

# God Calls Moses

---

Sunday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3–4

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 3:12

OPTIONAL VIDEO

The Prince of Egypt — God Speaks to Moses

<https://southside.cc/406-280>

---

*God goes with the people he calls.*

## For the Teacher

Read this before you teach. Last week the kids learned that God heard his people because he keeps his promises. Today they find out *how* God answered. He didn't send a king or a soldier. He sent an eighty-year-old shepherd who didn't want the job.

### KEY TRUTH

God goes with the people he calls.

**The story keeps rolling.** Last week ended with God hearing, remembering, seeing, and knowing. Today we see what that looks like in action: God shows up to a man named Moses, in the back of the desert, and says, "Go." This is the same God doing the same thing — keeping his covenant with Abraham — but now we see his rescue plan up close.

**Moses is the wrong man.** That's the point. He's not a powerful prince anymore — he's a runaway who killed an Egyptian and has spent forty years tending sheep in Midian. He's eighty years old. He gives God four separate excuses (Exodus 3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10) and God answers every one of them. Notice that God doesn't argue with the excuses — he doesn't tell Moses he's actually qualified. He just keeps saying, "I will be with you." That is the lesson.

**"I AM WHO I AM" is load-bearing.** When Moses asks God's name in Exodus 3:13–14, God answers with a name that means "I exist" or "I will be what I will be" — the personal name that becomes "the LORD" (Yahweh) in our English Bibles. Don't get tangled in Hebrew with the kids. The point they need: the God who is calling Moses is the God who *is* — the God who was there with Abraham, is here in the desert, and will be there in Egypt. He doesn't change.

**What we're skipping and why.** Exodus 4:24–26 is the strange incident where God almost kills Moses on the road and Zipporah circumcises their son. Skip it. Also skim past most of chapter 4 verses 13–17 — God's anger at Moses' last excuse and the Aaron arrangement get one mention; don't dwell.

**Repeat the bottom line all morning.** Say it at least six times. Have the kids say it back. Write it on the board. End with it.

### MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Pencils, crayons or colored pencils
- Index cards
- A sandal or shoe (for the object lesson moment in The Story)
- Activity sheets (printed in advance from this week's activities — pick what you'll use)

## 1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. If anyone is new this week, give them a one-sentence catch-up: God's people were slaves in Egypt and God heard them crying out. Then ask:

### ASK

*Has anyone ever been asked to do something and your first thought was "I can't do that"?*

Let two or three kids share — a sport, a school presentation, a chore, anything. Then tell them: today in the Bible, a man named Moses says that exact thing to God — and we're going to find out what God says back.

Write the bottom line on the board:

SAY

*God goes with the people he calls.*

## 2. The Story

### Setting the Stage

Tell them, in your own words: last week we left God's people crying out in Egypt. Now we meet a man named Moses. Moses was born a Hebrew slave, but his mother hid him in a basket on the river so Pharaoh's soldiers wouldn't kill him — Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him in the palace. So Moses grew up as a prince in Egypt, even though he was really a Hebrew.

When Moses was a grown man, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his own people. He got so angry he killed the Egyptian. Then he ran for his life — all the way to a place called Midian. He got married. He became a shepherd. And forty years went by.

By the time today's story starts, Moses is eighty years old. He's not a prince. He's not a soldier. He's a tired old shepherd in the desert. And that's where God shows up.

### Reading the Text

Have everyone open to Exodus 3. Pick a confident reader for the first section.

#### Exodus 3:1–6

Pause after the reading. This is a moment.

#### DISCUSSION

1. What did Moses see?

→ *A bush on fire that wasn't burning up.*

2. When God spoke, what did he tell Moses to do with his sandals? Why?

→ *Take them off — the ground was holy. God was right there. When God's people met him, they took their shoes off out of respect.*

3. How did Moses react when God said his name?

→ *He hid his face. He was afraid to look at God.*

If you brought a sandal, hold it up here. Tell them: when God showed up, Moses didn't argue, didn't run — he took off his sandals. That's what it looks like to know who you're standing in front of.

### What God Tells Moses to Do

#### Exodus 3:7–10

These verses do something familiar. Stop after each one and watch for it.

#### DISCUSSION

1. In verse 7, what has God *seen*?

→ *His people's misery in Egypt.*

2. In verse 7 again, what has God *heard*?

→ *Their crying out.*

3. In verse 8, what is God going to *do*?

## DISCUSSION

→ *Come down and rescue them.*

4. In verse 10, who is God sending?

→ *Moses.*

If the kids remember last week's four verbs (heard, remembered, saw, knew), light up. The same God who heard last week is the God who acts this week — and his way of acting is to send Moses.

**Moses' Four Excuses**

This is the heart of the lesson. Slow down.

Tell the kids: Moses gave God four different reasons he couldn't do the job. Every time, God answered. We're going to read all four.

**Excuse 1 — "Who am I?"**

**Exodus 3:11-12**

## ASK

*What did God say back?*

Write on the board: **"I will be with you."**

**Excuse 2 — "What's your name?"**

**Exodus 3:13-14**

God's answer here is the most important name in the whole Bible. He says, *"I AM WHO I AM."* Tell the kids that means God doesn't depend on anyone else. He just *is*. He always has been. He always will be. The same God who was with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob is the God right here talking to Moses.

**Excuse 3 — "What if they don't believe me?"**

**Exodus 4:1-5**

## ASK

*What did God turn Moses' staff into?*

*A snake — and then back into a staff. God gave Moses signs to show the people that God really sent him.*

**Excuse 4 — "I'm not a good speaker."**

**Exodus 4:10-12**

## ASK

*What did God promise about Moses' mouth?*

*"I will help you speak and teach you what to say."*

**What All Four Answers Have in Common**

Pause. Look at the board. Then tell the kids: every one of God's answers points the same direction. Moses said, "I'm not enough." God never said, "Yes you are." He said, "I will be with you." God didn't call Moses because Moses was qualified. He called Moses, and then he went with him.

### 3. The Point

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

**SAY**

*God goes with the people he calls.*

#### The Memory Verse

Have everyone turn to Exodus 3:12. Read it together:

**SCRIPTURE**

*Exodus 3:12*

*I will be with you.*

Read it together three ways: all together normally, all together in a whisper, then have each kid say it once with their hand on their own shoulder (a reminder God is *with* them).

Then tell them: five words. Whenever they feel like they can't do something, those five words are God's answer. He doesn't promise it'll be easy. He promises he'll be there.

#### What God Calls Us To

Tell the kids: God called Moses to a huge job — going to Pharaoh. He calls us to smaller jobs every day, but he goes with us in the same way.

**ASK**

*What's something hard God might be calling you to do this week?*

Let a few kids share. Examples to draw out: telling the truth when it's scary, being kind to someone who isn't their friend, forgiving someone, praying for a hurting friend, doing the right thing when no one's watching.

#### The Index Cards

Hand out index cards. Have each kid write or draw one thing they feel called to do this week — something they think God might be asking of them. Tell them they don't have to share, but they should keep the card with their Bible at home.

**NOTE**

While they write, walk around. If a kid is stuck, help them name one specific thing — not "be good" but "tell my brother I'm sorry."

#### Closing Prayer

**PRAY**

*God, you called Moses when he didn't feel ready, and you went with him every step. Thank you for being the kind of God who shows up, calls his people, and goes with them. Help these kids hear when you're calling them this week, and remind them that you go with them. Amen.*

### 4. The Work

Pick one or more activities from this week's menu. Print enough copies for each kid in advance.

The menu for this week:

- **The Burning Bush** — coloring page of the bush with the memory verse on it.
- **Called and Sent** — word search with names and places from the calling story (includes a sneak peek

of next week).

- **God Calls Me To** — drawing prompt where the kids draw something they feel God calling them to do.
- **Moses' Excuses, God's Answers** — fill-in-the-blanks matching worksheet.

The full production specs for each activity are in this week's activities file.

**NOTE**

While the kids work, sit with them. Reinforce the bottom line one more time before class ends. If you finish early, have a few kids share what they made.

---

## What Comes Next Week

Moses goes to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh says no. So God shows Egypt who is really in charge — with ten plagues that turn the whole country upside down. The God who called Moses is the God whose power makes him known.