

Children's Bible Study



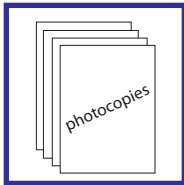
ON Holy GROUND

Children's Bible Study "On Holy Ground"

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Preparation

PREPARATION FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITIES



1. Make photocopies of activity sheets (provided with this lesson) "Bible People God Called" and "Bible Search for People God Called."



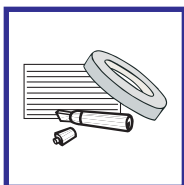
2. Provide sharpened pencils.



3. You can use the provided letters in this lesson packet or cut twenty-two, 2-by-2 inch squares from cardstock or poster board. Print a letter on each square. Print A on 2 squares, B on 1, D on 1, E on 2, G on 1, I on 1, L on 1, M on 4, N on 1, O on 1, R on 2, S on 3, U on 1, and Y on 1.



4. Mount on the focus wall pictures of persons God has called. Consider both biblical and modern-day persons. Above the pictures hang a banner that reads "People God Called." Beneath the pictures of biblical characters attach an index card on which you have printed a Bible reference that gives the name of the person pictured. Beneath the pictures of modern-day persons attach an index card on which you have printed their name.



5. Provide index cards, markers, and masking tape.

Background: Exodus 3:1-22

Key Passage: Exodus 3:9-15

Purpose: To help children understand that God's calling can come at any time, any place to any one.

Bible Story: God Calls Moses

Memory Verse: "God said to Moses: 'I am the eternal God. So tell them the Lord, whose name is "I Am," has sent you.'" (Exodus 3:14a CEV)

PREPARATION FOR LARGE GROUP TIME



1. Ask a person who has “heard” God’s call and obeyed the call to talk with the children. Ask someone other than a vocational religious worker.



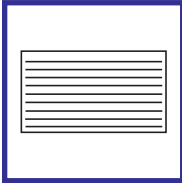
2. Have Bibles available, preferably the Contemporary English Version—one for each child who does not bring his or her own.



3. If you plan to do a dramatic reading of the Bible story, enlist the readers far enough in advance for them to prepare and rehearse the reading.



4. Secure a copy of “Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord,” The Baptist Hymnal, #287.



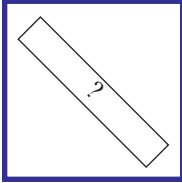
5. Print the memory verse on index cards—one word per card. Hide the cards in the classroom.

PREPARATION FOR BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES



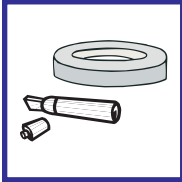
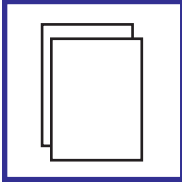
Play Spin the Bottle

1. Cut a portion out of a clean 2-liter bottle.
2. Print questions on paper strips—one question per strip. Fold them. Put them in the bottle.



God Called Moses Diptych

1. Provide two 9-by-11 inch poster board strips for each child.



2. Have available felt-tip markers and masking tape.

Is God Calling Me?



1. Make a copy of the activity sheet “Is God Calling Me?” for each child.
2. Provide sharpened pencils.

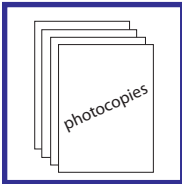
Beginning Activities
(10-15 minutes)

Make ready the following activities. Since they vary in degrees of difficulty, choose the ones most appropriate for the age group you teach. As the children enter the classroom, make them aware of the activities and let them choose one to do. Once they complete an activity, they may work on another one provided time allows.



1. WORD MAZE OF BIBLE PEOPLE GOD CALLED

Make available the activity sheet "Bible People God Called" and sharpened pencils. Children will find in the word maze names of Bible people God called, circle the names, and record them in space provided beneath the maze.



2. BIBLE SEARCH FOR PEOPLE GOD CALLED

Make available the activity sheet "Bible Search of People God Called", Bibles, and sharpened pencils.

Children will look up the Bible references, read them, discover the names of Bible people God called and record, in the appropriate columns, the names of the people and what God called them to do.



3. BIBLE PEOPLE GOD CALLED SCRAMBLE

Scramble the letters that you have made, face up, on a table. Instruct the children to use the letters to make the names of 5 Bible people God called to do something special. Each name should connect to another by intersecting letters, like crossword puzzle words. If the children have difficulty getting started, make the word SAMUEL horizontally on the table.

The finished puzzle should look like the diagram below.

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      M
    G I D E O N
      S
    S A M U E L
      B   S
      R
    M A R Y
      M
    
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4. GALLERY OF PERSONS GOD CALLED

Children will look at the pictures of persons God called that you have mounted on the focal wall. They will choose a biblical picture, look up the Bible reference that accompanies the picture, discover the name of the person pictured, print the name on an index card, and mount the card next to the picture.

Transition
(3-5 minutes)

Signal the children that it is time to stop what they are doing, cleanup, and move to Group Time. Ask the boys and girls to bring their chairs and form a semi-circle in front of you. Sit in front of the focal wall.

Large Group Time
(25-30 minutes)

You will find more suggestions than you will have time to do. Pick and choose those that will help accomplish your purpose with the children within the time constraints of your session.

Commend the children for working so well. Name two or three positive behaviors you observed.

4 Children's Bible Study

CONVERSE

Call for volunteers to share what they did during the Beginning Activities. Ask the children to name some people God called and what God called them to do. Explore the meaning of "God's call."

Ask questions such as: What does God's call mean? How does God call one? Does God speak audibly when God calls a person? How do you know God when God is calling? Why would God call someone? Does God call people now? Does God call boys and girls? What does God call boys and girls to do?

LISTEN TO GUEST

Introduce the guest you have invited to talk with the children. Mention that your guest is one who believes that God called him or her to do a specific task. Our guest will tell you about it.

The guest will share with the group. Allow time for the children to ask questions of your guest.

Remember to thank the guest for sharing.

PREPARE FOR BIBLE STUDY

Mention that sometimes God calls people to something that they feel they cannot do. Ask: Has someone ever asked you to do something that you felt like you could not do? How did you feel? Allow the children to respond.

Invite the children to listen to a story and discover the name of a man who was asked to do something he felt he could not do. Discover what he was asked to do and who it was who asked him. How did the person feel? What did the person do?

PRESENT BIBLE STUDY

With your Bible open to Exodus 3:1-22, tell the following story.

Option 1: Read the story from a CEV translation of the Scriptures.

Option 2: Read the story as a dramatic reading—one child reads the words of Moses, another the words spoken by God, and the third (or teacher) the narrative portions.



God Calls Moses

"That is strange," Moses said to himself. He was out in the desert taking care of his father-in-law's sheep and goats. He noticed a bush that was on fire. That wasn't so strange. The strange thing was that the bush continued to burn and the fire did not burn it up.

"I'll go over and see why the bush isn't burning up," he said.

As Moses neared the bush something very unusual happened. A voice began speaking to him. The voice said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals. The ground on which you stand is holy ground." Then the voice identified itself. "I am the God that your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob worshipped."

Moses was scared. He was so scared that he was afraid even to look at the bush. So he hid his face.

God continued to speak. God said, "I have seen how my people are suffering in Egypt. I have seen how cruel the Egyptians treat them. They have begged me for help. So I am sending you to lead my people out of that land."

Moses could not believe what was happening. He could not believe that God wanted him to go and stand in front of the king of Egypt and demand that he free the Hebrews—God's people. So Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to the king and lead your people out of Egypt?"

"I will be with you," God promised Moses.

Even though God told Moses exactly what to do and what would happen, it was not enough to convince Moses. He still did not believe he could do what God wanted him to do.

"Suppose," Moses said, "that no one will believe me. Suppose they will not believe that you have spoken to me and told me to do this."

"What is in your hand?" God asked.

"A walking stick," Moses replied.

God instructed Moses to throw the stick onto the ground. And when he did, it became a snake. Moses jumped back, away from the snake. God then told Moses to pick the snake up by its tail. And when he did, the snake turned back into a walking stick.

"If the people doubt you, do what you have just done and they will believe you," reassured God.

Even after God showed him two more miracles, Moses was not convinced.

"I have never been a good speaker," Moses complained. "I am slow at speaking and can never think of what to say. Please, Lord, send someone else to free your people," Moses begged.

"What about your brother Aaron who is a Levite? He is a good speaker. Aaron will speak for you. You will be like me. You will tell Aaron what to say. I will be with the both of you as you speak. I will tell each of you what to do. Now take your walking stick and use it to perform miracles."

At last, God convinced Moses. Soon Moses was on his way to Egypt.

—based on Exodus 3:1-22

REVIEW BIBLE FACTS

Ask: Who was asked to do something he felt like he could not do? Who asked him? What did God ask Moses to do? How did Moses respond? How did God reassure Moses to do what God wanted him to do? Did Moses agree to do what God wanted him to do?

APPLY A BIBLE TRUTH

Request the children to share what they learned from the story of Moses about God's call.

Explain that you will make some statements and want them to tell you whether or not they think the statements are true or false and why.

- God chooses individuals to do various things.
- God has something for each one of us to do.
- God will let us know what he wants us to do.
- God will be with us and help us do what he wants us to do.



SING

Say: The words of this song probably express how Moses must have felt when he agreed to go to Egypt and free his people. Perhaps it expresses how you feel.

Sing stanzas one and three of "Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord (The Baptist Hymnal, #287). Lead the children to sing the song again, but sing it antiphonally. Divide the children into two groups. Group one will sing the first Take my life, lead me, Lord. Group two will sing the second Take my life, lead me Lord. Both groups will sing Make my life useful to Thee. Follow this pattern and complete singing stanza one. Repeat the process as you sing stanza three.



PRAY

Call for volunteers to ask God to help the children to learn what God wants each one to do; to give them the ability to do it; and to know that God is with them to help them.

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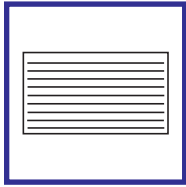
DEVELOP BIBLE SKILLS

Mention that they will find today's memory verse in the book of Exodus—the second book in the Old Testament. Instruct the children to place their Bibles face up on their legs, and then open their Bibles at the beginning and turn the pages until they have found the book of Exodus. Ask them to sit quietly with their Bibles opened until everyone has found Exodus.

Ask the boys and girls to find chapter 3 and verse 14. Assist those who may need help. Ask the children to put their finger on verse 14.

Discover the number of Bible translations the children have. Have the children read the verse from the various translations.

Instruct the child to close their Bibles and place them under their chairs.



LEARN A BIBLE VERSE

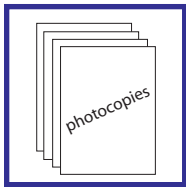
Explain that you have printed the words to the memory verse on index cards and have hidden the cards in the room.

Have the children find the words, bring them back to the large group, lay them on the floor face up, and arrange them in correct order.

Children may check their verse by finding Exodus 3:14 in a CEV Bible.

Lead the children to read the verse aloud and in unison. Repeat the reading. Have the children close their eyes. Remove three cards. Ask the children to look at the verse and determine which words are missing. Then lead the children in saying the verse, filling in the missing words. Continue the process until you have removed all the cards and the children can say the verse from memory.

Option: Rather than hiding the cards in the room, scramble them on the floor and have the children arrange them in correct order.



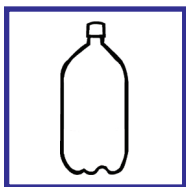
Spend some time exploring what the verse means. Ask what eternal God and God's name, "I Am," mean.

If you teach older children, you may choose to continue the Large Group Time by leading them in Bible-learning Activity 3 "Is God Calling Me?"

Bible Learning Activities

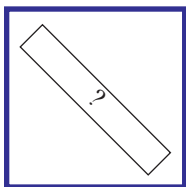
(25-30 minutes)

Prepare each activity described below. Describe each activity. Permit the children to do the activity of their choice. Assign a teacher to each activity. They will guide the activity and assist the children as needed.



PLAY SPIN THE BOTTLE

Cut out a portion of a clean 2-liter bottle. Print questions on paper strips—one question per strip. Fold them. Put them in the bottle. Children will spin the bottle. The one to whom the bottle points after it stops spinning will remove a paper strip, read the question, and answer it. Or the child may call for the group to answer the question. That child spins the bottle and the game continues.



Questions for paper strips:

- What strange thing did Moses see?
- Where was Moses when he saw the burning bush?
- Once he saw the burning bush, what did Moses do?
- Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush?

- What did God instruct Moses to remove?
- Why did God ask Moses to remove his sandals?
- Where did God want Moses to go?
- Why did God want Moses to go to Egypt?
- What did Moses think the people might do when he returned to Egypt?
- What was Moses holding in his hand when God talked with him?
- What did God instruct Moses to do with the walking stick?
- What happened to the walking stick?
- What was it Moses told God that he had never been?
- What did Moses ask God to do?
- Who did God choose to speak for Moses?
- Who would tell Aaron what to say?
- What did God promise to do for both Moses and Aaron?
- What did Moses finally decide to do?
- What is God's name?
- How long has God existed?
- Add other questions about people God has called.

GOD CALLED MOSES DIPTYCH

Provide two 9-by-11 inch poster board strips for each child, felt-tip markers, and tape.

Brainstorm with the children ideas of pictures they may draw that will illustrate the Bible content for today. They may name such things as sheep, goats, burning bush, Moses looking at the distant burning bush, Moses removing his sandals, Moses covering his face, walking stick, snake, Moses picking up the snake by the tail, and Moses walking away from the burning bush. Record them on a marking board or sheet of paper.

Ask the children to share something they learned from the story of God calling Moses. Record those thoughts on a marking board and sheet of paper.

Give each child a single piece of poster board. Ask each one to choose a picture from the list and to illustrate it using the markers. Draw a border around the picture.

Give each child the second piece of poster board. Guide them to print as neatly as possible something they learned from the story of God calling Moses. Draw a border around the statement.

When they finish, lay the two pieces of poster board face down on a table or floor. Tape the two pieces together. Pick up the taped pieces. Spread them apart until the two form a "V" shape. The diptych should stand alone.

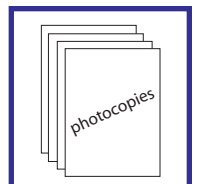
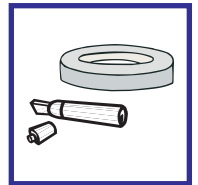
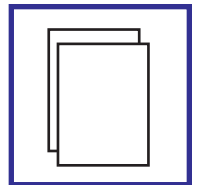
IS GOD CALLING ME?

Give each child a copy of the activity sheet "Is God Calling Me?" and a sharpened pencil.

Explore together as a group ways God speaks to us. Encourage the children to record in the appropriate space ideas that everyone shares. Ideas may include: through people (parents, friends, teachers, ministers, etc.), our thoughts, our feelings and impressions, the Bible, our abilities, our talents, circumstances, events, and nature.

Now have the children to individually answer the remaining questions on the sheet.

Once everyone has completed answering the questions, ask volunteers to share their answers. Inquire as to whether anyone is beginning to determine what God might be calling him or her to do.



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Conclude by mentioning that some may be sensing something special God is calling them to do, but God calls all of us to live everyday according to God's plan. Lead the group to name things God calls us to do everyday.

Commend the children for their thinking and contributions.

Bible People God Called

In the word maze find and circle the names of people God called. Print their names in the appropriate space below the maze. Each capital letter is the first letter in a person's name.

X X X X M X X X
G I D E O N X X
X X X X S X X X
S A M U E L X X
X B J O S E P H
X R X X X V X X
M A R Y X I X X
X M X L Y D I A

M _ _ _ _

G _ _ _ _

S _ _ _ _

A _ _ _ _

J _ _ _ _

M _ _ _

L _ _ _ _

Bible Search of People God Called

Read the Bible references listed below. Discover the names of persons God called and what God call them to do.

Record the information in the appropriate columns.

BIBLE REFERENCE

PERSON CALLED

CALLED TO DO WHAT

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 45:4

Exodus 3: 6; 10

Exodus 4:27

Joshua 1:1-2

Judges 6:11-12

1 Samuel 3:1-4; 19-20

Mark 2:13-14

Mark 1:16-17

Luke 1:26-31

Luke 8:1-3

Acts 9:3-4; 15

Acts 16:14-15

Is God Calling Me?

God speaks to us through:

What do you enjoy doing?

What do you do best?

What are your talents?

What do people say you do well?

What gives you the most satisfaction?

Could God be preparing you to do something that God wants you to do?

Could this give you an idea of what God might be calling you to do?

A

A

B

D

E

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