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An introduction to the *Introducing the Bible* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Introducing the Bible intro.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Introducing the Bible* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Introducing the Bible* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

Moses and the burning bush

Bible reference... Exodus 3:1-4:20
[Also read Exodus 2:15, 23-25; 5:1-2; 7:1-7; 12:29-32]

Lesson aim... To tell the children about God speaking to Moses, calling him to lead God's people out of Egypt, and how Moses responded.

Main message... God wanted Moses to help God's people leave Egypt.

Story preparation... Print pages 17-19, colour and cut along bold line to make into picture cards. Otherwise, print page 16, cut out each square and paste them onto a piece of cardboard with a blank rectangle (the same size as each picture) covering each picture to make it look like windows. The windows are opened/lifted to see each picture.

Introduction...

"I'm thinking of ...

...someone. He was a baby. His mother wanted to keep him safe. [Moses]

...something. The baby was put in this. [basket]

...someone. She found the baby at the edge of the river. [Pharaoh's daughter/Princess]

...somewhere. It was the country where Moses was born. [Egypt]

"Moses was born in Egypt but when he had grown up he lived in another country."

Story...

"This is a very special story and it is true—it really happened and we can read about it in a part of the Bible called Exodus.

[show (i)] "When Moses grew up, he left Egypt. He went to stay with a man called Jethro and his family. One day when Moses was looking after Jethro's sheep and goats, he saw a flame in the middle of a bush. [show (ii)] The bush was on fire, but it was not being burnt up. Moses went to look, and a voice spoke to him from the bush. It was God's voice. God said, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' God told Moses that he was God. Then Moses was afraid.

[*show (iii)*] “God told Moses that God’s people, the Israelites, were very unhappy. The Israelites were in Egypt and were slaves, which means that they worked very hard for the people who lived in Egypt. The Egyptians were very mean to the Israelites. The Israelites had cried to God for help. God had heard them and he wanted Moses to go back to Egypt to bring the Israelites out to another country.

“Moses said to God, ‘I am nobody. [*show (iv)*] How can I go to the king and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ God promised Moses that he would be with Moses, but still Moses had lots of questions.

[*show (v)*] “Moses was holding a walking stick. God told him to throw it on the ground. When he threw it, it turned into a snake. God told him to pick it up and it turned back into a stick. God told Moses to do that in front of God’s people, the Israelites, to show them that God had spoken to Moses.

“Moses was still afraid to go and help God’s people leave Egypt. Moses wanted God to send someone else. Moses said he wasn’t a good talker, but God told him that he would help Moses to talk. But still Moses didn’t want to go. He wanted God to send someone else. [*Show (vi)*] So God said that Moses’ brother Aaron could go with him to do the talking. God said that he would help Moses and Aaron. God told Moses to take his walking stick so that he could do special things with it.

“Moses then did what God told him to. Let me read from the Bible what Moses did:
[*Read Exodus 4:20 from your class Bible*] ‘So Moses took his wife and his sons, put them on a donkey, and set out with them for Egypt, carrying the walking-stick that God had told him to take.’

Conclusion...

“God had a very important job for Moses to do—God wanted Moses to help God’s people leave Egypt, but at first Moses didn’t want to do it! God promised that he would be with Moses. God gave Moses someone to do the talking and he promised to do special things through Moses. At last Moses did what God wanted him to do. I wonder what will happen next week?”

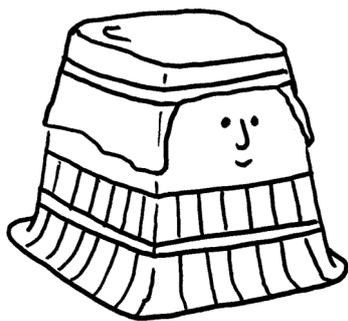
Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that you cared for your people and wanted them not to be slaves anymore. Thank you that you promised to be with Moses and to help him. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. Make Moses

Before the lesson, print page 15 and cut a caption for each child. Gather together the materials needed for this activity, as described below. In the lesson, the children use a small yoghurt container (or polystyrene cup or similar) to make Moses. Wrap around paper (eg. striped wrapping paper or plain paper which the children have decorated by colouring/drawing) or fabric for clothes, and secure with tape. The children make the burning bush by covering a small yoghurt container, or an egg carton hump, with green paper (one piece of green paper covering the entire yoghurt container—this might be easier for you to do before the lesson) and then the children paste on red cellophane pieces (which you have roughly cut and placed in a container before the lesson) as fire. The children then place Moses and the bush on a polystyrene foam packaging tray or paper plate and the teacher attaches the caption. If you want to add more to the scene, the children could also paste on cotton wool balls as sheep.



red cellophane
to place on top of the
bush



2. Drawing

Before the lesson, print page 20 for each child. In the lesson the children draw a picture of Moses and the burning bush.

3. Collage picture

Before the lesson, you will need to cut out 'bush' shapes from green paper and flames from red paper, or print page 22 on red paper and page 23 on green paper and cut out sufficient for each child. Place them in two containers for the lesson. Print page 21 for each child. You will also need to rip or cut small pieces of green paper (and place in a container) and place cotton wool balls in a container. In the lesson, the children complete the picture on page 21 by colouring Moses and then filling in the rest of the picture with pasting. The children paste a green paper bush with red paper flames over the bush. The children then paste green paper scraps for grass and cotton wool for sheep.

Caption for activity #1:

God wanted Moses to help God's people leave Egypt.  Exodus 3-4 verse 20	God wanted Moses to help God's people leave Egypt.  Exodus 3-4 verse 20	God wanted Moses to help God's people leave Egypt.  Exodus 3-4 verse 20
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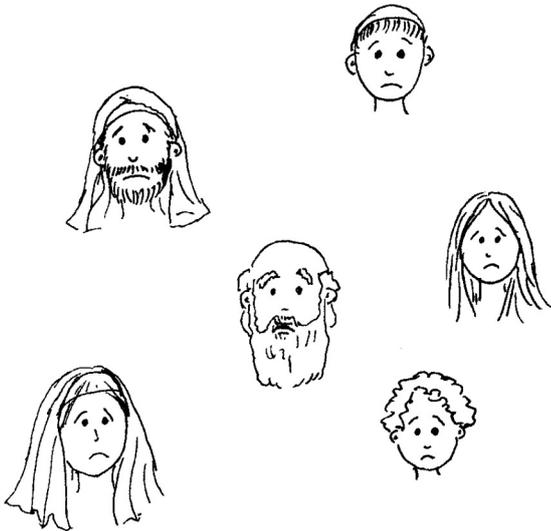
(i)



(ii)



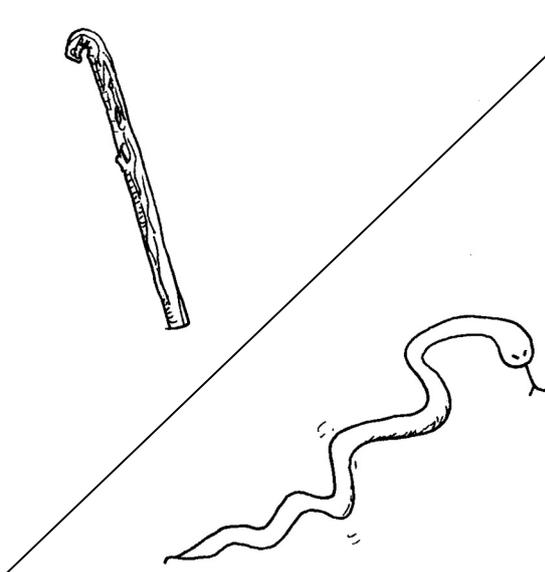
(iii)



(iv)



(v)



(vi)



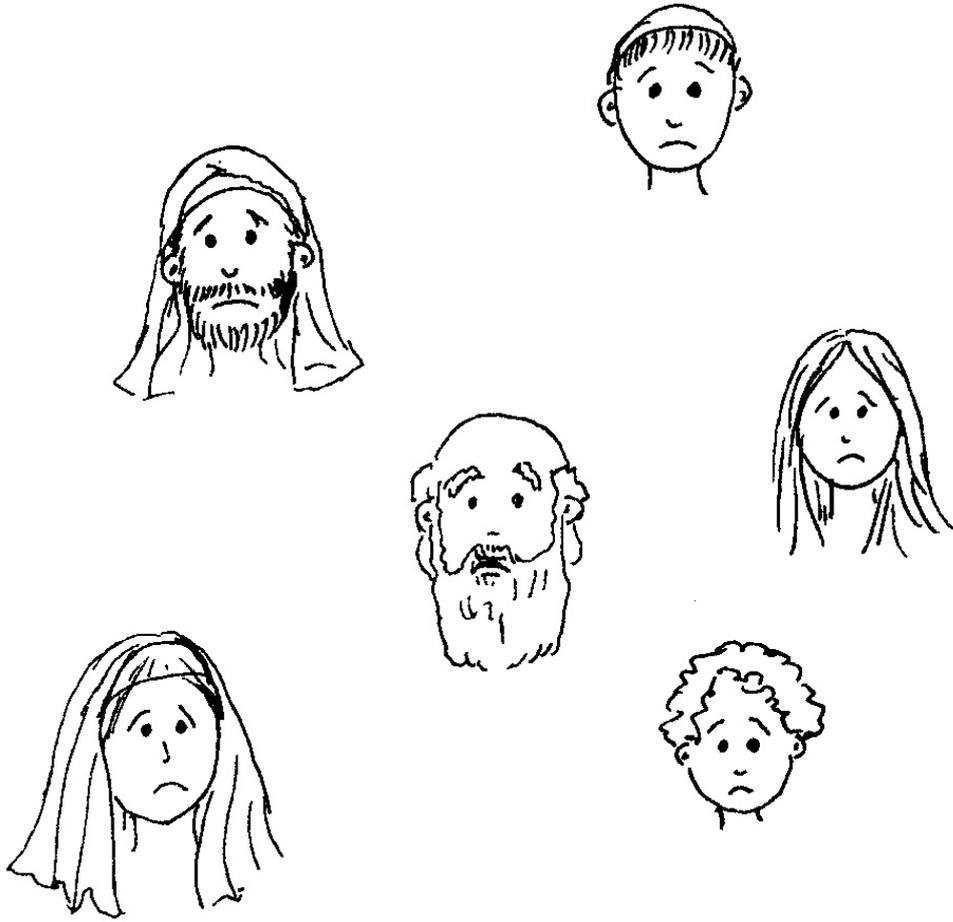
(i)



(ii)



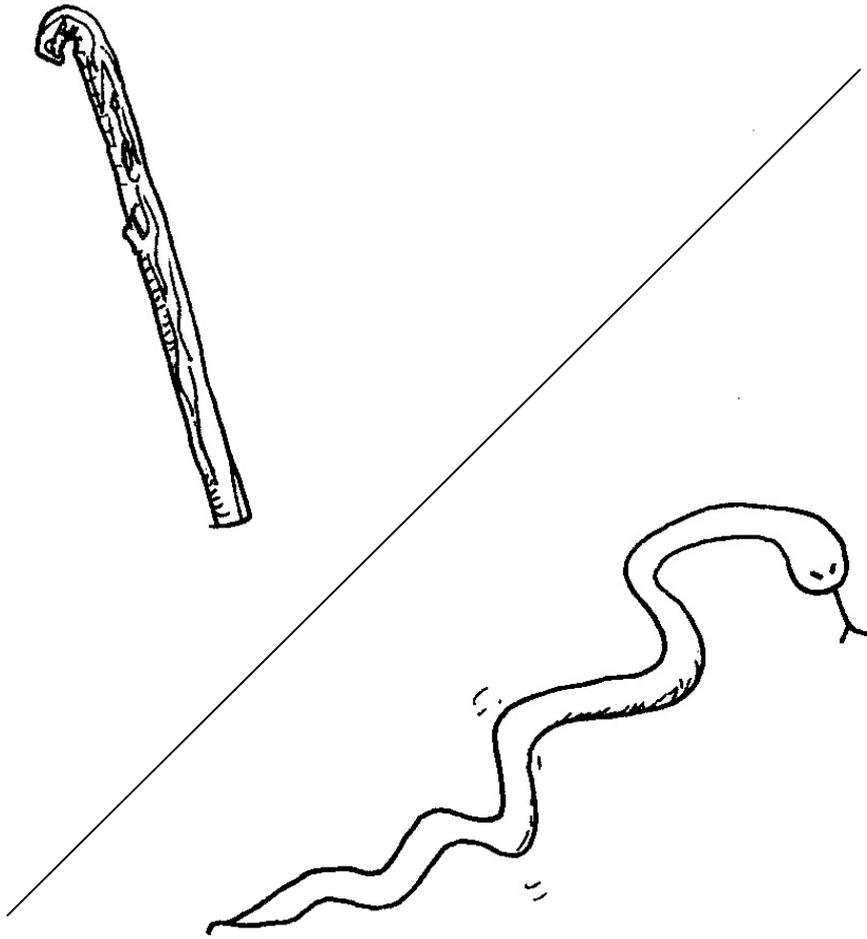
(iii)



(iv)



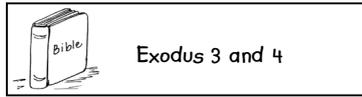
(v)



(vi)



God spoke to Moses from a burning bush.
God wanted Moses to help God's people leave Egypt.



God wanted Moses to help God's people leave Egypt.



Exodus 3 and 4

