

8

Meeting at the Bush

Service
We serve God despite difficulties.

POWER TEXT

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12:6-8).

KEY REFERENCES

- Exodus 3; 4:1-17
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 22, pp. 251-256
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 95-100
- Student story on page 92 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** God has given us different abilities and talents.
- **Feel** that Jesus is calling them to use their abilities and talents for Him.
- **Respond** by choosing to let God bless others through them.

POWERPOINT

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

In delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God calls Moses and Aaron to use the talents He has given them. Moses has leadership abilities but is reticent about his speaking ability. Although God has promised to provide whatever Moses needs, He agrees to send Aaron, who has the gift of speech, to make up for Moses' insecurity.

This is a lesson about service.

This lesson is about God calling us to use the talents He gives us in His service. We have each been given different talents. No one person can do everything. However, when we cooperate and use our talents together, God can bless others through us.

Teacher Enrichment

"The divine command given to Moses found him self-distrustful, slow of speech, and timid. He was overwhelmed with a sense of his incapacity to be a mouthpiece for God to Israel. But having once accepted the work, he entered upon it with his whole heart, putting all his trust in the Lord. . . . God blessed his ready obedience, and he became eloquent, hopeful, self-possessed, and well fitted for the greatest work ever given to man. This is an example of what God does to strengthen the character of those who trust Him fully. . . .

"A man will gain power and efficiency as he accepts the responsibilities that God places upon him, and with his whole soul seeks to qualify himself to bear them aright. However humble his position or limited his ability, that man will attain true greatness who, trusting to divine strength, seeks to perform his work with fidelity. Had Moses relied upon his own strength and wisdom, and eagerly accepted the great charge, he would have evinced his entire unfitness for such a work. The fact that a man feels his weakness is at least some evidence that he realizes the magnitude of the work appointed him, and that he will make God his counselor and his strength" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 255).

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Positive People*	pens/pencils, handouts (p. 152)
		B. Create a Bible Game	Bibles, art supplies, tape, pencils, cardboard, posterboard, markers
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 87. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, red paper, pencils, scissors
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	pieces of paper, pens/pencils, OR markers
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Name Affirmation*	pens/pencils, paper, tape
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*My Burning Bush*	Bibles, prayers (p. 153), bush outline (p. 154) for each student, colored plastic wrap OR clear, colored candy wrappers, markers, clear tape, scissors, lamp
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ handouts (p. 152)

Positive People

Give each student a handout. They will have to find students who fit the descriptions in the squares and who will sign their name in the squares that best describe them, signing each handout only once. Say: **Whoever has five signatures in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line or whoever has the most squares filled with signatures at the end of the time limit will be a winner.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Which of these characteristics would you like to have? Which were the hardest characteristics to find someone to sign?** Say: **All of these are talents or skills that we can use in serving God. Let's say the power text:**

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12:6-8).

Say: **Let's say the power point:**

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ tape
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ cardboard
- ☐ posterboard
- ☐ markers

Create a Bible Game

Form teams of no more than three. Give each team art supplies, tape, pencils, and cardboard. Say: **Work in your team to design a Bible game, using your supplies. Discuss with each other what kind of game you want to create; then make a unique game.**

Give the groups a few minutes to design and create their games. When groups are ready, have them take turns explaining and demonstrating the game.

Debriefing

Afterward, have students form a circle. Say: **Let's say together the power text, Romans 12:6-8:**

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12:6-8).

Ask: **How is the variety of games we saw like the variety of gifts represented in our group? Why is it important to have a variety of gifts and abilities? How did others bless you with their gifts and abilities during this activity? How can we support one another's gifts and abilities?** Say: **Say the power point with me:**

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

(Adapted from Stephen Parolini and Lisa Baba Lauffer, *Fun Bible Learning Projects for Young Teenagers* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995], p. 24. Used by permission.)

Accommodation for students with special needs

Guide students with special needs to groups that offer them assistance in participation. Identify their skills and encourage these students to contribute to the activity in ways that allow them to experience success.

Prayer & Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Thy Word" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 88)
"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 85)
"Be Bold, Be Strong" (*Praise Time*, no. 34)
"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 100)

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION, or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Our offerings are one way we can serve God. It is our opportunity to return to Him a little of what He has so generously given us.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ red paper
- ☐ pencil
- ☐ scissors

Have each student draw a pair of lips. On one side, write their request and on the other, a way that they can commit their lips in service to God. Place the lips beside the hands and feet from the previous two weeks. Pray for the requests. End with a prayer of commitment reflecting what is written on the lips. Close with a prayer of commitment to service and pray also for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ pieces of paper
- ☐ pens/pencils OR
- ☐ markers

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Today we are going to study about Moses and the time God called him to lead Israel out of slavery. Moses didn't feel he had all the skills he needed. We'll find out how God answered that need. First I would like you each to take one of these slips of paper and write what you feel you can do best.** (Such as draw, sing, play basketball, help others, study, etc.) **Each of these abilities God can use to bless our community and our world.**

Ask: **Who thinks they have no special gift or ability?** Have others in the class help that person to think of something.

Say: **Let's put these slips of paper in our Bibles to remind us of the way God can bless the world through us.**

Let's say the power point:

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Ask students to find Exodus 4:10-17.

Ask two student volunteers to assist you in reading the passage. One of you will read the parts spoken by Moses, one will be the narrator, and the other will read the parts spoken by God. Read the passage through for the rest of the class.

Say: **Let's repeat the power point:**

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's look a little deeper into the rest of the story around this little dialogue between God and Moses. I am going to ask you some questions and sometimes give you a text. I would like you to find and read the text to yourself, if there is one, and then give us your response to the question. Please raise your hand after you have read the text so that you may contribute to the discussion.**

1. What did God want Moses to do? Read Exodus 3:7-9.
2. Why was he hesitant about doing what God wanted him to do? Read Exodus 4:10.
3. What was Moses' excuse? Discuss his background in the palace and in the wilderness. (After his Egyptian training he may have felt he could deliver Israel [see Exodus 2:11, 12], but 40 years in the wilderness had made him distrustful of his ability.)
4. How would the gift of speech help Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt?
5. How did God respond to Moses? Read Exodus 4:11. (He made it clear that He was the one who gave all gifts and abilities in the first place. He could fill Moses' need.)
6. Is it possible to develop the gift of speech or other abilities? What do you think Matthew 25:29 says about developing our gifts?
7. What does Exodus 4:13 tell us about Moses' faith?
8. How did God feel about Moses' excuse and lack of faith? Read Exodus 4:14.
9. How did He deal with Moses? Read Exodus 4:14-17. (God was patient with Moses' lack of faith and sent Aaron to be a physical answer to the need Moses felt.)

Let's say together the power text, Romans 12:6-8:

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12:6-8).

Let's say the power point:

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ paper
- ☐ tape

Name Affirmation

Distribute a paper and pen or pencil to each student and have them write their first and last names vertically down the page. Then have them tape the papers to the wall or board.

Say: **I would like you to go to each of the papers and beside one or two** (depending on the size of our group) **of the letters of that person's name write a skill, talent, or ability that you see in that person.** (Remind them of some of the qualities listed on the sheet in Readiness Activity A. For example: a girl named Susie might have S—smiles a lot, U—understanding, etc.)

When students are finished writing, ask each person to take down their list and read it to themselves.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did the talents or qualities listed by your fellow students surprise you? How did it make you feel to read the lists? How can you serve God in the coming week with the abilities listed on your sheet?**

Tell the students that even if they don't think they have any talents, God has equipped each of us to serve Him in some way. God is much more interested in our availability than our ability, since He's the one who gives us the abilities in the first place. He just wants us to be willing to be used by Him.

Say: **Let's repeat the power point:**

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

My Burning Bush

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ prayers (p. 153)
- ☐ bush outline (p. 154) for each student
- ☐ colored plastic wrap OR
- ☐ clear, colored candy wrappers
- ☐ markers
- ☐ clear tape
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ lamp

Allow time for students to talk about their experiences if they used their God-given gifts and talents to bless, serve, and encourage someone during the past week.

Beforehand, copy the prayers from page 153, cut them apart, and give them to three volunteers to read when you call on them.

Give each student a copy of the burning bush (p. 154). Ask them to fill in their names and then cut out the flames (or precut them) and tape colored plastic wrap behind the opening to create a stained-glass effect. When students have finished creating their burning bushes, have them gather in a circle. Place the lamp in the middle of the circle and light it. Turn off the other lights.

Say: **Moses met God through the miracle of the burning bush.** Ask everyone to hold their bush up to the light to see the stained-glass effect and then lay their bush in front of them.

Say: **We meet God through the things that happen in our lives, just as Moses did. And we meet Him through His Holy Word, the Bible.** Place a Bible in the center of the circle next to the lamp.

Moses said to God, "I am nobody. How can I go and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God said to Moses, "I will help you to speak, and I will tell you what to say." Have everyone stand and join hands in a circle. Ask your three volunteers to read their prayers in order while everyone bows their heads.

Let's say once again the power point:

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.

(Adapted from Robin Sharples, *LiveWires Live* [Oxford, Eng.: Bible Reading Fellowship, 1998], pp. 54, 56. Used by permission.)

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Take your burning bushes and put them where they will remind you to share the gifts God has given you with others.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jethro advises Moses. God teaches us to be organized.**

Notes

Student lesson

Meeting at the Bush

Have you ever faced a challenge that seemed too big for you to handle alone? Let's take a closer look at the story of Moses, whom God called to the important work of leading the people of Israel out of Egypt. What happened when God took charge and enabled Moses to accomplish this great assignment?

The bush was still burning, and Moses knew he would never be the same again. During this meeting at the bush, God, the great I AM, had called Moses to go back to Egypt. He was to ask Pharaoh to allow God's people to depart from Egypt.

The Pharaoh is never going to agree to give up all those slaves, Moses thought to himself. *I tried to rescue my people years ago. Instead of thanking me when I killed the Egyptian who was beating the Hebrew slave, the Israelites treated me with contempt, and the Egyptians went after me. I barely escaped with my life.*

Then God demonstrated to Moses three miraculous signs he could perform to reveal to the Egyptians the amazing power of the God of Israel. First, Moses would throw down his staff and it would turn into a snake. Then he would place his hand inside his cloak and when he removed it, his hand would be covered with leprosy. He would then place the hand with leprosy inside his cloak, and this time it would come out completely healed. If the Egyptians would refuse to fear God after those signs, Moses could pour water from the Nile over the ground, and it would turn into blood (see Exodus 4:1-9).

But Moses had been out in the country herding sheep for 40 years. He no longer believed he was the one to deliver Israel. He wasn't even sure he could speak the Egyptian language anymore. However, Moses couldn't stand around for long, feeling sorry for himself. God was speaking again. Moses shaded his eyes and looked toward the ever-burning bush.

"Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:11, 12).

God was offering Moses everything he would need to accomplish the task. Yet Moses was still afraid. God spoke again. "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you" (verse 14). His brother was coming! Moses was amazed. He hadn't seen his brother for many, many years. It would be great to be together again. God was right; Aaron was a good speaker. In fact, together they would be a great team. Moses' fears began to go away.

"Moses," God continued, "you shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do" (verse 15). Moses was starting to see the possibilities. God still wanted to speak through him. God had given him talents of leadership and was asking him to use them to bless his people. The bush crackled louder. "But take this staff in your hand," God spoke to Moses, "so you can perform the signs with it" (verse 17).

Moses humbly leaned down to pick up his staff. He put his sandals back on his feet. *God has promised to teach me what I should do*, Moses thought. *He is even willing to send someone with different talents than I have to help me.*

Moses headed back toward his flock. *Just when I thought the rest of my life would be spent calmly herding sheep, God calls me to lead people.* Moses recognized the solemnity of the moments he had spent in conversation with God. Then he started contemplating his life's greatest assignment.

KEY REFERENCES

- Exodus 3; 4:1-17
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 22, pp. 251-256
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 95-100
- Our Beliefs, nos. 17, 22, 11

POWER TEXT

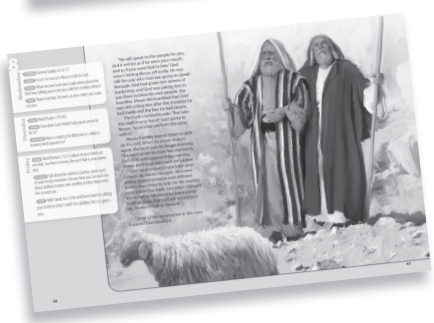
"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12:6-8).

POWER POINT

God calls me to bless others with the abilities He has given me.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 61.

Sunday

READ Read Exodus 3:1-10 and this week's story, "Meeting at the Bush."

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

THINK If you were Moses and had to explain to someone your experience, what would you have said?

PRAY Ask God to show you the abilities He gave you to bless others.

Monday

READ Read Exodus 3:11-22.

THINK What do you think God may be calling you to do to bless others? Do you feel you are prepared?

LIST In your Bible study journal, list all the abilities God has given you to serve others.

SERVE Use your God-given abilities to help someone.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you and your friends use the abilities He gave you to bless others.

Tuesday

READ Read Exodus 4:1-9.

THINK What signs did God help Moses perform to strengthen his faith when Moses was doubting his ability to answer God's call to service?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to make you willing to serve wherever He calls you, either as a leader or as a helper.

Wednesday

READ Read Exodus 4:10-17.

THINK Think about Aaron. Is God calling you to work with someone? How could you use your God-given gifts to strengthen the ability of someone else?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His love even when we doubt.

Thursday

READ Read Psalm 119:105.

THINK How does God's Word guide you? How is reading the Bible like or unlike a burning bush experience?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His Word that lights your path.

Friday

READ Read Romans 12:3-8.

REPEAT Say from memory your power text.

DISCUSS Talk about the abilities God has given each of your family members. Discuss how you can each use those abilities to bless one another and those who live around you.

PRAY Hold hands in a circle and thank God for calling you to bless others with the abilities He has given you.