



2. The burning bush

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to [FreeBibleImages](https://www.freebibleimages.org/) for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term.

This assembly focuses on Moses hearing from God for the very first time.



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

This week, the focus is on Moses hearing God’s voice and taking up new responsibilities, even though he felt unequipped for the job. We think about our responsibilities as part of our school community – and pray for each other in our new responsibilities. But we also remember that God gave him a helper – his brother Aaron – and God promised to be with him as well, so we also think about the difference this might make to us too.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **You will need to make use of the other adults in the room for the opening game, to help children to focus on whose voice they can hear.**
- There are suggestions for following up the theme of the collective worship in your classroom, in your reflective area, so do use the ideas if you would find them helpful.

Gathering:

Slides 1&2 Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!



- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.

Engaging:

- **Slide 3: Whose voice...?!** Ask children to close their eyes, and select different adults in the room to say a phrase – maybe your school motto, or similar. Can children guess whose voice they are hearing?
Increase the level of challenge by speaking just one word, or allowing adults to ‘change’ their voice in some way.
‘This might seem a strange game to start our time together – but there will be a reason, which links with our story.... So let’s get on with the next part of ‘Are we nearly there yet?!’
- **Slide 4:** As we heard last week, this term, we are going to journey with Moses wherever God takes him, and as we do, we are going to use the story of Moses to help *us* to become a stronger community. We rejoin the story of Moses when he has grown up, and is living far away in a land named Moab. **He had seen just** what Pharaoh was doing to the people of Israel, and got into a fight with an Egyptian, then ran away – to Moab – where he has settled down and has a wife named Zipporah. So let’s pick the story up there, in Moab.....



- **Slide 5:** One ordinary day Moses was out in the field looking after a flock of sheep belonging to his father-in-law, Jethro.
- **Slide 6:** Moses led the flock through the desert to Mount Horeb, where there was plenty of good grass for the sheep to eat.
- **Slide 7:** Suddenly Moses saw something very strange in the distance. A green bush was on fire, but it was not burning up! He crept closer to see what it was, scared but fascinated at the same time.
- **Slide 8:** He heard the voice of God calling, 'Moses, Moses' from out of the bush. Now he was more scared than fascinated! 'I am here,' he answered, his voice trembling.
- **Slide 9:** God said, 'Take off your shoes! You are standing on holy ground.' So Moses took off his shoes and went closer to look at the burning
- **Slide 10:** God told Moses that He was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He wanted Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to stop making the Jewish people his slaves and let them go to a land God had promised for them.
Moses knew that this was not going to be an easy job because the Pharaoh was very stubborn.
- **Slide 11:** Moses listened and obeyed when God called him to lead the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, to the land He promised them. He knew that Pharaoh was a very important man and was used to getting his own way. He would be angry and difficult to persuade....
[add your own cliffhanger sound effects here!!!]

Slide 18: Responding (words for worship):

Let's pause now and wonder together....

I wonder....

....how Moses felt, hearing God's voice?....

.... I wonder how it feels to stand on 'holy ground'?....

.... I wonder what challenges you think he will face as he visits Pharaoh....

....or how he feels about the job he's been given to do?....

.... I wonder what new challenges we might have to face this term?....

[you might want to pause here and talk together, especially about the last question – especially with younger pupils...]

- **Slide 12:** But you'll be glad to hear that Moses didn't have to face this all alone. Moses' brother, Aaron, was right there beside him, a gift from God, to help with the important tasks that would lie ahead.
I wonder what difference this might make?
As we pause to think again, let's bring into our minds some of those challenges we thought of a few moments ago....
What difference might it make to us to know that we are not alone?....
- **Slide 13:** Although Moses may have been scared at the challenge of the task that God had given him to do, God gave him a helper to go with him, his brother, Aaron.
I wonder who might help us with the challenges that we might face?....*[pause and be still, or talk together]*
In the book of Exodus, which tells this epic tale, we read these words, which God himself spoke to Moses:
'I will be with you.'
I wonder what this might mean for us, as we face our new term challenges?....
I wonder how we might know that God is with us too?



Slide 14: Prayer

I am going to use some words to help us to pray now...which you can use to help you to pray if this is something that you're comfortable with. If not, then just continue to be still with your own thoughts.

Dear God

At the start of this new term, we all face new challenges.

Thank you that we are journeying together as a school community and that we can support each other.

But more than that, thank you for the comfort of these words that you will be with us too.

Help us to remember this as we journey through this new term.

Slide 15: Amen

Sending: Slide 16

Remind children of today's key message – that we don't face challenges alone



Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May today's words help us to become a stronger community!

To listen to / sing:

[God is watching over you](#) (AAOS)

Slide 17: Reflective / prayer idea



'In our class we will...'

Make a class 'burning bush' with red / orange / yellow leaves showing what we are 'responsible' for or the new challenges we face this term or promises to support each other.

As you hang your leaf on the tree, you might want to say a quiet prayer to ask God to be your helper, or think about the people who might be there to help you.



Moses: Are we nearly there yet?!!!

2. The burning bush



“In our class we will....”



Our theme this week reminds us that we are each responsible for doing certain things and that a new term brings new responsibilities.



**Which responsibilities do you have in class or at home?
Are there any new challenges you face?**



Write your ideas on a leaf. As you hang your leaf on the tree, you might want to say a quiet prayer to ask God to be your helper, or think about the people who might be there to help you.

