



# Moses and the Burning Bush

## Plan



### Aim

God hears prayers and keeps his promises, even if it's a long wait.  
When God tells us to do something, he equips us with what we need.

### Resources

Visual aids: Maps; props, images

Fraxinella [Mooseksenpalavapensas, Gas Plant or Burning Bush, Dictamnus albus - YouTube](#) 1:10

[www.revelationillustrated.com](http://www.revelationillustrated.com) Burning bush image, Pat Marvenko Smith

### Bible references

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-22; 4:1-18

### Key Verse

2 Corinthians 12:9 My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

### Starter

Find something visual that will capture their attention. Examples: Indoor sparklers or other indoor firework; re igniting birthday candles on a small cake; play the Fraxinella<sup>1</sup> clip or show the burning bush image from Revelation Illustrated website.

Discuss: What sort of things catch your attention?

### Setting the scene

Israel was crying out to God. Where was Moses and why?

### God's Attention Grabber

After 40 years of letting him be a humble shepherd in the wilderness of Midian, God wanted to have a serious conversation with Moses. How did he sometimes do that in the Bible?

Well, dreams, visions, a visit from an angel, but this time it's nothing like that – it's a strange fiery bush and it certainly got Moses' attention.

Moses reaction:

Saw: The bush – the attention grabber.

Paused: Moses paused to notice and examine it further.

Heard: God spoke Moses' name, then identified himself. God gets our attention and then says – stop, we need to sort a few things out first.

Listened: What was God telling Moses to do?

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<sup>1</sup> The Fraxinella is a bush that bears white, pink, or red blossom. The leaves and seedpods emit flammable oil that will sometimes ignite in hot weather without damaging the plant.

**The Conversation** Exodus 3:7-10

God said:

- I have seen** the misery
- I have heard** them crying out
- I am concerned** about their suffering
- I have come** down to rescue them.

So far, so good but then he followed it with, “It’s time for you to go back: I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.” MSG

- Are you struggling with a problem or difficult situation? God has seen.
- Have you asked him for help? God has heard.
- You may feel he has forgotten you, but he is concerned, and he will come to help.

**Game**

Play a game where they have to think up silly excuses for not doing something. (Or do this at the start.)

**A plaster for every sore!** Exodus 3:11 – 4:18

What are you like at making up excuses?

My friend’s dad used to say that she had a ‘plaster for every sore’ meaning that she had a different excuse for any and every situation. The best one I ever heard was from a girl who didn’t want to wash the dishes so she said, “I can’t find the water”. We still tease her about it!

- What was God telling Moses to do?
- How many excuses does Moses come up with in this story?

God: “It’s time for you to go back: I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.” MSG

1. Moses: Why me?

God: Promised help and success Exodus 3:12

2. Moses: But if... asks God’s name

God: Gives an all-embracing name and the rest of his instructions, also telling him exactly what will and will not happen. Exodus 3:14-22

3. Moses: What if... they don’t believe me?

God: Gave him 3 miraculous signs to perform. Exodus 4:1-9

4. Moses: I won’t know what to say.

God: I will tell you what to say

5. Moses: Please no! Send someone else.

God: promised that his brother Aaron would help him. Exodus 4:10-17

## Discussion points

- What do you think of Moses excuses?
  - Did he really not want to do it?
  - Was he totally incapable?
  - Had he lost his confidence?
  - Do you think that deep down Moses still wished to help his people? Had he ruled himself out due to his huge mistake years earlier?

- How had Moses changed since leaving Egypt, 40 years ago?
- What preparation had Moses already had for this assignment?  
     Good education, familiarity with Egyptian court & culture  
     Experience of living in the wilderness
- Never has anyone been so reluctant to accept an assignment and then become so dedicated to it and famous for it afterwards. What changed?
- What extra help did God now provide? What helped Moses to speak to the elders and Pharaoh?  
     The fact he had a real encounter with God. There is power in the presence of God. Compare with Pentecost; The miraculous signs; the promise of success; a co-worker.

God dealt with Moses fear. 2 Timothy 1:7

### **Activities**

Draw what you think the bush looked like.

Design an Egyptian style wall painting depicting the story

### **Application**

What could this story mean for you today?

- How can this story encourage us?
- Do you think of yourself as a somebody, a nobody or neither?
- Have you lost confidence over something and need some fresh encouragement?

### **Prayer & Worship time:**

Provide a focus such as a cross, a communion table, or a 'bush', with a cloth laid on the ground around it. Use tea lights, candles, or soft lighting. Have some music playing gently. Invite them to take off their shoes and come forward to kneel on the cloth.

- Are you struggling with a problem or difficult situation? God has seen.
- Have you asked him for help? God has heard.
- You may feel he has forgotten you, but he is concerned, and he will come to help.
- Listen to see if there is anything God would say to you.

Offer to pray for anyone who would find that helpful.

### **Prayer**

Lord, help us to notice you each day.

Help us to listen and hear you speak to us and to sense your presence with us.

Writer: Brenda Lord

Image: Burning bush art - Pat Marvenko Smith, © 1992.

[The Burning Bush Image Download - Revelation Productions \(revelationillustrated.com\)](http://revelationillustrated.com)

[The Burning Bush with the names of God in the border 16"x20" Print - Revelation Productions \(revelationillustrated.com\)](http://revelationillustrated.com)