

## **GHWC's Virtual**

### **Vacation Bible School 2020**

#### **Unit 4 | Moses Answers the Call | Exodus 3**

#### **New International Version (NIV) - Moses and the Burning Bush**

### **Introduction**

Has God ever spoken to you? Maybe it was through a Scripture, maybe it was in a sermon, or have you heard God's voice in the words of a song or in a blessed assurance in your heart? However you've heard God, or if you are not sure if you've heard God's voice—rest assured that God is speaking to us. God calls to us through Scripture, music, nature, at the Communion Table and in so many ways. God wants our attention! God has something to say! As you read God's call to Moses, watch how God gets Moses' attention. Ask yourself what you would have done if you saw a bush on ablaze in the wilderness. Would you have been surprised? Moses turns aside to see this miraculous appearance and when he does he experiences God—The I Am! May you experience God anew as you read Moses' Call Story.

### **Scripture**

**3** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, <sup>[a]</sup> the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

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<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you<sup>[b]</sup> will worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> 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 shall I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.<sup>[c]</sup> This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD,<sup>[d]</sup> the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation.

<sup>16</sup> "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. <sup>17</sup> And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

<sup>18</sup> "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' <sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. <sup>20</sup> So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

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<sup>21</sup> “And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. <sup>22</sup> Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

Footnotes:

A) Exodus 3:6 Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch (see Acts 7:32) *fathers*

B) Exodus 3:12 The Hebrew is plural.

C) Exodus 3:14 Or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*

D) Exodus 3:15 The Hebrew for *LORD* sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *I AM* in verse 14.

## Questions for Meditation

1) Why is God calling Moses?

2) What does Moses' call tell you about the heart of God?

3) What were Moses' excuses to God?

4) What are some excuses that you have made to God's call to you?

5) What can we learn about God's provision for Moses and for the people of Israel from Moses' story?

*Meditation by Rev. Angela Ford Nelson | see [www.angelaforndelson.com/resources](http://www.angelaforndelson.com/resources) for more*

## Parents Connect

**Bible Story:** God Spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:1-17; 4:1-5, 18-20)

**Bible Phrase:** "I will certainly be with you" (Exodus 3:12a).

**Bible Truth:** The Lord God is a great and powerful God.



## God's Unfolding Story



1. God created everything.



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



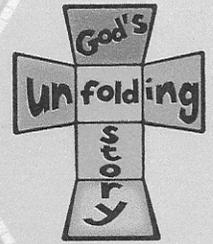
4. God sent Jesus to help us.



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.



## Unfolding God's Story for Parents

God got Moses' attention with powerful signs that only God could perform. Today you can explain that the voice of God came from a burning bush. God showed His power by changing Moses' staff into a snake and then back into a staff. Share with your preschooler the awesome power of God. Ask, "What happens when something burns?" (It turns into smoke and ashes.)

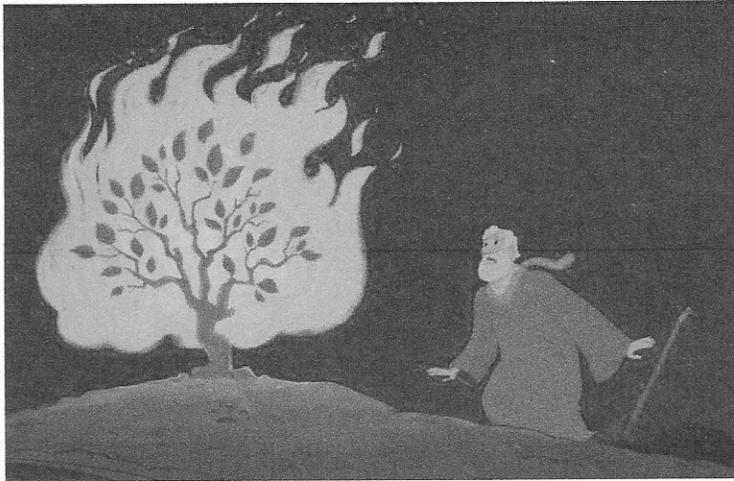
Say, "Today we have a story of how God spoke to Moses through a bush that was on fire but didn't burn up!" Just as God had things for Moses to do, He has things for us to do today. Pray together, thanking God for His powerful guidance.

Tell the story.

### Bible Story God Spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:1-17; 4:1-5, 18-20)

Moses lived in a place called Midian. He worked as a shepherd, caring for his father-in-law's sheep. One day as Moses was watching the sheep, he noticed something very strange—a bush that was on fire but not burning up! Moses was curious about the bush, so he went over to look. As Moses got closer to the bush, he heard his name being called, "Moses, Moses." "Here I am," he answered. The voice said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because the place you are standing on is holy." The voice said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses listened but was afraid to look at the bush.

God said, "Moses, I have seen how badly Pharaoh is treating My people. They are suffering greatly. I have heard their prayers. I have come to rescue My people from the Egyptians." God told Moses He wanted to bring His people



out of Egypt and into a good land where they could be happy.

Then God said something Moses didn't expect to hear. God said, "Moses, I am sending you to Pharaoh to help lead my people out of Egypt."

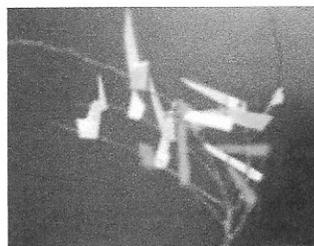
Moses was unsure about this job that God was asking him to do. God told him, "I will certainly be with you." Then Moses said, "Whom do I tell them has sent me?"

Then God said, "Tell them that I AM has sent you. Say that Yahweh, that the God of your fathers has sent you. This is my name forever."

Moses still did not think he could do what God was asking. Moses had another question for God—"What if they don't believe me?" God told Moses to throw down his shepherd's staff. So Moses threw down his staff, and suddenly it turned into a snake! Then God said, "Pick up the snake by the tail." So Moses grabbed the snake by the tail, and suddenly it turned back into a staff. Moses knew that God was a powerful God!

Moses continued to talk with God, and he finally agreed to go to Pharaoh. Moses took his wife and family and began their long journey to Egypt. Moses also took God's staff in his hand. He knew that God would be with him.

## Activity Suggestion



Make a model burning bush using a small branch from a bush or tree, some clay for a base, yellow and red paper, and glue. After trimming a small branch anchor it by placing the trunk in a wad of playdough or even in a flower pot of dirt. Clip flame shapes from

colored paper, tissue paper, or magazines. Glue the strips to the branches to make them look like flames.



God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

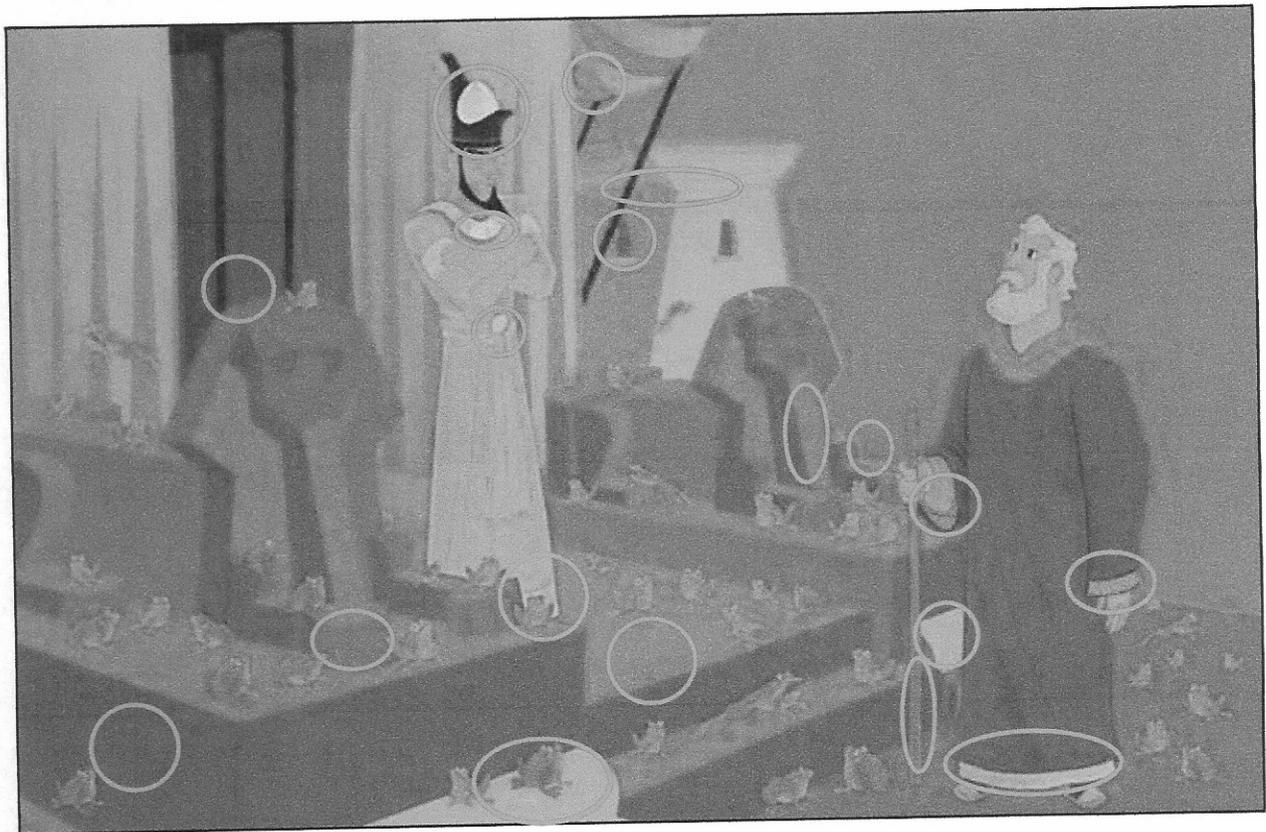
# Spot the Differences: God Showed His Power to Pharaoh

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 19 things that are different.



# Spot the Differences: God Showed His Power to Pharaoh

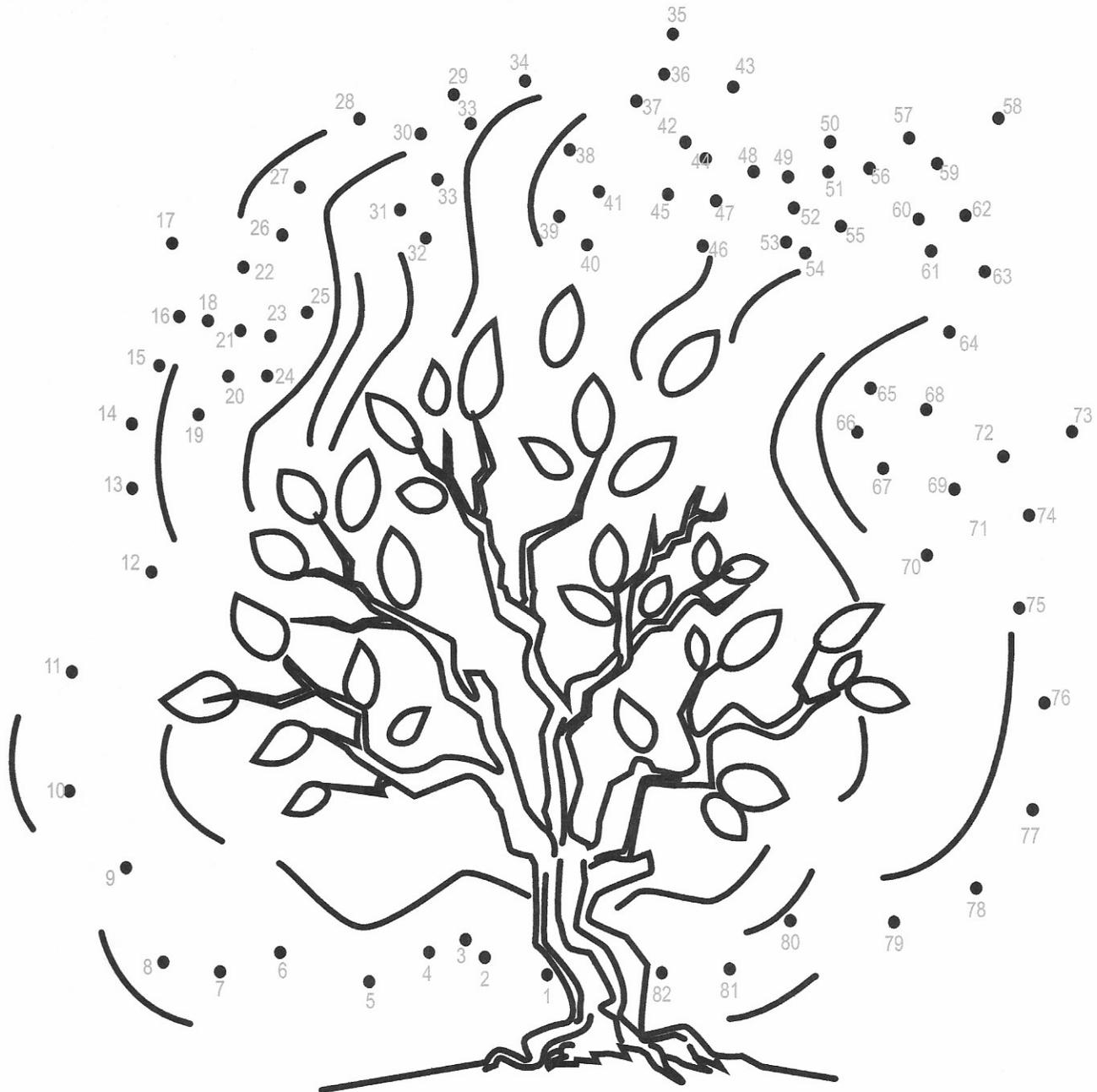
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# God Spoke to Moses

## Connect the Dots and Coloring Page

Start at the number 1 dot and connect the next higher numbered dot until all are connected. Color the page after you've revealed the picture!



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