



Lesson 39

Moses and the Burning Bush

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Exodus 2:11-4:17• Setting: approx. 1570 B.C. in Egypt• Characters: Moses and God• Plot: God speaks to Moses in a burning bush and chooses him to lead the children | <p>of Israel out of Egypt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s): “ _____ ”• Climax: “<i>And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.</i>” (Exo. 3:3) |
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Fleeing Egypt

- (2:11-15) Though Moses spent his growing-up years in the royal court of Egypt, he knew he was an Israelite. One day, Moses ventured out to witness the hardships of his fellow Hebrews.
 - He saw an Egyptian smiting a Jew, and Moses intervened, _____ the Egyptian and burying his body in the sand.
 - The next day, Moses went out again and finding one Hebrew beating another, he tried to bring justice to the situation. But Moses’ efforts failed when the wrongdoer quipped, “*Who made thee a _____ and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?*”
 - Moses feared that his crime had become public knowledge, so he fled from Egypt in fear of Pharaoh.
- (2:16-22) Moses wandered in the desert until he came to _____, where he helped the daughters of Reuel (Jethro) the Priest of Midian. Moses marries Zipporah and starts a family, content being a shepherd for his father-in-law in Midian for the next 40 years.
- (2:23-25) Meanwhile in Egypt, Pharaohs changed, but the hardships of the Hebrews did not change. The children of Israel cried unto God for deliverance, and God remembered his _____ with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Finding God

- (3:1-6) While tending sheep, Moses spied a curious sight – a bush burning but not consumed.
 - God calls to Moses from the bush, and he is instructed to take his shoes off, “*for the place whereon thou standest is _____ ground.*”
 - (3:6-8) God assured Moses that he has “ _____ ” his covenant with his people, will deliver them out of their afflictions, and will bring them into the Promised Land.
- Moses resisted God’s call, giving several objections:
 - (3:11) Moses felt he had no _____ – he was a nobody and nobody would listen to him.
 - (3:12) God assured him that his insignificance didn’t matter when the Almighty would be with him.
 - (3:13) Moses thought he had no _____, that he wouldn’t know what to say.
 - (3:14-15) The LORD told him that the Message would be from the I AM.
 - (4:1) Moses believed he had no _____ to claim to have a message from God.

- i. (4:2-9) God gave Moses miracle-working abilities so the Hebrews would know he came from God.
 - d. (4:10) Moses confessed he had no speaking _____.
 - i. (4:11-12) God reminded Moses that He made all things and was sovereign over all abilities and even disabilities.
 - e. (4:13) Finally, Moses quit objecting and flatly asked God to send someone else.
 - i. (4:14-17) This was when God manifested _____. But God, in His mercy, would use Aaron to help Moses lead the people and speak to Pharaoh.
6. (4:18-20) Moses returned home and informed his father-in-law of his mission from God. Then Moses packed up his wife, his sons, and his rod from God, and set off for Egypt.

Application

7. In Exodus 3:5, the word “holy” in the Bible. Considering it is referring to dirt, what does this teach about holiness? _____
8. Hebrews 11:24-25 teaches that Moses identified with God’s people out of faith, yet instead of faithful obedience, Moses is reluctant at the burning bush. What can this teach us about faith?
- a. Faith _____ – it might start small, but it will grow stronger the longer we walk with God. Moses reluctance gave way to boldness.
 - b. Faith is affected by _____. Moses was in Midian out of fear – he feared Pharaoh, he feared rejection from his countrymen – but what Moses needed to learn to fear most was God.
9. Moses was called by God to deliver Israel out of bondage and to lead them to become a theocratic nation. The early specimens for this two-fold call are the saving the Hebrew from the Egyptian taskmaster and then the intervening between two fighting Israelites. Matthew Henry notes, “When God raises up instruments of salvation for the church they will find enough to do, not only with oppressing Egyptians, to restrain them, but with quarrelsome Israelites, to _____ them.”

Answer Key: Key word(s): “I AM” • 1. a) killing; b) prince • 2. Midian • 3. covenant • 4. a) holy; b) remembered • 5. a) significance; b) message; c) authority; d) abilities; e) i) anger • 7. That God makes things holy, and apart from God nothing is holy of itself. • 8. a) grows; b) fear • 9. reconcile

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.