

# LESSON 21: MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

## Teaching Focus



- ◆ Moses was a hero of the Old Testament.
- ◆ God spoke to the people through Moses.
- ◆ Moses prepared the Hebrew people for the coming of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Like Moses, we are all called to serve God in a special way.

## Learning Outcomes

*In this lesson students will:*



- ◆ listen and respond creatively to the story of *Moses and the Burning Bush*;
- ◆ identify people who they consider listen to God's voice;
- ◆ suggest ways that they can listen to God's voice.

## Catechism of the Catholic Church



**62:** After the patriarchs, God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt. He established with them the covenant of Mount Sinai and, through Moses, gave them his law so that they would recognise him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Saviour.

## Scripture



### ◆ Exodus 3:1-6

*Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up ... and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said, 'The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.*

## Resources

*The following resources are highly recommended for the effective teaching of this lesson:*



- ◆ Bible, cloth;
- ◆ Literature: **Moses, The Burning Bush**, KWL Big Book;
- ◆ Literature: **Mighty Men of God**, Look Listen and Live, Book 2;
- ◆ Pictures or 3D materials: sand, desert, mountain, Moses and his flock, bush.

**Opening Prayer: Our Father or other suitable prayer**



**STEP 1:**

**Telling the Story**



**15 Minutes**

Settle the students so that they are seated close by you and recall the previous lesson, *Joseph And His Brothers*, by asking students to re-tell the story. Explain to the students that they are going to hear another story from the Bible about Moses. Students may remember the story of Baby Moses, which was covered in Kindergarten.

Ask the students to tell of a time they were chosen to do something special. Ask for volunteers to tell how they felt.

Explain to the students that they are going to hear how Moses was chosen by God to do something special. Then tell the story of 'Moses and the Burning Bush' using one of the following options.

A Read *The Burning Bush*, *KWL Big Book*, *Moses* pp. 14-19.

OR

B Use the story script *The Burning Bush* provided with this lesson.

**STEP 2:**

**Reflecting on the story "I wonder ..."**



**3 Minutes**

Help the students reflect on the previous activity and relate it to their lives. The following questions are intended to help the students explore the theme, evoke wonder and stimulate their religious imaginations. Generally, a variety of responses to the "I wonder ..." reflections should be encouraged.

I wonder ...

- how Moses felt when he saw the burning bush
- what it was like to speak to God
- why God wanted to save/free the Israelites
- why God chose Moses
- what it is like to be chosen to do something special
- if you have ever been chosen for something special



**STEP 3:**

**Proclaiming the Word**



**2 Minutes**

Settle the students around the Prayer Place. You could have a Bible and a picture of Moses as a focus point. Then read the following:

*God said, "Moses! Go to the Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go!" Moses was afraid. But God said, "I have chosen you and I shall be with you."*

**STEP 4:****Response****10 Minutes**

Explore the students' understanding of *Moses and the Burning Bush*.

- A** Direct the students to their **Activity Books** and ask them to imagine how Moses felt as he saw the burning bush. As a class read the descriptions of what each child is doing and then ask the students to tick those who are listening to God.

**OR**

- B** Distribute a copy of the **Lesson Worksheet**. Ask the students to complete the puzzle and discover what Moses learnt when he was in front of the burning bush.

**OR**

- C** Assist the students to role play a sequence of scenes to retell the story. Choose students for each of the following scenes:

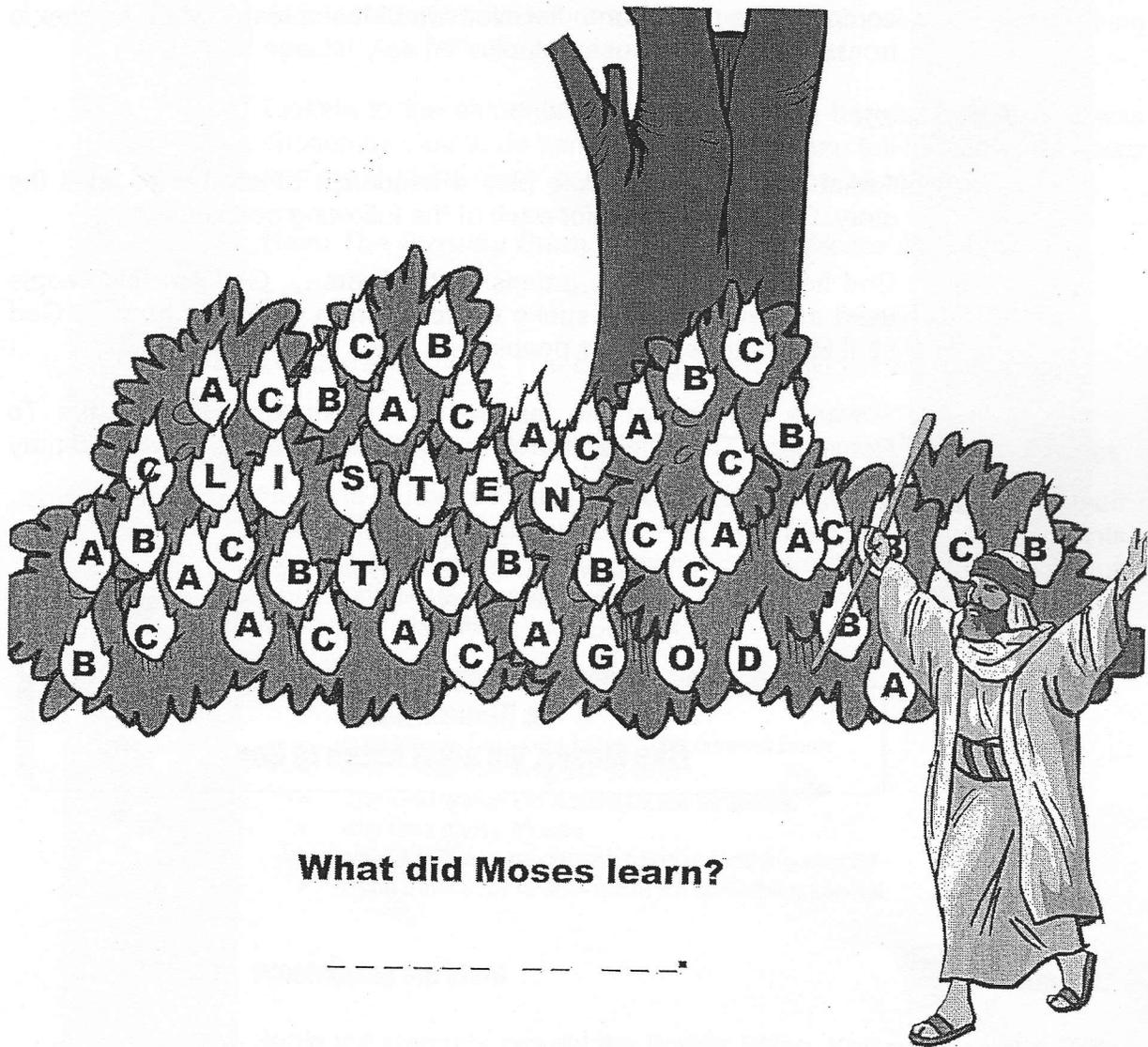
God heard his people's groans and prayers ... God saw his people used as slaves ... God spoke to Moses from a burning bush ... God sent Moses to rescue his people ...

Towards the end of the lesson ask the students to read the *To Remember*. Then invite them to make the Sign of the Cross and pray with you.

*Dear God,  
help me always to hear your voice.  
Help me to always make the right choice.  
Amen.*

**To Remember:  
Like Moses, we must listen to God.**

Look at the burning bush carefully,  
and you will find an important message.  
To find the message colour each A, B, C red  
and leave all other letters white.



# MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

KWL Big Book, Moses, 'The Burning Bush'  
(Exodus 3:1-12)

## YOU WILL NEED

- 3D figures of Moses, a few sheep, a small bush
- A sandbox to represent the desert. (You might create a sandcastle to represent a mountain.)
- Bible

*Children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story. When the children are settled, go to the shelf and carry the materials as you would the Bible. Place these beside you.*

*Begin by introducing the Bible as the source for the story. For example:*

This story comes from our special book, the Bible. The stories in this book are very important. We know the story will tell us something about God and God's people.

*Lay the Bible in view in a special place: the prayer space or on a cloth beside the story space. Comment on the desert and how dangerous it is.*

*Create a small mountain out of sand.*

*Add Moses and his flock. Move them towards the mountain.*

One day Moses was looking after a flock of sheep and goats that belonged to Jethro, his father-in-law. Moses led the flock into the wilderness near Mount Horeb.

*Place the bush on the mountain.*

On top of the mountain he saw a burning bush, but the branches were not burning up. "I must go and look at this strange sight," Moses said to himself.

*Move Moses up the mountain.*

As Moses came closer to the burning bush he heard a voice calling to him, "Moses, Moses!"

"Here I am", he answered. "Do not come closer. Take off your shoes; you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors; the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Rebecca, the God of Jacob and Rachael". Moses covered his face. He was afraid to look at God.

*Put your hands over your face.*

God spoke to Moses, "I have seen the suffering of the Israelites in the land of Egypt. I want to lead them into a land of freedom, and save them from slavery and suffering."

*Point to the distance.*

God continued, "Moses! Go to the Pharaoh and tell him to let Israel go. Tell him the Lord God commands him to 'Let my people go!'"

Moses was still afraid. He asked God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt? This task needs a powerful and strong leader."  
But God said to Moses, "I have chosen you, and I shall be with you."

*Move Moses to face the children.*

Moses began to get ready for the great task that God had called him to do. Moses became one of the greatest leaders of God's people.

*Carefully pack story materials into storage box and put on shelf. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.*

