nose, and a large mouth represents those with eloquence.
- Face 3: Has ears, nose, mouth, but no eyes represents the blind.
- Face 4: Has large eyes, ears, nose, and mouth represents those who can see.
- Face 5: Has eye, ears, nose, but no ears represents those that are deaf.

Even though God already performed three miracles, Moses wasn't sure he was the best person for this important job. So Moses said to God, "Oh, but Lord, I have never been a good speaker. I am slow at speaking, and I can never think of what to say." [Show face without a mouth.]

But the Lord answered, "Who makes people able to speak [show face with large mouth], or makes them deaf [show face without ears] and unable to talk [show face without mouth]? Who gives them sight [show face with large eyes] or makes them blind [show face without eyes]? Don't you know I am the one who does all this? Now go! When you speak, I will be with you and will give you the words to say."

God spoke these words to demonstrate to Moses that since He created everything, He can do anything. Since He created the mouth, He can make us say the right things, or

He can make us mute, so we won't be able to speak words anymore. Since God created the eyes, He allows us to see but He can also make us blind. Since God created the ears, He can give us hearing or He can make us deaf. God created everything and He can do anything.

When Moses told God he could not speak well, God told Moses that since He created his mouth, He could make Moses say the right things.

But Moses was still worried. He said to God, "If you can find anyone else to do the job, send him instead." When God heard this, He became very angry. Why did God become angry with Moses? It was because Moses did not trust in God's power. God demonstrated His powers through His miracles and word, but Moses continued to doubt. However, God did not give up on Moses. He continued to encourage Moses because in God's eyes, Moses was the right person to lead the Israelites. He wanted Moses to learn to trust in Him and know that He would provide everything Moses needed to do the job.

At the same time, God also arranged a helper for Moses. God said to Moses, "What about your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know he is a good speaker. He is already on his way here to visit you. Aaron will speak to the people for you, and you will tell him what to say. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will tell each of you what to do. Now take this staff and go to see Pharaoh, the king of Egypt."

In the next lesson, we will learn how Moses went to see Pharaoh and demanded that he free the Israelites. We will also learn about the ten plagues that God brought on Egypt.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Moses saw a burning bush. What was unusual about it? The bush was not burned by the fire.
- **2.** What did God tell Moses to do when he approached the burning bush? He told him to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground.
- **3. Which three miracles did God show to Moses?** 1. He turned his staff into a snake. 2. He made his hand leprous and then healed it. 3. He turned water into blood.
- **4. Why did Moses refuse God's job for him?** Moses doubted himself because he was slow of speech.
- 5. Who did God arrange to serve as Moses' helper? Aaron, his brother.
- 6. God knew that Moses was the right person for this important task. What special talents would a person need to lead millions of Israelites out of Egypt? Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week. You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12b)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

1. The Egyptian masters treated their Israelite slaves cruelly and they cried out to God. How do we know that God heard the cries of the Israelites? What can we learn about the God we worship? Read the following testimony.

Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I testify.

What I am about to relate is an incident which happened not only to me but also to six other sisters. It is an incident that tells of the great and wondrous love of our Lord Jesus.

In the summer of 1990, about 30 of us went on a Singapore-Phuket-Hong Kong trip for our vacation.

On our last day in Phuket, some of us decided to go for a swim in the sea to cool ourselves from the scorching heat. We were swimming, playing and laughing in the water when one sister called us. Although she was quite far from the shore, she seemed to be in shallow waters. Curious, we decided to swim to where she was. Once we reached her, we were surprised that we could actually stand and decided to stay there. Suddenly a massive wave came and swept away the sand beneath our feet. We could no longer stand. The waves were too strong for us and they kept pushing us further into the sea. Only one sister managed to swim back to shore. Seven of us remained in the waters.

I managed to stay close to four other sisters, one of whom I clung on to, as I was petrified. I held on to her so tightly that I nearly strangled her. Thank God she managed to escape from me and swim safely to shore. I found it increasingly difficult to keep my head above the water as the waves kept pushing me under. I was terrified. I believed I was going to die. Then one of the sisters said, "Shout 'Hallelujah!'" So, with what little breath I had, I shouted as loudly as I possibly could. I desperately wanted to be saved.

The brothers and sisters on shore were looking on helplessly as they could not do anything. It must have been a traumatic experience for them too, to see us out there, on the verge of death.

By this time, I was clinging on to a little sister to stay afloat as neither of us were strong swimmers. The two sisters who were with us, thank God, managed to swim away. However, as they were swimming away from us, I felt disheartened. "Don't go," I thought, "I'll die." Somehow I managed to stay afloat and searched to see where the other two sisters were. To my horror, they were being swept even further away. I shouted "Hallelujah" even louder. "Oh God," I thought, "Please save us. Don't let us die now." At this point, I saw one of our brothers running into the water. "Thank God," I said to myself. But to my dismay, he swam past me, and I realized that he was going to save the other two sisters. Therefore, I shouted even louder. I was extremely afraid. I did not want to die. Thank God that He heard our cries and sent some lifeguards to rescue us safely, while the little sister's father brought her out.

Following the incident, we all gathered in a room to give thanks to our Lord Jesus. Many tears were shed that day; both by the survivors and by those who were not at the scene. Seven precious lives could have been lost, but yet again our Savior lifted His almighty hand and saved us from the snares of death. As it says in Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

This incident not only depicts the daily providential care of Christ, but also reminds us that our lives are short and can be taken away from us any time. We must therefore live a life worthy of the Lord's calling.

May all glory be unto God. Hallelujah. Amen.

2. God is holy. Wherever God is, that place is holy. Why is it important for us to be holy? (When we are holy, God will draw near to us.)

When Moses was called by God from the burning bush (Ex 3:4), before he was even allowed to draw closer to the presence of God, God's first instruction to Moses was for him to take off his sandals. The place where Moses stood was sanctified ground. Therefore, Moses had to stand before God with bare feet.

Whatever our views about shoes are, spiritually, God wants us to stand before Him without anything on our feet. What does this exactly mean for us? Our heart and mind are the directors of wherever we end up. Therefore, "ponder the path of your feet...remove your foot from evil" (Prov 4:26-27). When we take off our shoes before Him, we are casting aside our own wants and desires. We are also casting away our own means of self-protection; without our shoes, we will not be able to wander away from Him.

So, we all need to keep track of ourselves constantly. We need to evaluate our own faith continuously: are we standing firmly on the holy ground of our divine God; or have we ourselves unwittingly veered away onto a path of our own making?

As we put on our shoes to the leave the house each day, let it be a reminder for us to take off our shoes before our holy Lord at all times.

- 3. How can we keep the church and ourselves holy and separate from the world? (Allow students to share. When we come to church we should not bring electronic games, playing cards, and toys. We need to behave holy as well: do not fight, cheat, or lie because these are sins and belong to the world. Turn to Psalm 24:3-4).
- 4. When God gives us a job to do, He will give us the talents and powers needed to complete the task. God completes the task through us. In the same way, God worked through Moses to free the Israelites out of Egypt. How can we finish very difficult tasks that have been given to us? (By relying on God to give us the ability.) We need to imitate Moses by relying on God and His power and wisdom.
- 5. Moses gave the excuse that he was not a good speaker. Think of a time when you weren't sure about something you had to do because you felt it was too difficult for you. What did you do? What does Moses' example teach us about the next time we face the same kind of situation?
- 6. Read the selected Bible verses:
 - a. Phil 4:13 b. Ps 121:1-2 c. Prov 3:5
- d. Jam 1:17 e
- 2 Cor 9:8

If we are given a difficult or challenging assignment, how does the Bible encourage us? (We should not fear, but have the faith that God will supply us with the strength and skills we need to complete the work. We should not trust in ourselves but rely on God.)

ACTIVITIES



Things That Make God Smile

Objective: To remind students that using their gifts to serve God and to help others pleases God.

Instructions: In the examples below, the people are either acting in a way that pleases God or in a way that doesn't please God. If they are acting in a way that pleases God, circle the example. If they are acting in a way that doesn't please God, cross out the example by putting a big "X" over it.

Example 1 (God is speaking to Moses from the burning bush.)

God: "Moses, go and lead My people out of Egypt."

Moses: "Oh Lord, I cannot. Send someone else."

Example 2 (A teacher is speaking to her student.)

Teacher: "Bobby, you are good at drawing. Would you like to make a get-well card from our class for George, who

is in the hospital?"

Bobby: "Alright, but can someone help me?"

Teacher: "Of course."

Example 3 (A mother is speaking to her son.)

Mother: "Benjamin, it's time for you to practice the piano."

Benjamin: "But Mom, I practiced yesterday. I don't want to practice again today!"

Example 4 (A little girl is speaking to her big sister.)

Little sister: "Can I borrow your markers?"

Big sister: "They are my special markers because Mom bought them for me for my birthday. You may use them if

you take care of them."

Little sister: "I will. You're the best!"

Example 5 (A boy is sitting at his desk, frustrated with his homework. His mom is standing by him, trying to help.)

Dan: "The homework is too hard! I can't do it! I can't do it!"

Mom: "Dan, you haven't even tried! I'm here to help you."

Dan: "No, I don't want to do it! It's too hard!"

Example 6 (A little girl is holding her piggy bank up to her mom and speaking to her mom.)

Little girl: "Mom, I have saved up a lot of coins in my piggy bank. I want to give this money to God to help buy the new church."

Example 7 (A boy sits at his desk looking anxious because he doesn't know what he will share tomorrow in class.)

William: (thinking to himself) "What should I do? What should I say? I don't know what to share about my summer. I'm really scared to speak in front of my class. What if everyone laughs at me? I hate speaking in front of everyone. What should I do?" (William kneels by his desk and prays.)

William: (praying) "Dear God, please help me, I'm scared. Please give me the courage to speak in front of my class and let me think of something to say."

Example 8 (Two girls, Sarah and Betty, are outside. Betty has a bike. Sarah is approaching Betty and she waves. Betty, wearing a helmet, is standing next to her new bicycle.)

Sarah: "Hi Betty. What are you doing?"

Betty: "I'm learning to ride my new bike. Sarah, you know how to ride a bike. Can you teach me?" (Sarah is speaking to Betty next to Betty's new bike. Fill in the blank with what Sarah should say.)

Sarah: ____

2

Give of Our Best

Objective: To understand the importance of serving the Lord with our gifts.

Materials

Activity templates

Scissors

• Glue

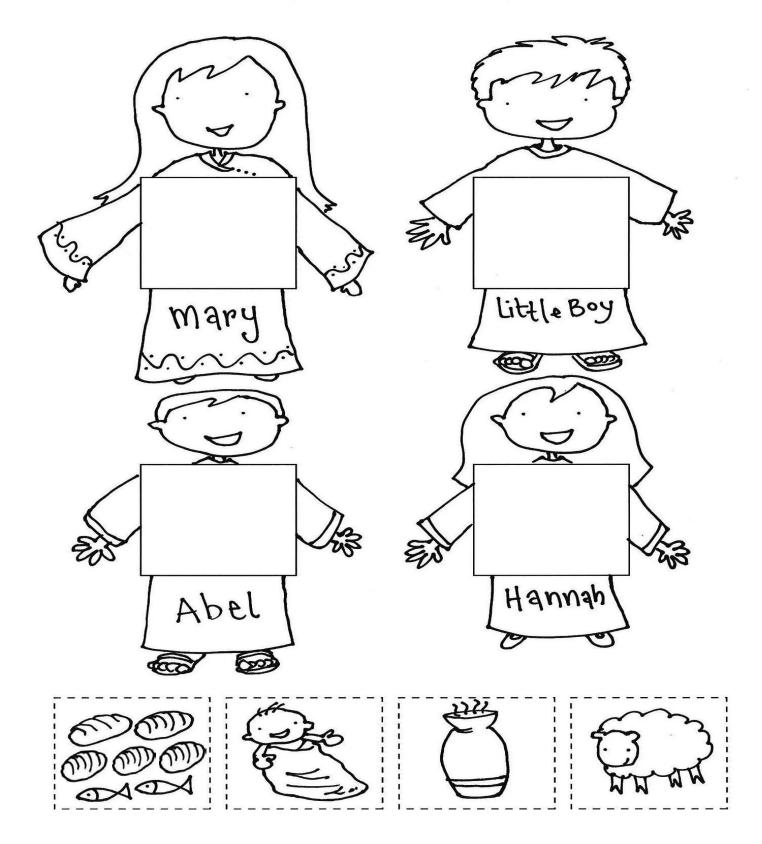
Instructions

- 1. The Bible is full of characters who offered their special gifts to God and God's people. Cut out the gifts from the sheet in front of you, and paste them into the box of the character that offered this special gift. Turn to the Bible passage for answers.
 - Miriam (Ex 15:20): Miriam was Moses' sister. After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, she picked up her timbrel and led the women in song and dance, praising the Lord.
 - David (1 Sam 17:50): David used his skills with the sling and stone to defeat Goliath, a Philistine.
 - Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39): Dorcas used her sewing skills to make clothes for those in need.
 - Moses (Ex 4:17): Moses performed great miracles using his shepherd's staff.
 - Mary (Jn 12:3): Mary took a jar of very expensive pure nard to anoint the feet of Jesus.
 - Little boy (Jn 6:9): A little boy offered five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus, which He used to feed five thousand people.
 - Abel (Gen 4:4): Abel offered the firstborn of his flock to God.
 - Hannah (1 Sam 1:24, 28): Hannah offered her son Samuel to serve in the temple.
- 2. On another piece of paper, draw the special gift that you want to offer to the Lord.

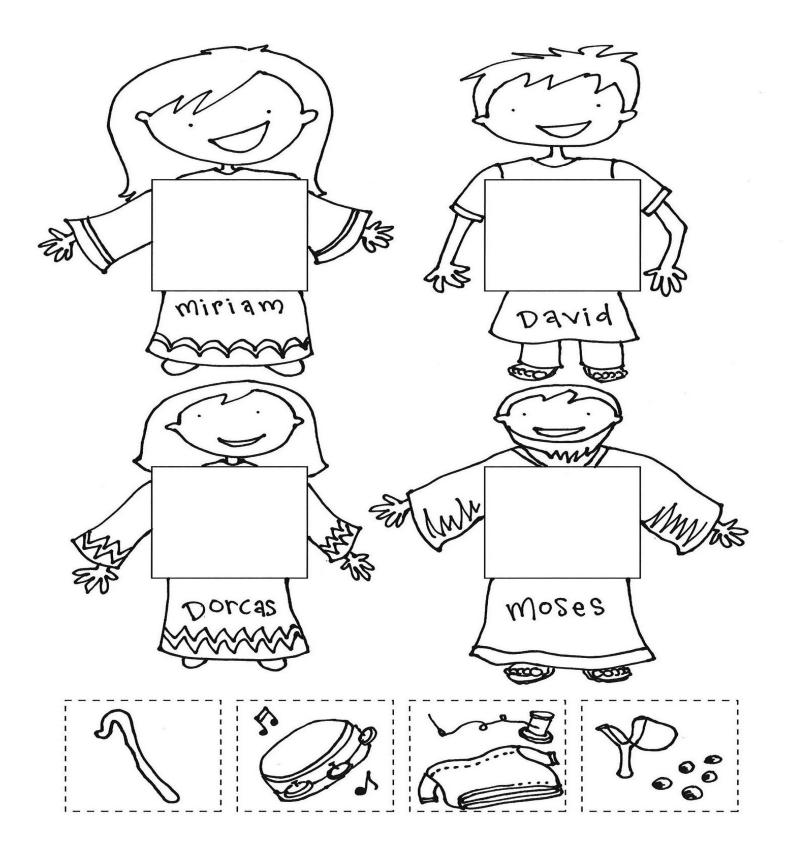
Homework Answer Key

- 1. snake, leprosy, blood
- 2. False; He spoke to him from a burning bush.
- 3. False; He sent his brother, Aaron.
- 4. False; he doubted his abilities.
- 5. True
- 6. He felt that he was slow of speech.
- 7. Moses doubted himself and did not have faith in God.
- 8. "So the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's <u>mouth</u>? Or who makes the <u>mute</u>, the <u>deaf</u>, the <u>seeing</u>, or the <u>blind</u>? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your <u>mouth</u> and teach you what you shall <u>say</u>'" (Ex 4:11-12).
- 9. "And you shall be <u>holy</u> to Me, for I the <u>Lord</u> am holy, and have <u>separated</u> you from the <u>peoples</u>, that you should be <u>Mine</u>" (Lev 20:26).
- 10. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Give of Our Best



Give of Our Best



E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 1—Moses and the Burning Bush

Homework Assignment

| Name: | | | Parent | signature: _ | | Date: | | | |
|-------|--|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|--|--|
| | Objectives: 1 | wants us to s | serve Him, ar and that we | nd He has gi must use ou | | lents to serve | | ur brothers and sis mplish the work H | |
| | | wishes us t | o do. | - | or every one | | vers to acco | inplish the work r | |
| | ading: Please Please put a c | put a check | mark in the s | pace when y | ou complete | e the reading | each day. | | |
| | | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
| | Bible Reading | | | | | | | | |
| | Prayer | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Please w | rite down th | ory Verse is week's me nomy 10:12b | mory verse. | | | |
| I | | | | | | ole This \ | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | |

Homework Assignment Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

- 1. God told Moses to perform three miracles if the Israelites did not believe that God had sent him to free them from the Egyptians. Circle the correct answers for the three miracles:
 - a. Moses' staff turned into a (lizard / snake / worm).
 - b. Moses hand became white with (leprosy / snow / fur).
 - c. The water turned to (wine / grape juice / blood).

| | True or False | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2. | . God spoke to Moses from a burning house | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | . God sent Daniel to help Moses | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | . Moses was very excited to do the job that God gave him | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | God told Moses to tell the people, "The one whose name is 'I Am' has sent you." | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Short Answer Why did Moses refuse the job God had given him? | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | . Why was God angry with Moses? | | | | | | | | |
| | Fill In the Blank seeing say deaf mouth blind mute mouth | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | "So the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's? Or who makes the, the, the | | | | | | | | |
| | or the? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your and | | | | | | | | |
| | teach you what you shall'" (Ex 4:11-12). | | | | | | | | |
| | separated holy Lord peoples Mine | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | "And you shall be to Me, for I the am holy, and have you from the | | | | | | | | |
| | , that you should be" (Lev 20:26). | | | | | | | | |
| | Bible Verse | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Write out Philippians 4:13. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |