

Materials I Need:

Legend:

-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?” Exodus 4:11

Aim Questions:


1. How did God get Moses' attention while Moses was pasturing a flock of sheep?
2. How did the Israelites get God's attention while they were in bondage to the Egyptians?
3. What name did God give to Moses by which God was going to reveal Himself to the Israelites? What is the significance of the Name?
4. What three signs did God give Moses to convince the Israelite elders that He had been speaking to Moses?
5. How did God solve Moses' problem (excuse) with speech?
6. How does God speak to us today?
7. If God asks us to do something we cannot possibly do, how can we obey Him?


 **Hook:**

Excuse My Excuses (Discussion). What excuses do we use to get ourselves out of work? I don't feel good, I'm too busy, too tired, not enough time, it's not my turn, I'm not good at it, I've never done that before, I don't know how. Talk about jobs and typical excuses we have all used before; could be made into a short skit competition for the older kids. Give each table 15 minutes to come up with a skit demonstrating some of these excuses. Take turns performing them in front of each other. God doesn't like excuses. Even Moses had a hard time accepting the job that God had given him to do.

What Is Your Name? (Game). As students come to class, give them the assignment of finding out the first name of any student they don't know. As class begins, give a reward to the first few students who can name all of their classmates (first name). Why do we have names? Why is it important to know each other's names? Did you know God has a name? What do you think it is?

Double Take (Discussion). Have you ever been walking along and seen something strange or interesting? Did you pause and go closer for a better look? (Allow students to share a few stories.) Something like this happened to a shepherd in today's Bible Adventure, and his story tops them all! Have a student read Exodus 3:2a & 3, "Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up.'"


 **Mighty Moses the Deliverer (Game).** If this causes the children to become too active too early in the class time, you may consider saving this until later in the morning when they need a pick-up (perhaps between the Look and Took times). All the children gather together in “Goshen of Egypt” at one end of the room, with the exception of Mighty Moses (one of the children chosen to start the game). The Pharaoh (teacher) stands guarding the children. Moses approaches Pharaoh and says, “Let my people go!” Pharaoh gets to ask Moses a question (Bible story review, memory verse, previous story questions, Bible trivia, etc.). If Moses answers correctly, he chooses one of the “Israelites” to leave Egypt with him. If not, he returns to the desert empty-handed. Each time Moses comes to Pharaoh, only he and any of the freed Israelites who are with him can answer the questions. He must actually give the answer to the Pharaoh, but they can converse among themselves to come to the agreed upon answer. None of the enslaved Israelites may help Moses to answer the questions. The object of the game is to free all of God’s chosen people from slavery in Egypt. This game can be played with one or several teams, depending on how many children there are. If there is more than one Moses, then the first team to free all of their slaves wins. If questions are answered incorrectly, the other Moses gets a chance to answer.


 **Big Bush (Activity).** Cut a large (knee to waist high) bush or branch without foliage. “Plant” it in a coffee can with dirt and/or rocks. Bring it to class, and let students add tissue paper flames to the “bush” as described in “Burning Bush” (Look). Use this flaming bush as a prop for acting out today’s Bible story. Save it for a few weeks as a room decoration. It might be given away later as first prize for one of the games.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **Words on Fire (Drama).** Act out the Bible Adventure using the dialogue between Moses and the Lord speaking from the burning bush to help students remember the story.

 **Take Off Your Shoes (Activity/Game).** At the point in the story where God tells Moses to take off his sandals, have students take off their shoes. Gather them and put them in a pile. After the story, you can make a game out of putting back on the shoes. Mix the shoes, and at the “go” signal, let students race to find their own two shoes. The last student to find his/her shoes and put them on (shoes need to be on the correct feet, but not tied or buckled, etc.) is eliminated. Repeat until all but one or two students are “out.” These are your winners. If you have a large group, you may want to eliminate two or three students each cycle.

 **Moses and the Burning Bush (Illustration/Overhead).** Exodus 3:1-6, 1EXO02.GF1.

 **Moses Goes Back to Egypt (Illustration/Overhead).** Exodus 4:20, 1EXO02.GF2.

 **Aaron Speaks for Moses (Illustration/Overhead).** Exodus 4:11-17, 29-31, 1EXO02.GF3.

Bible Adventure -

Imagine you are shopping with your parents at the mall when a man has a sudden heart attack and falls to the floor. People gather around quickly, some curious, others wanting to help. After a few moments, paramedics arrive and begin to try to revive the man. All at once, one of the paramedics turns to you and says, “You’re going to have to save this man. It’s up to you now.” He hands you his equipment and steps away. What would you do? What would you say? “Wait a minute! I don’t know what to do. I’ve never had any medical training; I don’t know how to save somebody’s life!” It would be a feeling of panic, wouldn’t it?

In the book of Exodus, Moses found himself in a similar situation. He was asked to do what he considered impossible. Let’s do a bit of review.

Moses had been adopted as the son of the king of Egypt's daughter. The rest of the Israelites had been made to work as slaves in Egypt because Pharaoh feared they would rise up against him. After seeing an Egyptian beating an Israelite, Moses killed the man in anger, then had to run for his life. He ended up in Midian where he married Zipporah. As Moses was tending livestock one day, he saw a bush that was burning, but it was not burning up. As Moses came near the bush, God called his name from within it. Moses answered, "Here I am." God warned Moses not to get too close. He told Moses to take his sandals off his feet, for the place Moses was standing on was holy ground. Then God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses was so frightened he hid his face, not wanting to look at God.

Whenever we read in the Bible about God appearing to a man, the reaction is always the same--either the person would fall on his face or seek to hide himself. The Bible teaches us that God is our friend, but He is also Lord and Ruler of all that is. He is the source of every breath you and I take. How do you approach God in worship or in prayer? Are you thinking of Him or of what you have planned for later in the day? During worship time, do you approach Him as a servant would a king, focusing only on Him, or are you too busy talking or joking with whoever is sitting next to you? God wants us to come near to Him, but He also wants us to show respect and sincerity of heart.

Next, God had a conversation with Moses that would change Moses' life forever. God said He had seen the suffering of His children in Egypt. He was ready to rescue them from their slavery and bring them to a land of their own, a rich and good land. God wanted Moses to go back to Egypt, to appear before Pharaoh and lead the Israelites. Moses reacted like you or I probably would have--"Who, me?" He proceeded to do his best to talk his way out of what God was asking. Let's look at his four excuses for not wanting to obey God and what we learn about Moses through them:

1. Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

Moses was saying that he was just one single man--how could he perform such a huge task? God said, "I will be with you." This was all the answer Moses needed, though he did not know it yet. No task is too large when God gives us the power to do it.

2. Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what should I tell them?" Moses was showing us that he himself did not know this God; how then could he tell the people that he was sent by Him? So God told him His name: "I AM WHO I AM." Moses was to tell the elders of Israel that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was to be known from then on as "I AM," and that he had been sent by God to lead the people out of their suffering to a wonderful land. Then Moses was to take the elders and appear before Pharaoh, to ask him to let the people go out into the desert and offer sacrifices to their God. God told Moses that at first Pharaoh would refuse to let them go, until God would show His mighty power among the Egyptians.

3. Moses' next excuse was: "What if they do not believe me? What if they say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?" God's answer to this was pretty amazing. Moses had a shepherd's staff, a big stick, in his hand. God told him to throw it on the ground. Right before his eyes it turned into a living, breathing snake! God told Moses to pick it up by the tail. Gulp! "Okay, Lord." As soon as Moses put his hand on the snake, it became a staff again! God told Moses that when the Israelites saw this, they would believe God was with him. Then God told Moses to put his hand inside his cloak. When he pulled it out, it was white and covered with leprosy, a dreadful disease in those days. Then God told him to put his hand back in his cloak. When he pulled it out again, it was normal--perfectly healthy. God told Moses if the Israelites did not believe after the first sign, he was to show them the second. If they still did not believe, he was to take water from the river, pour it on the ground, and it would become blood. These signs were to show the Israelites that God was with Moses.

4. Moses said to the Lord, "I am slow of speech and tongue." Moses feared he did not have the skill with words to be able to speak to the king of Egypt. God told him He was the One who gave man a mouth to speak. He would give Moses the right words to say.

Still Moses refused to obey. "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." God was angry at this, but kept speaking with Moses, telling him that God would help him. He told Moses that He would send Aaron, Moses' brother, along with him and that Aaron could do the speaking. He also told Moses to take his staff along with him, to do the amazing signs that God would give him to do.


Moses was finally convinced. He and Aaron went back to Egypt and called for the elders of Israel. Aaron spoke to them about the things God had told Moses. Moses performed the signs God had given him, and the elders believed. When they heard that the Lord cared about them and was concerned about their suffering, they bowed down and worshiped Him.

Moses kept making excuses because he believed he was not able to do what God asked of him. It's true, he could not, but he did not seem to understand that he would not be working alone. The mighty God of the Universe was the One who would be doing the work. Moses' focus on himself and his shortcomings shows he did not understand Who this God was. God offered Aaron as a mouthpiece and awesome miracles to show Moses--and eventually the Israelites--that He had sent Moses to lead them. Today, God often asks us to perform tasks that are beyond our ability. We might be tempted to focus on our weaknesses, but we need to remember that God will never ask us to do anything that He cannot do in and through us. Is there someone God wants you to speak to about Christ? When He gives you the opportunity, He will also give you the words. Are you fearful about life, thinking you can't handle it? God promises to be with you. Just as He did with Moses, He offers resources for us, too. Learn to trust God to use you in unique and powerful ways. Focus on Him, and trust Him to provide the right words and the strength to get the job done.



Look:



Choose the Picture (Worksheet).  Match the picture with the answer to each question. The pictures can then be colored, **1EXO02.GF4**.



Serve and Worship (Activity). Ask students the following question: **Why did God want to release His people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt? Was it to serve Him or to worship Him?** When you have asked the question, give each child one of the Scriptures below. They can read the verse to themselves and write down their one-word answer ("serve" or "worship") on a piece of paper. Then, on the count of three, ask them to turn over their papers and read what they have written. If time allows, they could be asked to read their particular Scripture reference. Now ask someone to look up Matthew 4:10 and ask the question: **We as believers have been released from the bondage of sin through the blood of Christ. What are we called to do?** The answer again should be serve and worship.

Exodus 3:12

Exodus 4:23

Exodus 7:16

Exodus 8:1

Exodus 8:20

Exodus 9:1

Exodus 9:13

Exodus 10:3

Exodus 10:7-8

Exodus 10:11


Exodus 10:24


Exodus 10:26

Exodus 12:31



God Is Patient (Worksheet). Moses had many objections to God's plan. In the end, God became angry, but He helped Moses with all of his worries. Match each objection with the answer God gave. Then, draw lines to the pictures that illustrate God's answer, **1EXO02.GF5**.


 **Burning Bush (Craft).** Cover small branched twigs with tissue paper flames. The flames are made from tissue paper squares approximately 1-2 inch square. Choose bright fire-like colors such as red, orange or yellow. To make each flame, take a pencil and press the eraser into the center of the tissue square. Pull the edges of the tissue up around the eraser end of a pencil, and hold firmly with the fingers of the opposite hand. Apply glue to this end of the tissue, and stick it somewhere on the branch. Gently twist the pencil out from the tissue, leaving the square pinched in your fingers. Continue until the branch is covered with tissue paper flames of varied colors. Gently insert the bottom of the branch into the bottom of an upside-down Styrofoam cup so that the cup becomes the stand for the branch. Now paste the “God called Moses -- God calls me” strip around the bottom of the cup. Glue the rim of the cup on a ¼ sheet of construction paper and paste down the verse, Philippians 4:13, **1EXO02.GF6 Pgs. 1&2.**



 **Milk and Honey (Snack).** Milk and Honey (spread on graham crackers). Discuss what God meant with what He said to Moses in Exodus 3:8. See how close the kids can come on their own, then give them hints to lead them to the answer.


Milk: produced by goats and cows.

Honey: produced by bees during pollination.

Milk and Honey suggest agricultural prosperity.

 **Signs and Messages (Worksheet).** God gave Moses three signs to perform as proof that he spoke God's Word. Add details and/or color to these three items to show how they changed. God gave Moses messages for the elders of Israel and for Pharaoh. Fill in the crossword puzzle with the missing words, **1EXO02.GF7.**

 **God Speaks (Craft).**  Glue on torn construction paper or tissue paper flames. Tissue flames can be made as described in “Burning Bush” or from crumpled or torn tissue paper, **1EXO02.GF8.**

 **Flaming Answers (Q & A).** Have each student make a “flame” out of torn construction paper (¼ piece). Pass out one picture card to each student to tape to the back of his flame (if you have more than 16 students, pass out doubles of some pictures). Read the following statements. When a student has the picture that would fill in the blank, he can come and tape his flame on the burning bush. (Draw a bush on butcher paper or use **1EXO02.GF8.**) Add some excitement by blindfolding the students. Let them add flames as in “Pin the Tail on the Donkey,” **1EXO02.GF9.**

1. Moses was tending Jethro's _____ when he saw a strange sight.
2. Moses saw a _____ that was on fire but did not burn up.
3. God told Moses to take off his _____.
4. God would bring His people to a land flowing with _____ and _____.
5. The LORD promised that Moses would return to worship Him on this _____.
6. The name of the God who was sending Moses was _____.
7. Moses was to ask Pharaoh to let the people go to the desert for _____ days to worship.
8. God told Moses to throw his _____ on the ground.
9. When Moses threw his staff on the ground, it became a _____.
10. When Moses took his _____ out of his cloak, it had leprosy.
11. If they did not believe, Moses was to pour some _____ from the Nile on the ground.
12. God said, “Who gave man his _____?”
13. God also said, “Who makes him _____ or mute?”
14. “Who gives his sight or makes him _____? Is it not I, the LORD?”
15. Moses put his wife and sons on a _____ and started back to Egypt.
16. God would harden Pharaoh's _____.



Took:

- God Prepares Us Just Like Moses (*Discussion/Visuals*).** God was preparing Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt. What might God be preparing you to do? Discuss what the children's spiritual gifts might be. What ambitions do they have? What are they good at doing? What kinds of things do they enjoy? Using brown paper or butcher paper, make a visual aid on the wall to assist in the presentation of this discussion. Draw a bush on the paper. With pre-cut flames, write the answers the kids come up with to your questions. Stick these answers to the branches of the bush on the wall. You may choose to leave this artwork up as a reminder as we continue in our study of Exodus and see how God is using Moses to accomplish His plan. What was Moses' response in Exodus 3:4, when God called his name? This was the same response Abraham gave in Genesis 22:11, Jacob in Genesis 46:2, and Samuel in I Samuel 3:4.
- Released From Bondage (*Take-Home Sheet*).** Review **1EXO02.GF10**, and help the kids each target some of the ways they might be able to serve and worship God this week. Make notes for yourself so you can pray specifically for those kids this week and inquire as to their successes next week.
- Exodus 4:11 (*Memory/Discussion*).** As you work on memorizing this verse, discuss its meaning for people with disabilities. Does God have a purpose for everyone He creates? Do you think He views any of us as defective? Although most of us don't have severe disabilities, there is usually something we would like to change about ourselves. What would you change? How do you think God looks at this trait? How might He be able to use you specially because of this unique characteristic?
- Grab the Snake (*Game*).** One of the signs God gave Moses to perform was to throw his staff on the ground where it would turn into a snake. When he took hold of the snake by the tail, it would become a staff once more. Maybe it wasn't always easy to catch the snake! Divide the class into two teams lined up as for a relay. Have a teacher hold onto the end of a rope and wave it quickly side to side. This will make the other end slither like the tail of a snake. Let pairs of students try to catch the "tail" of the snake. The team to have the most "catches" wins.
- Excuses, Excuses (*Discussion/Worksheet*).** Do you make excuses for not doing what God wants you to do? Put a checkmark in the box by the excuses you've been known to use. Add a few more that come to mind. Now, look at some of the answers God gave to Moses when he made excuses. Which of these might God use to answer each of your excuses? Put A, B or C on the blank by each of your excuses, **1EXO02.GF11**.
- Third Commandment (*Memory/Discussion*).** If you have decided to assemble the Ten Commandments as you go through them, post the third commandment, "**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**" now. Follow the instructions given on **1EXO01 Pg. 5 TOOK First & Second Commandment**. Use this in conjunction with the Ten Commandments Family Take-Home Sheets and magnet collection below. **Debrief:** What do you think it means to use the Lord's name in vain? To use the Lord's name in vain is to use it in a flippant, insincere manner. Anytime we do this, it reveals more than what's in our mouths, it reveals what's in our hearts! Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to refrain from using His name in vain? God did not want them to use His name in vain because to do so would bring God's reputation down. Other people would not respect God in the right way because the Israelites used His name in this sinful manner. Read Matthew 6:9 to see how Jesus used God's name.
- Ten Commandments (*Family Take-Home Sheet/Magnet Collection*).** Continue using the Ten Commandments as a learning incentive for the students throughout the book of Exodus. This week students will have the opportunity to earn their First & Second Commandment magnet when they turn in their Ten Commandment Family Take-Home Sheet which has been signed by their parents. *(Teachers, please be sensitive to each student's individual needs in regard to their home situation. You may need to make yourself available to some students so they may be able to participate in*

this.) Take home sheets are included with the Family Fun Sheets and are also available at the resource table.

Moses and the Burning Bush



Moses Goes Back to Egypt

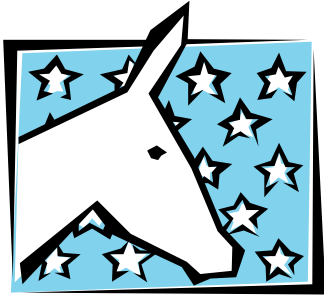


Aaron Speaks for Moses

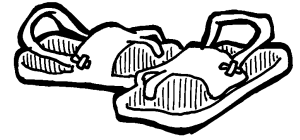


CHOOSE THE PICTURE

which best represents the answer to the question.
Draw a line from that question to the picture.



What was Moses doing when God called him?
Exodus 3:1?



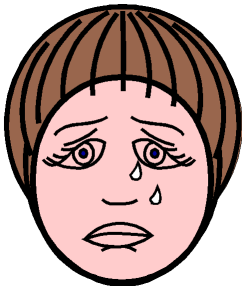
How did the Lord speak to Moses?
Exodus 3:2



The Lord told Moses to remove something. What
was it? Exodus 3:5



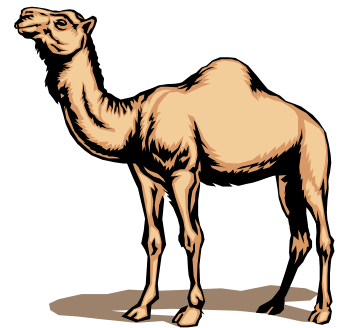
The Lord heard this from His people.
Exodus 3:7



The Lord was going to send Moses to him.
Exodus 3:10



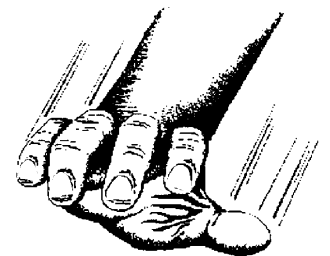
What was God going to stretch out to perform
miracles to strike Egypt? Exodus 3:20



With what part of his body did Moses struggle? God
said that He would help him with this.
Exodus 4:10-12



Moses takes his family on a _____ and returns
to Egypt.
Exodus 4:20



God warned Moses of Pharaoh's hardened _____.
Exodus 4:21

God Is Patient

“Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Exodus 3:11,12

“Suppose I go... and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” Exodus 3:13-15

“What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you?’” Exodus 4:1-9

“I have never been eloquent... I am slow of speech and tongue.”

Exodus 4:10-12

“Oh LORD, please send someone else to do it.”

Exodus 4:13-16

Moses had many objections to God’s plan. In the end, God became angry, but He helped Moses with all of his worries. Match each objection with the answer God gave. Then, draw lines to the pictures that illustrate God’s answer.

What is that in your hand? Throw it on the ground.

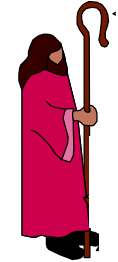
Put your hand inside your cloak; take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground.

I will be with you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.

I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.

What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?

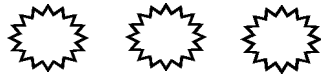


God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

God called Moses



God calls me

**I can do everything through
Him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13**

**I can do everything through
Him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13**

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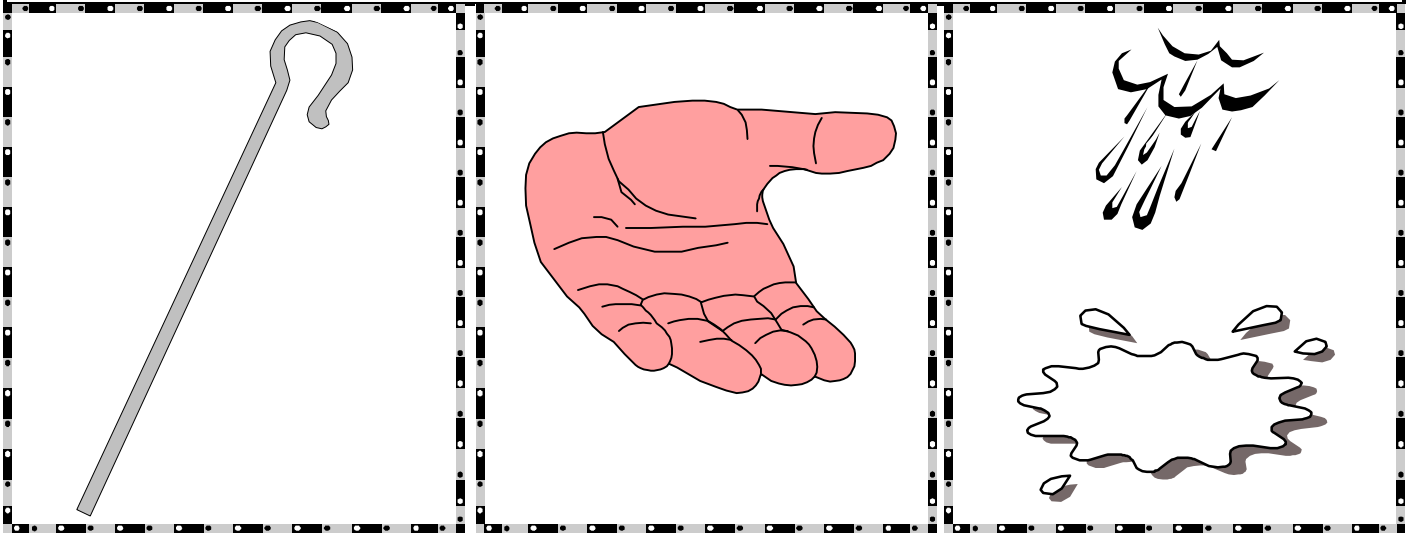
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Signs and Messages

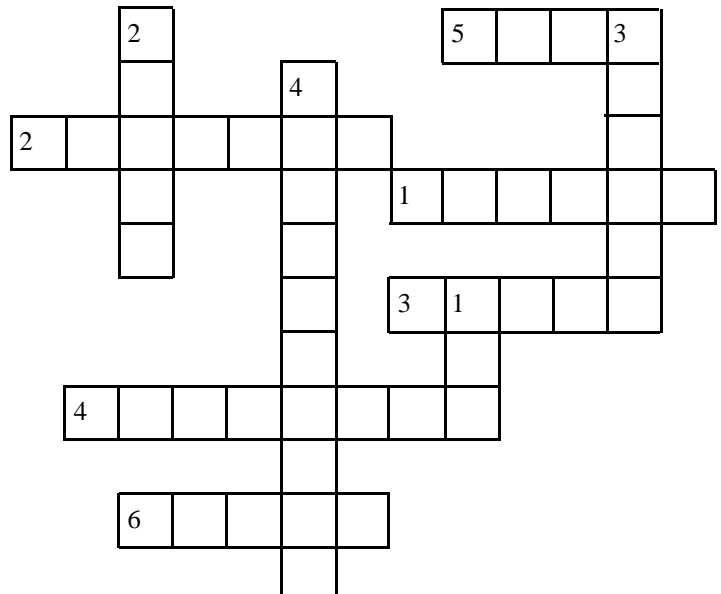
God gave Moses three signs to perform as proof that he spoke God's Word.
Add details and/or color to these three items to show how they changed.



God gave Moses messages for the elders of Israel and for Pharaoh.
Fill in the crossword puzzle with the missing words. Exodus 3:16-18

ACROSS: "Go assemble the elders of 1 _____ and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers - the God of 2 _____, Isaac and Jacob - appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in 3 _____. And I have 4 _____ to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the 5 _____ of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites - a land flowing with milk and 6 _____.'"

DOWN: ...then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the 1 _____ of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a 2 _____-day journey into the 3 _____ to offer 4 _____ to the LORD our God.'



God Speaks

Glue torn construction paper or tissue paper flames onto the bush.

**So now,
go.**

**I will be
with you.**



I AM

**Who gave man his mouth?
Who makes him deaf or
mute? Who gives him sight
or makes him blind? Is it
not I, the LORD? Exodus 4:11**



Flaming Answers




Excuses, Excuses

Do you make excuses for not doing what God wants you to do?
Put a checkmark in the box by the excuses you've been known to use.
Add a few more that come to mind.

_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I'm afraid.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I can't do it alone.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know how.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> What if I mess up?
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Nobody else is doing it.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't have time.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I'm too tired.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't feel well.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> It's too hard.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I'm too busy.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I've never done that before.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I have a problem.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Nobody will listen.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know what to say.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Now, look at some of the answers God gave to Moses when he made excuses.
Which of these might God use to answer each of your excuses?
Put "A", "B" or "C" on the blank by each of your excuses.

<p>A. I will be with you.</p>	<p>B. Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?</p>	<p>C. What about _____? I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
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II. You shall not
make for yourself
an idol.




Third Commandment *Take-Home Sheet*



Name: _____

Parent: This take-home sheet is to be brought back to Bible School next Sunday. You may need to assist your children in understanding the concepts of these verses and how they can apply them to their life. When your child completes each of the applications below, please sign the bottom so that he/she can receive the Third Commandment magnet.

- Memorize the Third Commandment and repeat it word for word to your parent.

 *Exodus 20:7 ~ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."*

- Share this verse with 3 people who do not know about God. Write the names of those 3 people below.

- Read Matthew 6:9, and write down how Jesus used God's name. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Hallowed be Your name"?

- Ask your parent to evaluate your speech. Do they think that your speech comes from a heart that loves God or loves self?

Signature of Parent: _____

Date: _____




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