



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for June 7, 2009
Released on June 4, 2009

"Standing on Holy Ground"

Lesson Text: Exodus 3:1–12.

Background Scripture: Exodus 2:23–3:12.

Memory Verse: "I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10).

Exodus 3:1–12

1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the back side of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Moses was an Israelite, but he had been reared in Egypt by the daughter of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. Moses had killed an Egyptian in a misguided attempt to free his people from Egyptian bondage and had fled to Midian. At the beginning of this week's lesson, Moses was tending sheep belonging to his father-in-law, a Midianite. It is there that God called him to deliver His people—this time in God's way.

The Midianites were related to the Israelites, descended from Abraham and Keturah, the wife he married after the death of Sarah. Abraham undoubtedly passed down to them the knowledge of the true and living God; so the priest of Midian may very well have been a priest of God of an ancient order, similar to Melchizedek (cf. Gen. 14:18-20). This is confirmed by the fact that the Bible speaks of Horeb as "the mountain of God" (Exod. 3:1).

God had a special and challenging assignment for Moses; so He did several things to get Moses' attention and to make sure He held it. God set a special fire in an apparently out-of-the-way bush so that it caught Moses' eye and he was induced to turn aside to see it.

Looking at the bush, he began to ponder why it continued to burn without being totally consumed. Already Moses must have known that something supernatural was going on. Once Moses was clearly listening, God spoke to him from the midst of the bush.

Then came practical considerations that also helped reinforce Moses' awareness that he was hearing from the Almighty. He was not to go near the bush. He was to remove his sandals in recognition that even the ground where God meets with man is holy. At that point God directly identified Himself as being the God of Moses' forefather Abraham and also the God of his ancestors Isaac and Jacob. Moses' reaction was fear.

God assured Moses that He had heard the cries of His people and had seen their affliction. Before God told Moses of his part, He announced that He, God Himself, had come to deliver them.

If Moses was glad to hear that, his attitude changed when God told him, "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt" (Exod. 3:10). God would deliver them, but He would do so through Moses. Moses protested, but God did not relent. He assured Moses that He would be with him in the challenge.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Encourage the children to listen to God's voice speaking in His Word and in their conscience and as they pray.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** God spoke to Moses, and he did what God told him to do.
- 2.** God speaks to us as we read or listen to His Word or hear it preached and sometimes in our conscience and as we pray.
- 3.** We will hear God better if we are listening with hearts that are willing to obey.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson and Telling the Lesson, make a sign that says Listen to God.

For Telling How to Live, make or bring pictures of an open Bible, a child praying (or praying hands), and a heart.

For Helping to Remember, bring construction paper in appropriate skin tones, markers, and scissors.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Ken's mother stood in the door and asked him to pick up his toys and get ready for dinner. Ken did not hear her. He was too busy playing with his train set. His mother came closer and spoke louder. Still Ken did not hear. He was imagining that his train was climbing over a mountain. At last his mother stood right in front of him. She stooped down and held Ken's face between her hands. "Ken!" She was almost shouting. At last Ken looked up. Now at last he was listening.

Sometimes we do not hear God because we are not listening to Him. (Teacher, show the sign that says Listen to God. Have the children repeat it, clapping their hands.) God had something very important to say to Moses, and He did not want Moses to miss it. Before God would speak to Moses, He had to make sure he was listening.

TELLING THE LESSON

Moses was one of God's people, the people of Israel. His people had become slaves in Egypt. They had been praying to God to get them out of that place and out of slavery.

Moses had grown up in Egypt, but as a young man he got in some trouble and had to go away. He went to a land called Midian and to a group of people who were related to his people. Moses got married while he was living in Midian. His job was to take care of the sheep that belonged to his wife's father. He was out in the desert doing that when God spoke to him.

Before God would speak, what did He have to make sure Moses was doing? Yes, He had to make sure Moses was listening. So God made something very unusual happen. God set a bush on fire. But it was not a regular fire. The bush kept burning but did not burn up.

Moses noticed the bush burning. He went to look at it, trying to figure out why it did not burn up. Then God had his attention. He was listening. (Again show the Listen to God sign, and have the children repeat it rhythmically.)

God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. God called his name: "Moses, Moses!" Moses was listening. "Here I am," he said.

Moses might have been getting closer to look at the bush, but he was not to do that. God told him not to come near the bush. He was also to take off his sandals. Because God was there, even the ground Moses was standing on was holy. As he took off his sandals and stood barefoot, he was getting ready to listen to God's voice.

Then God told Moses clearly who He was. He was the God of his ancestors—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Surely Moses knew how God had spoken to Abraham and to his son Isaac and to his grandson Jacob. Moses must have known that God was also going to speak to him. Moses was afraid to look at God. He hid his face.

Now that Moses was really listening, God spoke to him. God told

Moses that He had heard the cries of His people, who were in slavery in Egypt. He had seen their suffering. He had now come to set them free and to lead them to a new land—a good land where there was food in abundance. That land now belonged to others, but God was going to give it to His people.

God said He was going to use Moses to free His people. Moses was not so sure about that. After all, who was he to do this great work?

God promised that Moses would not have to do it alone. God would surely be with Moses in the work.

God promised that after Moses had freed the people, he would come back to that very mountain again. He would worship God there.

Moses listened to God, and what amazing plans God showed to him!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

What amazing plans might God have for your life? Some things are sure. God plans for you to believe in Jesus as your Saviour. He plans for you to obey what He

has already told you in His Word, the Bible. (Teacher, show the picture of an open Bible.) If you want to hear from God, you first of all must be paying attention to His Word. You can do that by reading it and by listening as others read it, teach it, and preach it.

As you listen to God and obey what you know, God will show you more and more of His plan for your life. He often does this as you pray. (Show the picture of a child praying or praying hands.) As you pray, He might put in your mind a picture of something He wants you to do. You might see yourself going to visit someone or calling someone or helping someone.

God also shows you what to do in your conscience, or your heart. (Teacher, show the picture of a heart.) He might just put in your heart what to say or do. Exciting things happen when you listen to God and when you are willing to obey what He tells you to do. I challenge you to listen to God this week and to do what He tells you to do.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Give each child a piece of construction paper, and let him draw a big ear on it. Under the ear, have him copy the words "Listen to God." Let him cut out the ear, leaving the words attached.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10).

This verse tells us what God told Moses to do when Moses was listening to Him. God was sending Moses to speak to Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. He was to bring God's people out of Egypt and put an end to their slavery there. God had a big, important job for Moses to do. God showed him what it was when he was listening. God will always show us what to do when we are listening to Him with hearts that want to obey.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for providing all we need to serve You. Help us to accept Your call without making excuses. Help us to trust in You and to be strong, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Answering God's Call.**" A fruitful land awaited God's people, but first God would help Moses lead them out of slavery in Egypt. Study Exodus 4:10-16, 27-31.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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Standing on Holy Ground (Exodus 3:1-12)

S V E F D R O L X S G M B Z Q
E E J L E A R S I R A O W V H
C O R D R P Y B O H C D L Y T
D L G V A C I U A A M I L K M
N F C J E R N R J E G Y P T I
D O H A P D B P H A R A O H D
H E I L P A T S C R L I T O I
S B L T A N M Y E J O O F N A
U C R I C U O Z V S K I Y E N
B A J S V I G I U E O L E Y W
V A M U I E L S N I O M B I S
Q S S N D U R F B H I M P J T
Q I E E V C R B F J X C O T G
R E A M N N M A Z A J Z S N E
O C K A X D R F C F H V B I B

ABRAHAM
BUSH
FIRE
HONEY
JACOB
MILK
SEND

AFFLICTION
DELIVER
GROUND
ISAAC
LORD
MOSES
SERVE

APPEARED
EGYPT
HOLY
ISRAEL
MIDIAN
PHARAOH
TOKEN

Standing on Holy Ground Solution (Exodus 3:1-12)

S + + + D R O L + + G M B + +
+ E + L E A R S I R A O + + +
+ + R + R + + + O H C + + + +
+ + + V A + + U A A M I L K M
N + + + E + N R J E G Y P T I
D O + + P D B P H A R A O H D
H E I + P A + S + + + I T O I
S + L T A + + + E + + O F N A
U C + I C + + + + S K + Y E N
B A + + V I + + + E O L + Y +
+ A + + + E L + N + O M + + +
+ S S + + + R F + H + + + + +
+ I + E + + + + F + + + + + +
+ + + + N + + + + A + + + + +
+ + + + + D + + + + + + + + +

(Over,Down,Direction)
ABRAHAM(6,7,NE)
AFFLICTION(10,14,NW)
APPEARED(5,8,N)
BUSH(1,10,N)
DELIVER(1,6,SE)
EGYPT(10,5,E)
FIRE(13,8,NW)
GROUND(11,1,SW)
HOLY(10,12,NE)
HONEY(14,6,S)
ISAAC(2,13,N)
ISRAEL(9,2,W)
JACOB(9,5,NE)
LORD(8,1,W)
MIDIAN(15,4,S)
MILK(11,4,E)
MOSES(12,11,NW)
PHARAOH(8,6,E)
SEND(3,12,SE)
SERVE(1,1,SE)
TOKEN(13,7,SW)

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