



Living in Faith Together



October 2022

God's Call to Change



Available online at www.hosannatogether.org/lift

This Month's Theme and Scripture

God calls us to do big things, and sometimes that involves change and reformation.

Exodus 3:1-15 - Moses and the burning bush

LiFT with Children...

Read the story together in a Bible:

Spark Story Bible:

The Burning Bush and Free from Slavery, pages 72-79

The Action Bible:

A Burning Bush! And Spokesmen for God, pages 121-128

Ask each other some or all of these questions:

- How do you act when you don't want to do something you've been asked to do?
- How does God call you to help carry out his plan for our world?
- God commanded Moses to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground by the burning bush. Why do you think this act was so important? Can you think of times in our world we might do something similar, such as when we pray or sing the national anthem?
- Take turns rolling a die and listing that number of people you know (or know of) who have been called by God to do something in our world. Think of Bible heroes, people in your community, family members, friends, and characters from history, even if what they do is everyday stuff.

Choose a few activities that fit you:

- Place drops of red, orange, and yellow fingerpaint on paper. Use a straw to blow the paint to make a burning bush. Hang this on your refrigerator to remind you of this story!
- Search for some voice recordings that you think might sound like God's voice. Is God's voice high or low? Fast or slow? Intense or calm? Quiet or loud? Put together an audio collage of different voices that might sound like God's voice and share it with your family.
- Talk to your family members about some things they've felt God calling them to do. If those things were difficult, ask them to talk about how they knew that God was with them, helping them.
- Act out this story outside. Grab some sandals and a flashlight. One person shines the flashlight through a bush and talks like God. The other person wears the sandals and pretends to be Moses. What do God and Moses talk about?
- God issues a challenge to Moses through the burning bush. Is there a family challenge you can come up with: to raise money for your church or a special charity? To enter a walk-a-thon to raise funds and awareness for the hungry? To plan a neighborhood block party? God loves big ideas!
- God used an amazing burning bush to get Moses' attention. With adult supervision, light your own burning bush — a candle — at dinner. Gather around the glowing light and talk about how God gets your attention. Does God use nature, the Bible, loved ones, or strangers?
- God told Moses that the Israelites would be rescued from the Egyptians. Moses would lead them into a land flowing with milk and honey. As a family, make some honey muffins and serve with milk.

- Have you ever thought about how much music impacts our mood? Have every family member pick out a couple of their favorite songs. Sit down together and take turns sharing your songs. Listen to what you really like about each other's music and how it makes you feel.
- Listen to the different voices around you — voices in your family, on the radio, at school — and talk about what God's voice might sound like.

Pray together--this or a prayer you make up:

Thank you, God, for working with us and through us, and sometimes in spite of us! Help us to hear your call to our family to do what needs to be done in the world. AMEN.

Keep Thinking:

Next time you're around a fire, remember this amazing story of the Burning Bush when the bush burned but did not burn up!

LiFT with Teens or Adults...

Read the story... Part 1

Moses Flees - Exodus 2:11-25

Discuss these questions:

- Eventually Moses will bring the Hebrew people out of slavery. What impact do you think this experience with the Egyptian beating a Hebrew had on him? How have experiences in your past (even bad ones) brought you to where you are today?
- Instead of confrontation, Moses runs. When have you run away from hard things? How has God helped you face it at a later time?

Read the story... Part 2

At the Burning Bush - Exodus 3:1-12

Discuss these questions:

- Why do you think God begins with, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? What difference does it make knowing your history?
- God speaks to Moses through a burning bush. How does God speak to you? How easy or hard is it to resist God?
- God says, “I have observed the misery of my people . . . I have heard their cry . . . I know their sufferings.” Do you think God sees you? Hears your cries? Knows your sufferings? If so, what’s God doing about it? Who is the “Moses” God is preparing to send you?

Read the story... Part 3

The Divine Name - Exodus 3:13-22

Discuss these questions:

- God tells Moses to say, “I AM has sent me to you.” The Hebrew words God uses for “I AM” more literally translate to English as “the One who causes to be.” God identifies as One who *does* stuff. What kind of stuff does God do in the world and (more importantly) in your life? What name would you give God based on that action?
- God also unveils a rather specific plan. How would you feel if God came to you with a plan like *that*? How do you feel when God’s plan for you doesn’t fit your plan for you?

Read the story... Part 4

Miraculous Power - Exodus 4:1-17

Discuss these questions:

- God performs a bunch of miracles for Moses as a way of convincing people. Sometimes we yearn for miracles or signs like the kind Moses gets. However, later in the story when they get performed before Pharaoh, they shock and awe, but they don’t change his mind. What is more likely to convince you or others of God’s liberating love than miracles or signs?
- For Moses’ *third* excuse for why he can’t do this, he says he’s a terrible public speaker. What is God’s answer to this? Who does else does it involve?

Take a moment to think on these topics and then share them with those with you:

- Identify something challenging you’ve had to do that ended up being life-giving to you or to someone else.
- What was your first reaction to doing it?
- Did you have a perfect plan or know everything to expect going into it? If you didn’t (and it’s pretty likely you didn’t), how did you manage it? How was God involved in that?
- What does this experience teach you about challenging experiences still ahead of you?
- If you were to find a bush on fire in your backyard today, and God spoke to you through it, what do you think God would be calling you to do?

Choose a few activities that fit you:

- Light a candle or sit by a fire. Take off your shoes, sit down, and listen for God to talk. Watch the flames closely to help you clear your mind and focus.
- Make an origami bush to remind you of this story. Instructions are on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/a5eE1Ls-4uk>

- Research the Protestant Reformation online or at a library.
- Read, listen to, or watch online the “I have a dream” speech (the whole thing) by Martin Luther King Jr. Then ponder what God was calling him to do, and who he was called to liberate. What impact did it have? What did it cost him?
- Think about the power of simple changes with this puzzle...

Instructions: Change one word into another by altering only one letter at a time to make a common English word at each step. No letters may be scrambled from one step to the next.

For example: to change “BELL” to “BEAR” in three steps, you could write BELL, BELT, BEAT, BEAR.

Now you try it, each in 4 steps:

- CAST to FAME
- ROLE to MOOD
- BELT to MUST
- DIVE to NAME
- TREE to FLED

Answers are at the bottom of the page.

Pray together this or a prayer you make up:

Thank you, God, for working with us and through us, and sometimes in spite of us! Help us to hear your call to do what needs to be done in for the people around use and for the sake of the world. AMEN.

Keep Thinking:

Next time you’re around a fire, remember this story. Consider what God is calling you to do in that moment.

PUZZLE ANSWERS:
 CAST - CASE - CAME - FAME
 ROLE - MOLE - MOLD - MOOD
 BELT - BEST - BUST - MUST
 DIVE - DIME - DAME - NAME
 TREE - FREE - FLEE - FLED

What is LiFT?

Living in Faith Together is a monthly series of conversations and activities to grow your connection with God and others.

When do I LiFT?

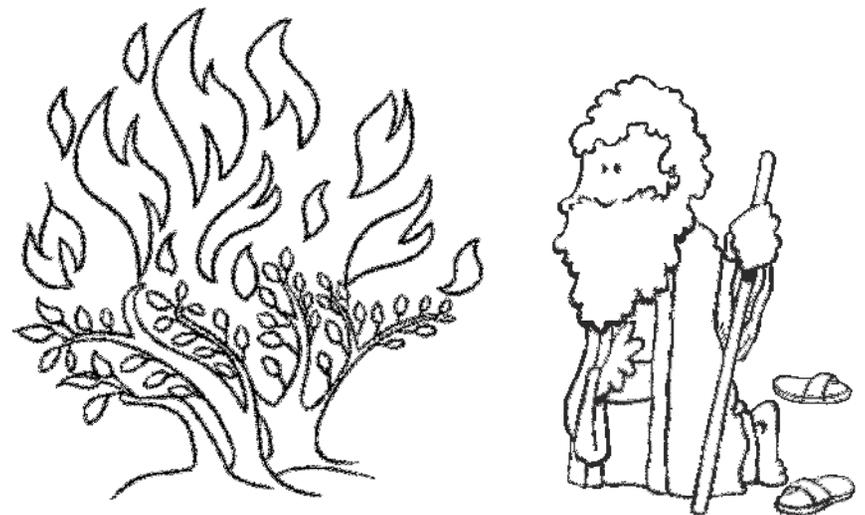
We’re encouraging you to gather the second Sunday of each month, but you can choose *any* day. Just be intentional (so you don’t put it off--it happens to the best of us!).

Who do I LiFT with?

Anyone and everyone! LiFT at home with your kids, grandkids, or spouse (or all of them!). Invite grown kids over or talk with them on the phone/online. Gather a few friends or neighbors over a snack. Join a small group after worship the second Sunday of the month. Conversations and activities are divided by age, but you can do any of them.

COLORING PAGE

While coloring, imagine what you’d feel, how you’d act, and what you’d say if God was talking to you through a burning bush.



*Some questions and activities from The Burning Bush. Spark Sunday School
 © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use.*