

D30. The Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11-4:17

Memory Verse

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

--Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Bible Lesson

Message:

God will help you.

Please Note: Due to the different biblical translations, different words or "titles" are used. For example, some translations will say "King of Egypt" while others will say "Pharaoh". Another example: "rod" is the same as "wooden staff" and in some translations it even says "walking stick." Please help the children understand that in such cases, these are one and the same.

Moses grew up in the house of the Pharaoh (or the King of Egypt), but he knew he was not an Egyptian. Moses was an Israelite. One day when he was all grown up, he saw an Israelite being hurt by an Egyptian. Moses took the life of the Egyptian, and then ran away from Egypt because he was ashamed of what he did, and he was also afraid for his own life. The King had also heard about what Moses had done and in turn tried to take Moses' life. So Moses ran away from the King and went to live in the land of Median. There was a priest in Midian who had seven daughters. His name was Jethro. Moses saw the daughters trying to get water for their father's sheep one day, but some shepherds came and chased the girls away. Moses defended the girls, and was able to get water for their sheep. When the girls came home early, their father asked why. They told their father what happened, and that Egyptian had defended them. Jethro told the girls to find Moses and invite him to eat with them. Moses agreed to stay with Jethro. He married one of the daughters, Zipporah, and together they had a baby boy, named Gershom.

In the meantime, the King of Egypt died. The people of Israel (the Israelites) had to work very hard and they cried to God for help. God remembered the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and He was very concerned over the Israelites.

One day, Moses was taking care of Jethro's sheep. Moses led the sheep to the west side of the desert, and to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire that was coming out of a bush. Moses saw the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up. So Moses wanted to take a closer look at this strange thing. The Lord saw Moses was coming to look at the bush, so God called to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Then God said to him, "Don't come any closer. Take off your shoes (sandals) because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

God said: "I have seen the troubles my people have suffered in Egypt and I have heard their cries. I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them out of that land and lead them to a land with lots of room and where much food grows. I am sending you to the King of Egypt. Go and bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses spoke to God, "I am not a great man! Why should I be the one to go the King and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" But God told Moses that He would be with him. God said, "I will be with you. This will be



the proof that I am sending you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the people of Israel. Suppose I say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Suppose they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.** Here is what you must say to the Israelites. Tell them, '**I AM** has sent me to you. Tell them the Lord God of your fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and the God of Jacob has sent me to you.' My name will forever be 'The Lord'. Remember me by that name for all time to come."

Then God told Moses to go and gather the older leaders and tell them the God has appeared to you and has sent you to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan, where there is much food.

God told Moses that He knew that the King of Egypt would not let the people go, and that only a mighty hand could make him do that. God promised to make all kinds of miracles happen, and then the King (or Pharaoh) would let the people go.

God told Moses: "I will cause the Egyptians to treat you in a kind way. Then when you leave, you will not go out with your hands empty. Every woman should ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles made out of silver and gold. Ask them for clothes too. Put them on your children. In that way, you will take the wealth of Egypt along with you."

Then Moses answered God, "What if the elders of Israel won't believe me? What if they won't listen to me? Suppose they say, 'The Lord didn't appear to you.' Then what should I do?" The Lord said to him, "What do you have in your hand?"

"A wooden staff (or rod or walking stick)," he said. The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." So Moses threw it on the ground. It turned into a snake. He ran away from it. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach your hand out. Take the snake by the tail." So he reached out and grabbed hold of the snake. It turned back into a wooden staff in his hand. The Lord said, "When they see this miraculous sign, they will believe that I appeared to you. I am the God of their fathers. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob."

Then the Lord said, "Put your hand inside your coat." So Moses put his hand inside his coat. When he took it out, it was as white as snow. It was covered with a skin disease. "Now put it back into your coat," the Lord said. So Moses put his hand back into his coat. When he took it out, the skin was healthy again. His hand was like the rest of his skin. Then the Lord said, "Suppose they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miracle. Then maybe they will believe the second one.

"But suppose they do not believe either miracle. Suppose they will not listen to you. Then get some water from the Nile River. Pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will turn to blood on the ground."

Moses spoke to the Lord. He said, "Lord, I've never been a good speaker. And I haven't gotten any better since you spoke to me. I don't speak very well at all."

The Lord said to him, "Who makes a man able to talk? Who makes him unable to hear or speak? Who makes him able to see? Who makes him blind? It is I, the Lord. Now go. I will help you speak. I will teach you what to say." But Moses said, "Lord, please send someone else to do it."

Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses. He said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you. He will be glad to see you. ¹⁵ Speak to him. Put your words in his mouth. Tell him what to say. I will help both of you speak. I will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you. He will be like your mouth. And you will be like God to him. "But take this wooden staff in your hand. You will be able to do miraculous signs with it."



Talk About It

In today's story, Moses was asked by God to lead the people of Israel to the land God had promised for them. But Moses did not think he was good enough to handle the task before him and he was afraid.

Talk with your child about a time when you may have had something really hard to do but were afraid to do it. Perhaps you had to speak in front of a large group of people one time (or even a small one). Maybe you felt just like Moses, that you weren't good enough or that someone else was able to do things better than you. Maybe you were afraid of what others would think or that they may even laugh at you.

Ask your child if he has ever felt that way about something. Then remind your child about today's story, when God sent Aaron to speak for Moses when Moses felt that he could not do it himself. Moses did not have to be afraid anymore. We do not have to be afraid either! Talk together about how we can always turn to God for help. We trust that God will make our circumstances change, or He will provide the strength we need to do what we must! Either way, we never need to be afraid because God will help us! Talk about it.