

True and Lively Lessons

Precious Gems - Ages 2-5

The Law is Our Schoolmaster Leading Us to Christ

Level 1 Lesson 3 Character - The Call

Moses Goes, God Shows

Target:

1. God knows us and chooses us for a special purpose for his kingdom.
2. God will demonstrate His power to fulfill the task.

Text: Exodus 2:23-25 and Exodus 3:12-22

Preface:

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He had a plan and a purpose for his life. God knew Moses' imperfections. He knew his weaknesses, abilities and inabilities and yet He qualified Moses to lead the children of Israel because He had a calling on Moses' life.

In today's world, much emphasis is placed on talent, skill, education, and ability. However, in the kingdom of God, it is the call of God on one's life that will qualify him or her to do a work for God. It is only the anointing of God that can break the yoke (see Isaiah 10:27)!

Moses had many excuses why he thought he couldn't be used of God for the tremendous task of facing Pharaoh, delivering God's message of "let My people go", and leading His children of Israel out of Egypt. God knew the fear, uncertainty, and perceived insufficiency that Moses felt. The Apostle Paul posed the question in 2 Corinthians 2:16, "Who is sufficient for these things?" Only God! When Moses presented excuses, God assured provision through His ability, power, and might. Moses told God that he didn't have what it takes to be used of Him. In Exodus 4:2, God countered with, "What is that in thine hand?" Moses replied, "A rod." God used that simple rod to perform almost every miracle at the hand of Moses for the fulfillment of Moses obeying God and leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Likewise, God knows our hearts, potential, imperfections, weaknesses, abilities and inabilities. We may feel insufficient, but God assures us that if we will only obey and trust Him, His sufficiency qualifies us to do a work for God.

Activities and Materials:

Janitor Joe/Slave Labor	Song Children, Go	Story - Part 1	Snack - Burning Bushes	Story - Part 2	Plagues Props
bricks or rocks	Bible, rag, hymnal, box of tissue, Bible study chart, doll in blanket, globe, hammer, instrument, towel, pot and spoon, play money wallet	Prep: pictures of bushes (see end of lesson), staff for Moses, robe, burning bush (fan with plant leaves and cellophane taped to it), tape	cheese puffs, soft cheese, refried beans, or peanut butter, water	Visuals: paper plates, one Pharaoh, one Moses and Aaron. (or a mean face and two happy faces on one plate), sheet, rope for snake, paper shapes for Egypt (buildings, crops, river)	red paper shapes for rivers, streams, and ponds torn pieces of green, black, and bright green paper for frogs, flies, and locust paper balls for hail large piece of black paper or fabric - darkness

Teacher script is in bold type.

Janitor Joe and Slave Labor: *Janitor Joe greets everybody and inquires from teacher about a pile of bricks that needs to be moved. Teacher directs attention to the pile of bricks and indicates a spot across the room to pile them. Janitor Joe gets to work and children pitch in to help. Once the pile is on the other side of the room in a neat stack, teacher has him move them back to the original spot. Repeat this a couple of times and with each round, Janitor Joe becomes more and more exasperated, until he stops (when the bricks are on the story wall side of the room) and says, "Moving these bricks reminds me of a story in the Bible when God's people were slaves and made to work, and work, and work harder and harder, until they cried out for God to save them from being slaves to mean people that made them work so hard." And God heard their cries and picked out someone to help them get free, so they could serve The Lord." (Janitor Joe turns to Teacher.) Is that what moving these bricks reminds you of, Bro./Sis. _____?*

Teacher: **Yes, it does, Janitor Joe. Thank you for moving the bricks and reminding us of that Bible story .**

Janitor Joe: **Whatever I can do to help, Bro./Sis. _____.** (Exits)

Prayer:

Children, we should be just like the people in the Bible story and cry out to God too. I know some people who are slaves like Janitor Joe was talking about, because they are doing everything the devil tells them to do and they are NOT happy. Let's pray for God to help them get free and let's pray for God to pick US

to help someone be free to serve Him. (Pray for individuals that children mention and those on your own heart and believe God for their deliverance AND for God to call each child for a special job to help Him.)

Song:

My God is So Big, So Strong, and So Mighty

(stretch arms to the sky) **My God is so BIG**

(make muscle arms) **So strong and so mighty**

(index finger out, back and forth, like, "no, no") **There's nothing my God cannot do**

(make peaks and valleys with hands) **The mountains are His**

(make waves with hand from right to left) **The rivers are His**

(make bursts with hands randomly to sky) **The stars are His handy work too**

Repeat lines 1-3

End: (point to every child, individually) **for you, and you, and you, and you**

Song:

(Tune: Children Go Where I Send Thee (Christmas Spiritual) - Song begins with one student walking around in a circle (one by one) as song is sung and as the numbers increase with each stanza, another student is added to those walking around in a circle.)

Props: (Teacher explains the purpose of props before song begins)

1st Child: Bible (a Pastor, Teacher, or Evangelist)

2nd Child: hymnal, CD, or chorus book (a Worship Leader, Song Writer)

3rd Child: cleaning rag, squirt bottle (wave rag as they walk) (Church Cleaner)

4th Child: box of tissue and a prayer list (Prayer Warrior)

5th Child: a Bible study chart (Bible Study Teacher)

6th Child: a baby in a blanket (Godly Parent)

7th Child: a globe (Missionary)

8th Child: an instrument (Church Musician)

9th Child: a hammer (Church Builder)

10th Child: a wallet with play money in it (Generous Giver)

11th Child: an apron, a small pot and wooden spoon (One who helps sick people)

12th Child: a towel over the forearm (a servant)

Children, Go Where I Send Thee

Children, go where I send thee, how shall I send thee?

I'm gonna send thee one by one

One for the job I have for you

Because I chose you and I will be with you

(repeat first line)

I'm gonna send thee two by two

Two for the jobs I have for you

(repeat last line)

(Continue song increasing numbers and other lyrics remaining the same, reinforcing the simple message)

Story Prep:

The man in our story was chosen by God to do a special job, and when God called him, he said, "Here am I." *(Let children practice a couple of times.)* When I raise my hand, you say, "Here am I." *(Practice with the signal.)* That is what I want to say to God when He chooses me for a job. Randomly practice the signal and students' response, "**Here am I**" as you continue the lesson. Also, show pictures of two bushes, one that is green and vibrant and one that has been on fire. Let them tell you the difference between them, (one is burnt up) and point out that the fire will consume the bush in just a little while.

Transition: *(Play ring tone for children to turn to story wall.)*

Story Part 1:

It's just like Janitor Joe said, God's people were moving bricks, working, working, working, harder, and harder, sweating, aching, and their hearts were so sad. They just wanted to be free. Then, they did the smartest thing anyone could do. They prayed. They cried out to God to deliver them from their awful taskmasters. And God heard their cries and had mercy on them. Now, *(hold hands to ears)* listen to God's plan for getting them free.

God found someone in the wilderness, taking care of sheep. *(Choose child to be shepherd with robe and staff, have a few students get on their knees to be sheep "baa baa" a few times.)*

There he was being a good shepherd, and as he and the flock moved closer to the mountain, something caught his attention. *(Turn on burning bush fan.)* It was a bush that was on fire and the amazing thing was that no matter how long it burned, it did not burn up. He moved closer, and when he did, God called out from the bush, "MOSES, MOSES" and when Moses heard God's voice he said, *(give signal and join in)* "Here am I." And God told him to take off his shoes because the ground he was on was holy. *(Take off your shoes and motion to children to do the same.)*

Oh, this is serious, children. Now Moses could go closer and hear what God had to say to him. God told him that he had heard the cries of His people. He knew of their sadness and He had come to deliver them. That's when God told Moses about the job he had for HIM to do. God chose Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him, "Let my people go, so they can serve Me!" That's just what the people needed, to be free to serve The Lord, but it wasn't going to be easy. God told him Pharaoh would not let the people go. But GOD is bigger and more powerful than Pharaoh and God would show Pharaoh His power. And God told Moses that He would be with him. Moses tried to tell God that he couldn't talk well and he even tried to get out of the job, so God let his brother, Aaron, the priest speak for him. Then, finally, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did what God told them to do. We'll hear the rest of the story after we have our snack.

Snack:

Serve Cheese Puffs and let students poke them into a chunk of soft cheese, refried beans, or peanut butter as they create their own burning bushes to eat. Serve water to drink. As they eat, let children know that when God calls someone to do something for him, he provides what they need to do it. Like when he let Aaron help Moses speak to Pharaoh.

Memory Verse:

Exodus 10:3 Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Have students form a line and walk in a circle repeating, "Let my people go." Place a broom stick length wise, like a railroad crossing bar, in front of the line as there is a space between children. When teacher places the crossing arm down, children line up along it broadside and yell, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Story Part 2:

It went something like this: *(With two paper plates with images, one of Pharaoh and one of Moses and Aaron do the following dialogue. Pass out visuals to students to display at the appropriate time in the story. Have a folded sheet on the floor to represent Egypt, different shapes from paper on the sheet to represent the buildings and crops, blue paper for river, streams, and ponds)*

Hand students objects as you teach to demonstrate story. Explain that the sheet and shapes are Egypt.

Order of Plagues: blood, frogs, lice, flies, murrain, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of first born

Moses and Aaron: God sent me to tell you to let his people go so they can worship Him.

Pharaoh: I don't even know your God and, besides, why aren't YOU at work? You must not have enough work to do, so I'll give you more work. You, slave masters, double the work for these Hebrews.

Moses and Aaron: *(Turn away saying)* Yikes! The people are going to all be mad at us now. We have GOT to talk to God about this again.

God: *(Cup hands and deep voice)* Moses, I know Pharaoh is making it harder on my people, but I charge you and Aaron to go again and tell Pharaoh to LET MY PEOPLE GO, that they may worship me. I'm going to show Pharaoh a thing or two.

(So Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh)

Moses and Aaron: Ok, Pharaoh, look at this wonder! **(Aaron threw his rod down and it became a snake.)** *(Child throws snake (rope) on the floor)*

Pharaoh: Oh, yeah, my magicians can do that. **(And they did, but Aaron's rod ate up all of Pharaoh's magician's rod snakes. So, God told Moses and Aaron to go to the river where Pharaoh was the next morning.)**

Moses and Aaron: God is going to turn the water of the rivers, streams, and ponds to blood, because you are not letting His people go. *(Children bring red paper to put on sheet, switching blue to red)*

Pharaoh: So what, my magicians can do the same thing.

(And they did. And the fish died and the people could not drink the water. A week later Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh again.)

Moses and Aaron: Because you will not let the His people go, God is going to cover the land with frogs. You'll have frogs in your bed, frogs on the people and even frogs in your oven. *(Children get a handful of green torn paper pieces and throw onto the sheet.)*

EXPLAIN TO CHILDREN THAT THEY ARE HELPING WITH THE LESSON, BUT IT WAS GOD WHO DID THE MIRACLES - NO ONE ELSE.

Pharaoh: So what, my magicians can do that.

And they did, but Pharaoh's magicians could not get rid of them. So, Pharaoh told Moses that if he would ask God to get rid of the frogs that he would let God's people go the next day, but after God took the frogs away, Pharaoh changed his mind and did not let God's people go. Then God covered Egypt with lice, then flies, then He made all of the Egyptians' animals sick until they died *(have children take all the brown squares for the animals off the sheet and throw them in the trash)*, then He covered the Egyptians and their animals with huge, painful sores *(have children moan like the hurting Egyptians)*, then he sent hail with fire *(have children throw paper balls onto sheet take off some of the building shapes and throw them in the trash)*, and the land of Egypt was almost completely destroyed, except for their crops. Then The Lord sent grasshoppers that ate the crops *(have children throw bright green paper on the sheet and take the shapes that are crops off sheet)*, and still Pharaoh would not let the people go. So God sent DARKNESS. DARKNESS that you could feel *(put black paper or fabric on top of "Egypt")*, but still Pharaoh would not let God's people go. So, because Pharaoh would not let the people go, he sent the death angel to passover every home in Egypt and the firstborn of every house died. Even Pharaoh's firstborn died . . . and that's when Pharaoh finally said to Moses and God's people, "GO, GO SERVE THE LORD." And they did and they took riches from the Egyptians with them.

Worship:

Let's stand and thank The Lord for His mighty power that caused Pharaoh to let God's people go, and how He helped Moses with the job he had to do. Let's also thank The Lord that we can trust him to help us do the job he calls us to do.

Chore List:

Janitor Joe enters studying a long list of tasks to accomplish.

Janitor Joe: Let's see. Clean the classrooms, empty the trash, wash the sinks, vacuum the hallways. Hmm. . . *(to children)* Would any of you like to help? I could start here in this classroom. *(Teacher and children join in helping Janitor Joe)*

Janitor Joe: *(discovers "Egypt.")* Looks like you all learned about how God showed Pharaoh who was boss. Moses did his part and God caused that hard-hearted Pharaoh to do exactly as Moses said. If we do our part when God calls us, God will be there to do all the rest. See, God sent you to help me right now. Thank you, children, and THANK YOU, JESUS!

Dismissal Prayer:

Gather children in for a closing prayer to help us listen for God's call and do what He wants us to do

Appendix:
Two Bushes for Story prep.:



