

Adventures with GOD!

MOSES, THE CALLING OF A HERO (C.3.FALL.5)

Biblical Reference	Exodus 3:1-14, 4:1-17
Key Verse	Exodus 3:10
Key Concept	As a true hero I shouldn't use excuses to try and not follow God's call
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of the calling of Moses 2. Compare the excuses Moses gave and the responses the Lord gave 3. Make a list of excuses we use to not follow God and do what God calls us to do

LIFE APPLICATION:

Moses had serious doubts about his capabilities as a leader. He resisted the call that God gave him and gave reasons for why he couldn't do it. We are also good at thinking up excuses for not following God and God's call on our life. Moses is a good example of how God prepares a person to be a leader who will serve those he leads. It's not about how prepared we are, but it's about how open we are to being used by God. The children will learn to identify the excuses we give and what God's response is.

Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	See instructions	10 minutes
Group work	Bible verses, paper	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, sand (desert box), props, illustrations	10 minutes
Project	See instruction	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute



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Instructions

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Exodus 3:1-14) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Activity: Before class make sure you've gotten together various things we use to communicate with other people: telephone, megaphone, a book, a magazine, a computer. Also have on hand some instruments that represent how God talks with us: a Bible, a picture of parents, a picture of a leader, something that represents nature, a cd with music, etc. Have the two types of communication instruments in two different bags. Begin with the bag that represents how we communicate with each other. Pull them out one by one, and then ask what they are used for.

Then take out the articles found in the other bag and ask the children what they are used for. What other ways does God use to talk to us? Today they will learn about one way that God communicated with someone in the Old Testament.

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Group work: Have a sign that says, “God talks with us” and hang it on the wall. Each group will read two or three of the passages below and then write the ways that God communicated to the people in these passages. The answers are given for you below.

Genesis 3:8, 9

Genesis 18:1-3, 22

Genesis 21:17, 18

Genesis 28:10-13

Genesis 41:15, 16, 25

Exodo 3:1-5

Face to face in the Garden of Eden

Face to Face

Like an angel from heaven

In a dream

Through the interpretation of dreams

Like an angel in the middle of a burning bush

Ask them how they would react if God spoke to them like he did to the people in these Bible stories. Remind them of how the Israelites had suffered as slaves under the rule of the Egyptians and how terrible Moses felt to see them treated like that. When he saw that an Egyptian mistreated a Hebrew, he defended the Hebrew and killed the Egyptian. He knew he would be in trouble so he fled Egypt and went into the desert (Have a “desert box” to pass around and allow them to touch the sand.) It was in the desert that he was invited to stay with a family and ended up marrying one of the daughters. He became a shepherd and took care of their flocks and lands. It was in the desert that God spoke to Moses. How did God speak? And how did Moses answer?

Bible exploration: To begin, sing a song that relates to Moses or the burning bush. Read together the story in Exodus 4:1-17. Have them read aloud the words of Moses, as he responds to God with excuses and questions. If you have props use them, or use illustrations that are available. It would be great to have a “burning bush” to use in the story, as well as a staff. Some children are very visual and these props will help them to remember the Bible story. Talk about the excuses that Moses used. What were the responses that God gave to those excuses?

We see later in Exodus 4 that Moses obeyed God and went home to tell his family his plan to go to Egypt. With his staff in his hand, he went to Egypt to do exactly what God had called him to do. Aaron, his brother, was with him and they went to the people of Israel to tell them what the Lord had said. The people were convinced that what they spoke had been given to them by the Lord.

Together work on the activity sheet “Excuses and pretexts.” This will help them think about the excuses that we use, when we don’t feel adequate or are fearful of doing what God asks us to.



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Project: Work on the project for this trimester, focusing on the games or on the drawings and story lines that they are working on. The following is an idea for a game. Cut “flames” out of colored paper. Divide into two teams. Each team will have the opportunity to answer a question (found in the following pages). For each answer they give they will receive a flame. The team with the most flames at the end of the game wins.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.



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GAME

THE BURNING BUSH

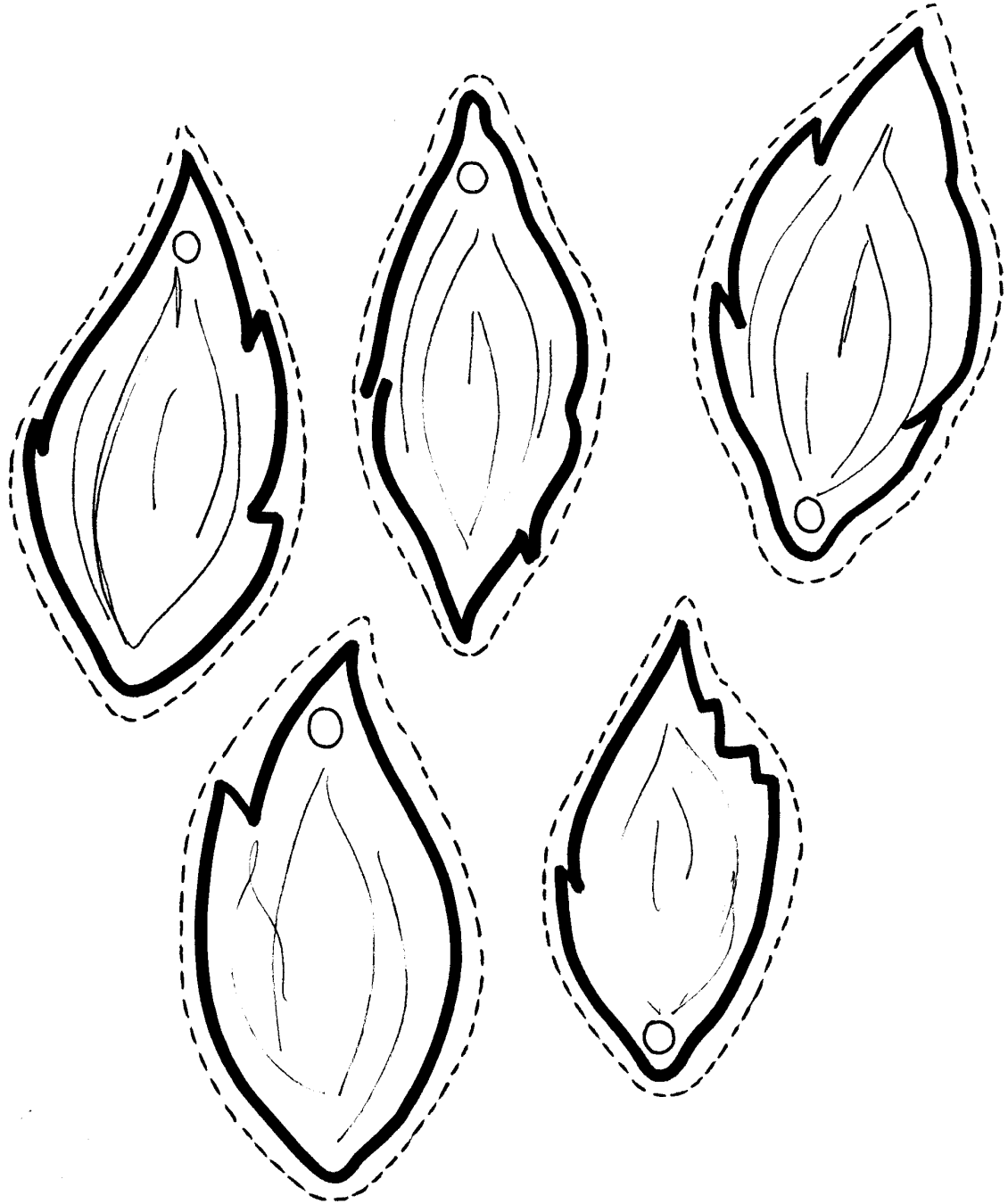
Materials: flames cut out of colored paper, questions below

- Questions:
1. What did Moses do in the desert?
 2. What extraordinary thing happened to Moses?
 3. What do you think Moses felt when he realized that it was God speaking to him from the burning bush?
 4. What was the first thing the voice said to him from the bush?
 5. Who was speaking to Moses?
 6. What did God ask Moses to do?
 7. Where was God going to take the Israelites?
 8. Why did Moses cover his face?
 9. What is the name of the Lord that is revealed in this story?
 10. What are the two signs that God gave to Moses?
 11. Name an excuse that Moses gave God for not going to Egypt.
 12. Who did God say would talk for Moses?
 13. Who did Moses take with him to Egypt?
 14. Who did Moses encounter on his way to Egypt, who would accompany him?
 15. Were the Israelites convinced by Moses and Aaron?



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ILLUSTRATION
FLAMES



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ACTIVITY SHEET

POPULAR EXCUSES AND PRETEXTS

1ST PART

Name the excuses Moses gave to God as he tried to get out of going to Egypt.

	Excuses	God's response
Exodus 3:11		
Exodus 3:13		
Exodus 4:1		
Exodus 4:10		
Exodus 4:13		



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2ND PART:

Name the excuses you give when God asks something of you that you're not sure you want to do or can do. How do you think God responds?

The situation	My excuses	God's response
Ex. Tell someone that Jesus loves them		

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ILLUSTRATION

MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH



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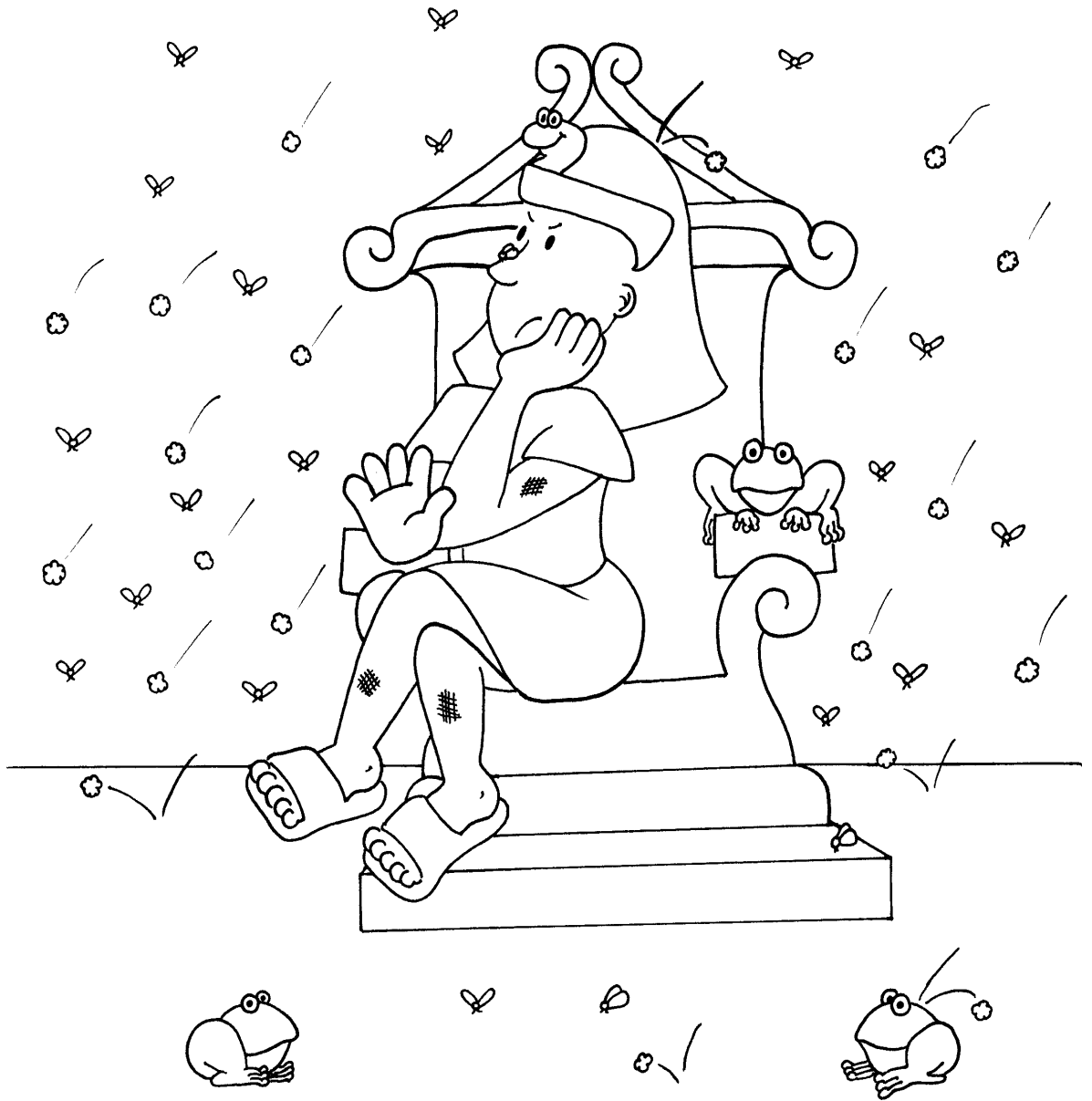
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GOD CALLS MOSES



The Evangelical Covenant Church

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MOSES WITH PHAROH



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CROSSING THE RED SEA

