

# Lower Elementary

# Burning Bush

## Checklist

- blindfold
- cotton balls
- plant
- Christmas lights
- toilet paper rolls
- red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- green construction paper

## Introduction:

**Have one child (the shepherd) stand in the middle of the room wearing a blindfold.**

**Put cotton balls on the floor (the sheep).**

**All the other children stand around the circle and are the wolves.**

**The wolves try to snatch a cotton sheep one at a time.**

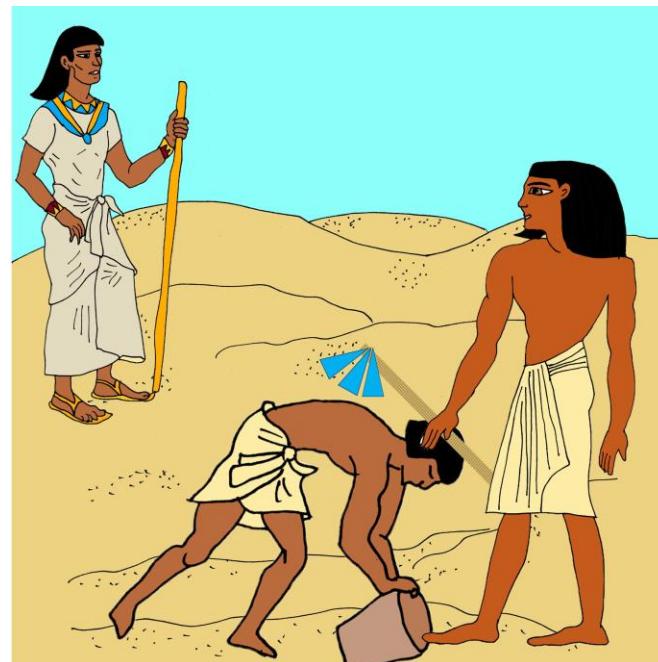
**The shepherd must try to tag them to get them out of the game.**

**When all of the wolves are tagged or all of the sheep are captured, the game is over.**

**Talk about how difficult the life of a shepherd is.**

**Do you think it is easier or harder than being a prince in Egypt?**

Moses grew up in the palace of Egypt. He was rich and important. His life was easy but the lives of his people were the exact opposite. One day when Moses was grown up, he walked among the Hebrews as they worked hard for the Egyptians. One Egyptian mistreated a Hebrew worker. Moses completely lost his temper and attacked the Egyptian. Later, when Moses walked among them again, two Hebrew workers got into a fight and he tried to stop them. "Are you our boss?" one of them asked. "We know what happened with that Egyptian. I suppose you're going to attack us like you did him!"

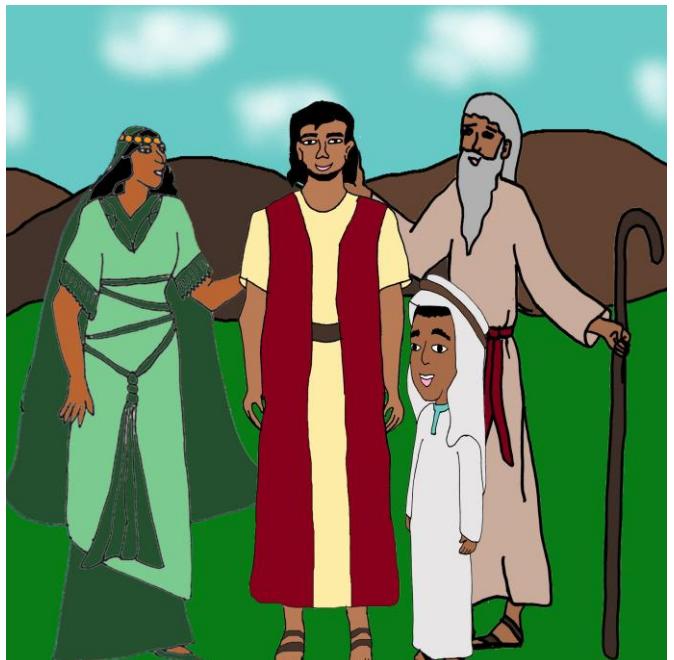


Moses froze in fear. He thought no one knew of what happened with the Egyptian. But word got to Pharaoh who was furious. Moses ran away to escape the Pharaoh's anger. Moses' comfortable, luxurious life was about to be turned upside down. It probably felt like the worst thing that could happen to him, but God had big plans for Moses.



Moses hid in the land of Midian, where he began a new life. He got married and had a son. He worked as a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. Did he think about his old life often? Did he worry about the Hebrew people? Or was he trying to forget all about Egypt?

One day, Moses led the sheep and goats of his father-in-law across the desert to Mount Sinai.



Moses noticed a bush was on fire some distance from him. It burned, but it did not burn up. Curious, Moses climbed up to it. There, an angel of the Lord appeared to him from a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up. As he got closer, God called out to him, "Moses!"

"Here I am." Moses replied. "Don't come any closer," God told him. "Take off your sandals—this is holy ground."



Moses hid his face from God, in wonder of the awesomeness of His presence.

“I have heard the prayers of My people,” God told him. “I will put an end to the Egyptians treating them badly.”

The former prince-of-Egypt-turned-shepherd was nervous as he realized why God was telling *him* this. “I couldn’t possibly be the right person to speak to Pharaoh and lead Your people out of Egypt,” Moses protested.

“I will be with you,” the Lord assured him. “You will return to this mountain to worship Me after you have brought them from Egypt safely. And in that moment, you will realize that it was I who sent you.

“I don’t even know what name to use for You when I speak to my people,” Moses argued. “I can tell them the God Abraham, Isaac and Jacob worshipped has sent me, but what does that even mean?”

“I am who I am,” God replied. “I am the eternal God. Tell them that.”



Moses was still afraid. “I’ve never been a good speaker,” he explained. “I trip over my words and never say the right thing.”

“Who makes anyone good at anything?” God argued. “Isn’t it Me? I promise to be with you when you speak.”

Moses was still nervous, so God agreed to send Moses’ brother, Aaron, with him, to help him speak to Pharaoh. Aaron was already traveling to visit Moses, and knowing their mission was one chosen by the Lord, the two men headed toward Egypt, ready to speak with one of the most powerful people on the planet at that time.



## Closing Discussion:



Which kind of life do you think was more fun, working hard all day as a builder, or being a prince, living in the royal palace?

What did Moses do that got him in trouble? (fought with an Egyptian)

If someone is being mean to someone else, should we pick a fight with them?

Will this solve the problem? (no)

How did God get Moses' attention? (burning bush)

Why was this strange? (normally, when something catches on fire, it burns up and turns into ashes)

What do we call it when God does something amazing like this? (a miracle)

Pharaoh was a bully.

It took a lot of courage for Moses to go to him.

It also took a lot of self-control.

Did Moses have self-control when he was a prince and picked that fight?  
(no)

If you have to deal with someone who is mean, you can ask God to help you stay in control of yourself and not get angry.

He will give you the right words to say so that you can make peace.

## Craft:

Burning bush TP roll

## Closing Activity:

In the hall, have children stand at one end and walk to the burning bush one at a time. Have them take off their shoes and leave them in front, and stand to the side. When you say, "Let My people go!" children can all put their shoes on to see who finishes first.

# Burning Bush

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**There an angel of the LORD appeared to him from a burning bush. ~ Exodus 3:2**

- ❖ Children cut out green paper leaves and glue onto top of toilet paper roll.
- ❖ Children stuff red, yellow and orange tissue paper into center of roll.

