

Rhythms of Grace • October Year 2

Theme: Moses II- Chosen by God to save the family of Abraham
Scripture: Exodus 3:1-4:17
Date: _____
Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:
Facilitator _____
Storyteller _____
Celebrant _____
Center Leader _____
Guide _____

Items Needed for this Session

Gathering: An artificial plant to serve as the burning bush or cut a tree branch and place in a bucket of sand; pieces of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper, string or yarn. Another option: cut a bush from cardboard and cut holes to insert the tissue paper.

Storytelling: story cards, bush from Gathering, Jesus Doll, Bible, a staff

Responses:

Finger Paint Burning Bush: An outline of a bush on finger painting paper. Condensed milk, washable orange, red, yellow paint, paper towels, water and a cloth for floor.

Sand Box with snakes & staffs: small toy snakes, wooden staffs made out of tree branches, sand box and sand.

Follow the Path to the Burning Bush: foam squares of many colors plus multiples of orange or red.

Finger mazes: mazes (see resources)

Regathering: *Jesu, Jesu*, “What’s Missing?” game, elements: - a small bush, a snake, a staff, a sandal or a sheep and a drawing of all the items, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist)

Eucharist: Eucharist prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99), Bible, Jesus doll, altar table, and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Session Plan • Moses II • October Yr. 2

Gathering: Cut tissue paper into squares (8X8). Have participants tie the tissue paper onto the branches of the bush or the tree branch to make the burning bush. If using a cardboard shape cut holes in the cardboard to insert the tissue paper.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, bush from gathering and story cards; see story

Response Activities:

Finger Paint Burning Bush: Draw an outline of a bush on finger painting paper. Mix condensed milk with washable paint colors of orange, red, yellow paint. Participants use mixture to finger-paint make “fire” on the bushes. Have paper towels and water handy and a cloth for floor.

Sand box of Snakes and Staffs: Hide the snakes and staffs in the sand. Have participants find them and retell the story.

Follow the Path to the Burning Bush:

Place the foam squares on the floor using the orange or red pieces to form a path through the maze to the other side. Place bush at the end of the maze.

Finger Mazes: Using the mazes supplied find and trace the path to the burning bush

Regathering: Play, “What is Missing?” Place three key items from the story- a small bush, a snake, a staff, a sandal or a sheep- on the floor. Have all close their eyes and take away one item. See who can guess what’s missing. Singing *Jesu, Jesu* participants bring Eucharistic elements to the celebrant then sit in a circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: *Sing: Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Love Me*.

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: “Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.”

Participants: “Thanks be to God!”

Story Telling • Moses II • October Yr. 2

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller.

Today's Storytelling uses the three Story Cards for this session found at the end of this worship

1. *Moses as a shepherd*
2. *Sees the burning bush*
3. *Questions God about his leadership*
4. *Changes staff to snake and back*
5. *Mets brother Aaron on return to Egypt*

Our story today is from our Bible (*show Bible*), our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

Today's story comes from the part of our Bible before Jesus was born. It is called the Old Testament. This is a long story about a very special man who listened to God and did what God asked him to do (even though at first he was afraid). This story is so long...we heard about Moses as a baby last month. Next month we tell you more and today we are going to hear about how God called Moses to help his people, the family of Abraham, who were slaves in Egypt.

Moses grew up thinking he was a prince of Egypt, maybe the next Pharaoh (remember the Pharaoh was like a king). He found out though, when he was a young man that he was actually the son of his nurse who was from the family of Abraham and a slave. He saw how the Egyptians treated the family of Abraham and one day he saw a soldier whipping a slave. He got so angry he killed the soldier. He had to run away, far away, into the desert. He traveled many, many days in the desert and almost died. Finally, he came upon a well and there he met and married the daughter of a shepherd named Jethro. For many years he lived with Jethro and his family, raised sheep and was content. But God had a plan for Moses.....

As he was tending to his flock of sheep on the mountain of Horeb, he saw a bush which glowed in the distance (*show card #1*). He had to find out what it was so he walked to the bush. He was shocked to see it was burning but it was not destroyed. All of a sudden he heard a voice that said, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," the Voice said. "Take off your sandals, you are standing on holy ground. (*have your participants take off their shoes if they are able*) (*show card #2*)

I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob and of Joseph."

The Lord said, “I have seen how cruelly the Egyptians treat the people and the time has come for me to rescue them. I will bring them back to the land I promised so long ago. It is a lovely land, with plenty of water for crops.

Go now, Moses. I am sending you to Pharaoh and to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

Moses said. “Who am I? I’m not important enough to tell Pharaoh he should let our people leave Egypt.” (*show card #3*)

God’s answer to Moses was simple. “I will be with you.”

But Moses argued, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"

Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

(*Using dramatic hand motions and showing card # 4*)

The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

Moses began to travel back to Egypt. On his way back he met his brother Aaron who had come to meet him and to be his helper. (*show card #5*) Our story ends here today, but, next month Moses returns to Egypt and demands that the Pharaoh “Let My People Go.” (Does he?)

Amen!

(*After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes on to explain the activities of the day.*)