

6. Call to Freedom (Exodus 2:11–3:22; 5:2–13:9)

“I’ll be with you.” (Exodus 3:12)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Strange Sights
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Burning Bush Blow
Painting
Unusual Charades
Loving God, Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Pencils | Paper | Scissors

Gather: TV/DVD player | Objects to create unusual sights

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Food coloring | Water | Bowls | Classroom props as needed | LED candle | Tablecloth

Bless: TV/DVD player | LED candle | Tablecloth

Before You Teach

This week we are exploring a foundational faith story. Our Scripture covers Moses’s departure from Egypt, his encounter with God in the form of a burning bush, and his confrontation with Pharaoh about freeing the Israelites from slavery. This segment of Scripture also includes the abuse of a Hebrew slave and Moses’s retaliation by killing the Egyptian who perpetrated the abuse and then fleeing to Midian. It also includes the plagues that fell upon Egypt when Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites. Some of this imagery may be hard for some children to handle, while others may find these events interesting to study and explore. You may want to decide what to focus on based on the maturity level of your children.

One of the elements of this story that fascinates most children is God’s appearance to Moses in the burning bush. This portion of the Bible story is also where our memory verse for Unit 2, “I’ll be with you” (Exodus 3:12), comes from. It is important to emphasize that God tells Moses that God will be with him when God asks Moses to do something difficult—stand up to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go. You’ll want children to know that just like God was with Moses, God will also be with them when they face difficult situations or have to do something big in life.

Children may also be interested in God’s special name (I Am), which is covered in this segment as well, and the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is the celebration of Israel’s freedom from Egyptian slavery. This segment of Scripture will also give the children the necessary background information to understand the remaining stories in this unit, which cover the Israelites’ journey and life after freedom from Egypt.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of “Attendance Chart” (Class Kit—pp. 15 & 18, or 16–17) at eye level.

- Play “Unstoppable” (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the “Attendance Chart.” For the “Community Attendance Chart,” the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #6.

SAY: Our Bible story is about a time when God asked Moses to do something difficult.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 6 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Burning Bush” (Activity Sheets—p. 13). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the “To Pharaoh” activity (Activity Sheets—p. 14).

SAY: Today’s Bible story reminds us that when we have to do something difficult, God is with us.

OR

B—Strange Sights (Game)

Before class: Create several unusual sights using items in your classroom. For example, one of the tables could be upside down, or all of the wall decorations could be crooked.

SAY: In our Bible story, Moses sees an unusual sight, a burning bush.

ASK: Can you find any things that look unusual or out of place in our classroom?

- Allow time for the children to move around the classroom and look around.

ASK: How do you think Moses felt when he saw such an unusual sight as a burning bush?

Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring chairs or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: Transitions are a useful way to help children easily move from one activity to the next.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- When have you been scared to do something?
 - Who goes with you when you are scared?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—Exodus 2:11–3:22; 5:2–13:9).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 6.

SAY: Today, we’re discussing a story about how God asked Moses to help the Israelites become free from slavery in Egypt.

ASK: What can you do for your community?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “Call to Freedom” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 6).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the “Unit 2 Bible Verse” poster (Class Kit—pp. 7 & 26).

- Read the memory verse to the children: “I will be with you” (Exodus 3:12).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Burning Bush Blow Painting (Art)

Before class: Gather a straw for each child; a box of food coloring containing red, yellow, blue, and green food coloring; four bowls; at least four droppers; water; white paper; a table covering; and smocks. Cover the table, and add a few drops of water and a few drops of one color of food coloring per bowl (one bowl will have red, one bowl will have yellow, and so on).

- Have the children put on smocks. Remind the children that they may mix colors (on their papers) to make other colors (such as red and yellow to make orange).
- Let the children choose the colors they would like, and use the droppers to apply a few drops of their chosen color(s) to their sheet of paper.
- Have the children use their straws to blow the colors around on their papers to create an image of a burning bush. (There is no right or wrong way to paint.) Remind the children that while blowing they may want to move their heads like writing instruments to get the desired result. Let the paintings dry.

TIP: Have paintbrushes and cups of water on hand for children who may not be able to use a straw.

OR

Unusual Charades (Game)

Before class: Copy, cut out “Unusual Charades” (Leader Guide—p. 42). Fold each strip so that the writing cannot be seen, and place the strips in a bowl.

SAY: Moses encountered an unusual sight when he saw the burning bush. Let’s create some unusual sights of our own by acting out some things that would be unusual to see. Remember, you can use your body, as well as other things in the room. Everyone else will try to guess what the thing is.

- Divide the class into pairs. Let each pair draw a slip from the bowl and act it out as they see fit.

TIPS: Encourage creativity. Give the answer away after what you feel is a reasonable time to guess.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Display the “Church and Storytelling Figures” page (Class Kit—p. 19). Gather scissors.

- Allow the children to assemble the church and cut out the figures of Pastor Kim and Miss Molly.

SAY: Today, we are learning a story that is foundational to our faith.

ASK: How might Pastor Kim and Miss Molly teach foundational faith stories to the Deep Blue Kids?

- Let the children act out scenarios using the storytelling figures.

Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth and an LED candle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 2 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 30) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about how God promised Moses that God would be with him when God asked Moses to help free the Israelites. Let’s learn to sign what God said to Moses when God appeared to Moses in a burning bush.

- Gather the children around the “Bible Verse Signs” poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
- Teach the children to sign the verse.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for always being with us. Amen.

Praising

SAY: Today, we learned about how God asked Moses to do something really hard, but God promised to be with Moses. Let’s sing and dance to a song that reminds us that God is with us and that God’s love for God’s people is unstoppable.

- Play “Unstoppable” (Adventure DVD), and let the children sing and dance.
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Blessing

SAY: Today, we learned that God promised to be with Moses when God asked him to do a difficult thing. God will do the same for us. Let’s remind our classmates that God will be with them.

- Have the children form a circle around the worship center, and light the candle.
- Invite the children one at a time to step into the circle and pray the following prayer for each child. Invite the other children to join in with you when they have memorized the words.

PRAY: God, thank you for being with us. Go with (insert child’s name) wherever (he or she) may go. Amen.

At Home with God

SAY: What is one thing that you learned today about how God freed the Israelites today? What is one thing that you learned about God and Moses? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets, Session 6, and the Unit 2 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Unusual Charades

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| Dancing Chair | Running Soup |
| Cleaning Shoes | Biting Book |
| Silent Music | Teaching Baby |
| Walking Table | Jumping Tree |
| Talking Water | Standing Dog |