

Moses and the Burning Bush

Prep: Have several shoes handy

Have kids each bring/get at least 1 shoe (maybe 2)

Shoes come in all types and sizes. There are dress shoes – where do we wear those? Who brought dress shoes? There are athletic shoes – where do we wear those? Who brought athletic shoes? There are sandals or flip-flops – where do we wear those? Who brought sandals or flip flops? (Pause.) We have all kinds of shoes!

But why are we talking about shoes, you might be wondering. Well, shoes protect our feet, but they can also serve another purpose. Raise your hand if you wear your shoes inside most of the time. (Pause.) Raise your hand if you take your shoes off when you're inside. (Pause.) Why do you take your shoes off inside?

In some places, people always take off their shoes and leave them at the door when they enter a house as a sign of respect. Respect means to show someone you think that person is important. And that reminds me of today's Bible lesson.

Last time Jean told us about a very important person in the bible. What was his name? (Moses). Jean laid out lots of things that happened in Moses' life. And we even talked about one event with Fr. Randy last week – what was that? (golden calf).

Today we will look closer at another important event in Moses' life.

In today's story, God told Moses to take off his shoes. To get ready to hear about what happened to Moses, let's take off our shoes now if you're wearing them I'm not because I don't wear shoes in my house, but if we were at church for Sunday School, I would take them off now. . I think that'll help us understand why God told Moses to take off his shoes.

Now, sometimes when people have something really important to tell us, they try to get our attention. They want to make sure that we are really listening, and we're not distracted. What are some things that people have done to get your attention?

Well, God had something really important to tell Moses. Let's see what that was – and how he got Moses' attention

(Read paraphrase of Exodus 3:1-10)

One Day Moses was taking care of a flock. When Moses led the flock to the west side of the desert, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire coming out of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up. Moses started walking closer to the bush – he wondered how a bush could be on fire without burning up. (What face would we make if we saw something so strange? What are some signs that something is burning up? How do you think Moses felt?) When the Lord saw Moses was coming to look at the bush, God called to him from the bush. "Moses! Moses!" and Moses said, "Here I am."

Then God said not to come any closer, but to take off his sandals, because he was standing on Holy Ground. God told Moses, "I am the God of your ancestors – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. (let's all cover our faces)

The Lord said, "I have seen the troubles my people have suffered in Egypt, and I have heard them. I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them up out of that land. I am sending you. I want you to bring them out of Egypt to the Promised Land. They are my people." But Moses objected. He said to God, "Who am I to bring the people out of Egypt?" Moses didn't think the people would follow him. But God promised to be with Moses and to send a miraculous sign so that the people would believe Moses.

At first, Moses was confused and wasn't sure God could really be speaking to him. God wanted Moses to lead His people, which is a very important job. He had to get Moses' attention to tell him. Moses wasn't sure he was the right guy for the job. But God made it clear that this is what he wanted Moses to do.

- What did God do to get Moses' attention?
- Why did the burning bush get Moses to pay attention to God?
- Why did God tell Moses to take off his sandals?

- I wonder why the ground was holy?
- I wonder what you liked best about this story?
- I wonder if there's a part of the story that we could have left out?
- I wonder where you saw yourself in this story?

Now, I want you to listen to me and follow directions for our art project. You should have a white bag that I gave you. I want you to open the bag now, and lay out the items.

Do Craft

You didn't know how our bush would turn out, but you listened to my instructions. God did the same thing with Moses—he gave Moses important instructions. Just like God spoke to Moses, God speaks to us, too. And he is with us when we have to do something hard, just like he was mis

God, thank You for giving us instructions. Thank You for speaking to Moses and for speaking to us. Help us remember to listen to You. In Jesus' name, amen.