

“Hey, God!” - LESSON 4

“Are You Talking To Me?”

Main Focus:

We must not make excuses, just obey.



Power Verse:

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”

- Philippians 2:13



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Won’t Make Excuses - I Will Obey!”

LEADER’S INFO

When God speaks to us and gives us an important assignment, it can feel exciting—but also scary! Sometimes, fear and feelings of not being “good enough” sneak in. We start making excuses.

When we make excuses, it usually means one thing: deep down, we just don’t want to obey. But guess what? Our excuses don’t work with God.

As we look at the rest of the story of Moses and the burning bush, we’ll learn an important lesson: excuses don’t stop God’s plans! For every excuse Moses gave, God had the perfect answer: “I will be with you.”

And when God is with us—who can stand against us? No matter how big the assignment or how small we feel, we can trust that God’s presence gives us everything we need to follow His call.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“I Don’t Think I Can Do It!”



Whatchagaddaknow Video

Wiggy Pop teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Curi Osity”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“What Did You Say?”



Bible Story

“Moses Gives Excuses”



Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“Are You Talking To Me?”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

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Whatchagaddaknow:

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Lesson 4 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 4 - The Spark” Intro Video

Whatchagaddaknow Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow Teaching” Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow Trigger” Video

Character Skit

- “Curi Osity” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “What Did You Say?” Graphic

Bible Story

- “Moses Gives Excuses” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 4 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Are You Talking To Me?” Graphics
- A Small Hand-Held Mirror

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 4 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Excuses Print Piece
- Styrofoam Or Plastic Cups
- Cotton Balls
- Straws
- Tape
- Small Pieces Of Paper
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Trash Can

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“What Did You Say?”

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Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Welcome back to our awesome series called “Hey God!” We’ve been asking some BIG questions that kids ask God all the time.

Let me ask you something—have you ever felt like you weren’t good enough to do something? Maybe you wanted to try out for a sports team, but you thought, “I’m not fast enough.” Or maybe your teacher asked for volunteers, and you thought, “I’ll mess it up.” Or maybe you saw someone who needed a friend, but you thought, “I’m too shy.” Has that ever happened to you? *(allow response)*

When those moments happen, it can feel scary, can’t it? *(allow response)* Sometimes we start coming up with all kinds of excuses to get out of doing something.

To find out more of what I’m talking about, let’s check out this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 4”)

Leader: If you’ve ever felt like you couldn’t do something important, you’re not alone. Moses felt the same way! When God gave him a big assignment, Moses had plenty of excuses.

Today, you’ll see how God helped Moses—and how He can help YOU, too!

We are going to learn all about that in our lesson, today. But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Curi Osity**” *(She is an amateur detective who is always on the hunt for her next case! She always carries a magnifying glass and notepad with her to uncover clues and put together the answers she so badly seeks to find.)*

Curi: *(Enters panting)* Hey! Guess what! I found a mystery!

Leader: What is it, Curi Osity?

Curi: I don't know, but I will find out! Okay, so... why do people say we need to listen to God?

Leader: Well, God speaks to us through His Word. It's all about listening and obeying.

Curi: *(Tilting her head)* But... what if I have to clean my room first?

Leader: *(Chuckling)* Cleaning your room is part of obeying, Curi.

Curi: But it's pretty messy in there... It may take me a looooooong time. I'd need a magnifying glass just to find my socks!

Leader: *(Laughs)* You might also find treasures you've lost!

Curi: *(Holding her magnifying glass)* Like my pet dinosaur!

Leader: Curi, there is no way you have a pet dinosaur.

Curi: SHHHHH! Don't let him hear you say that. He could have followed me in here. *(Looks for dino)* But back to God! What if I want to play instead of pray?

Leader: Well, playing is fun, but prayer helps us connect with God. It's important that we spend time with Him, too, not just play with our toys or video games.

Curi: *(Thinking hard)* Hmm, so I can't use my “I'm too busy with detective work” excuse forever?

Leader: Exactly! God wants us to listen and learn, not make excuses for spending time with Him.

Curi: Okay... but reading is boring sometimes! How am I supposed to read the Bible and obey Him if I'm so bored?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: *(Teasingly)* It's only boring if you don't use your imagination! What if you turn the words into a fun adventure?

Curi: Like a treasure hunt?

Leader: Yes! And the treasure is wisdom from God.

Curi: *(Holding up her magnifying glass)* Aha! So, when I read the Bible, I'm actually a treasure-seeking detective! That sounds super cool!

Leader: Exactly! You can discover how to listen to God and what He wants you to do.

Curi: *(Enthusiastically)* And stop making excuses!

Leader: *(Smiling)* Right! Especiall ones about dinosaurs.

Curi: *(Looking through the magnifying glass in the Leader's face)* I bet my dino is in my room somewhere! I better go look for it. I am Curi Osity... Keep asking questions and stay curious! BYE!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“What Did You Say?”

Items Needed For Game:

None

.....

Preparation:

Choose an equal number of boys and girls to compete against each other.

.....

How To Play:

This game is played very similarly to the classic game of “Telephone.” The players will all stand in a line with their team. You will whisper a statement in the ear of the first player in the line. They should then pass it down the line, whispering it quietly so the other players can’t hear.

Once the last person in the line has heard the statement, they will say it out loud. Compare that to the original statement to see how close each team got. The team that is able to repeat the statement closest to the original is the winning team!



Bible Story

“Moses Gives Excuses”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 4; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Exodus 3:8-4:17; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in Exodus chapters 3 & 4. When we last left Moses, he had just had an amazing encounter with God. The Lord appeared to him in the wilderness and spoke to him through a bush that was burning, but did not burn up. (*show pic*) God told Moses that He wanted to use him to set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt.

You would think that Moses would be excited about this, right? After all, Moses had been angry about the Israelites being slaves in Egypt. That’s why he killed that Egyptian soldier and ended up running for his life from Pharaoh. But, that’s not at all how Moses reacted.

(*show pic*) Moses said to God, “Who am I to speak to Pharaoh?” In other words, “I’m a nobody, God. Pharaoh won’t listen to me!” God answered, “I will be with you.” That didn’t seem to convince Moses. Moses responded, “What if they ask me what God’s name is?” God said, (*show pic*) “Tell them I AM sent you.” That means that God doesn’t need to tell His name - HE IS God just because HE IS.

Moses STILL had questions. “What if they don’t believe me?” God understood that the Egyptians and Israelites would need convincing. So, God said, “I will help you perform miracles to convince them.” Then, God showed Moses some incredible miracles. (*show pic*) God told Moses to throw his staff on the ground, and when he did, it turned into a snake! When Moses picked it back up, it turned right back into a staff. This was God proving that His power would go with Moses wherever he went. But even after this, Moses still had excuses.

“I can’t speak very well!” We don’t know if maybe Moses had a stuttering problem or something like that. But, we know he didn’t think he had what it took to speak to Pharaoh and tell him to let God’s people go free. So, God said, “I will speak through you.” Finally, Moses revealed the truth. The fact is, he just didn’t want to obey God on this one. So, Moses said, “Lord, please ask someone else to do it!”

God was not happy with this response. He commanded Moses, (*show pic*) “Take your staff and GO! I will be with you!” God didn’t accept Moses’ excuses, and He won’t accept ours. We must drop our excuses and just obey God. That’s what you are going to learn about today.





Call To Action

“Are You Talking To Me?”

Materials Needed:

The “Call To Action” graphics; a small hand-held mirror

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Are You Talking To Me?”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses! We are so good at making them. When we don’t get our chores done, we say, “I didn’t have time!” When we didn’t bring home something from school, we say, “I forgot!” When we get into an argument with our brother or sister, we say, “They started it!” It almost seems like we have an excuse for everything.

Moses had a lot of excuses for why he just couldn’t go speak to Pharaoh and demand that he let God’s people go. He used several excuses that WE often use as well. Sometimes we don’t want to obey when God asks us to do something. Whether God is calling us to tell others about Jesus, serve on a ministry team at church, or to give money in an offering for missionaries, we often make some of the same excuses that Moses made...

Excuse #1 - Who Am I? (low self-esteem) *(slide)*



When God told Moses to go tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, Moses said, “Who am I to talk to Pharaoh?” Sometimes we struggle with low self-esteem, too. We think, “Who am I to serve in ministry?” “Who am I to tell others about Jesus?” “Who am I to be a leader among my friends?”

Low self-esteem is a difficult thing. *(hold up the mirror)* People look in the mirror and they just don’t like what they see. They think they are a nobody. But, God says, “I will be with you!” That’s what He said to Moses, and that is what He says to us. If you struggle with self-esteem, don’t say, “Who am I?” Instead say, “I KNOW who I am - a child of God!”

Another excuse that we sometimes make...

Excuse #2 - Who Are You? (doubt in God) *(slide)*



When the first excuse didn’t work, Moses said, “What if they ask me the name of God? Who are you anyway?” There was something deep inside of Moses that doubted that God was who He said He was. Sometimes we are that way, too. We doubt that God really has the power that He says He has and can do what He says He can.

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Call To Action (Continued)

God told Moses, “I am who I am!” In other words, “I am God. Don’t doubt me. I AM!” We don’t need to doubt God. He IS God. He IS powerful. He IS amazing! Another excuse that we sometimes make...

Excuse #3 - What If I Am Rejected? (rejection) (slide)



Moses told God, “What if they won’t listen to me? What if they say, ‘God never really appeared to you.’” In other words, “What if they reject me and don’t want to listen?” I think that is something many of us are afraid of. None of us want to be rejected or made fun of. But, God turned Moses’ rod into a snake and told him to use that as a sign to show the Israelites. But, Moses wasn’t done making excuses...

Excuse #4 - How Am I Supposed To Do This? (low confidence) (slide)



Moses said, “I can’t speak very well. I never have been able to. How am I supposed to go speak to Pharaoh?” Moses wasn’t very confident in his abilities, so he tried to use that as an excuse not to obey God. God’s response to Moses is the same as it is to us, “I will be with you.” You don’t have to have a lot of confidence in yourself - just have confidence in God! But after all of these excuses, Moses comes down to the REAL truth...

Excuse #5 - Do I Have To? (disobedience) (slide)



Moses tells God, “Please send someone else.” In other words, “Do I have to do this? Can’t someone else do it?” When it came down to it, all of Moses’ excuses were really all because he just didn’t want to obey. God was NOT happy with this attitude. He told Moses, “Pick up your staff and GO! I will be with you!” God wasn’t impressed with Moses’ lack of obedience. And, He is never impressed when we start making excuses to make up for the fact that we just really don’t want to obey Him.

Instead of excuses, God wants obedience. Do you know what? No one has ever done anything big for God who settled for making excuses. Even Moses wised up and obeyed. You and I must do the same thing. Realize that if God called you to do something BIG for Him, He is not going to make you do it alone. He will be with you! If God is with you, then you can’t fail! So, let go of the excuses - and OBEY!

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Pray for the children who have been making excuses and struggling to obey God. Pray that they will drop their excuses, trust God, and fully obey Him. Remind them that God is always with them, just as He was with Moses.



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 4 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Won’t Make Excuses - I Will Obey!”

2. What was God speaking to Moses through?

Answer: A Burning Bush

3. Who did God want Moses to tell, “Let my people go!”?

Answer: Pharaoh

4. Did Moses immediately obey God?

Answer: No

5. What did Moses’ staff turn into?

Answer: A Snake

6. Moses’ first excuse was, “_____ Am I?”

Answer: Who

7. Moses’ second excuse was, “Who are _____?”

Answer: You

8. Moses’ third excuse was, “How Am I Supposed To _____ _____?”

Answer: Do This

9. What was the real reason Moses was making excuses?

Answer: He Didn’t Want To Obey

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Philippians 2:13