

**Teachers Dig In****Dig In to the Bible**

- Read: Exodus 3:1–4:17
- In This Passage: God appears to Moses in a bush that's on fire but not burning up. God tells Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, where they're slaves. Moses doesn't want to and has a lot of excuses. But God assures him, "I Am Who I Am." God doesn't change; he's the same God today!
- Bible Point: God doesn't change...
- Application: ...so we trust him when we're unsure.
- Summary Verse: "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28).

**Dig Deeper**

- You'll Be Teaching: *God doesn't change.* So often, God in the Bible can seem like a different God from the one in kids' lives today. He can seem bigger, more miraculous, and more powerful. Help kids understand that God doesn't change. The same God who appeared to Moses in a burning bush is present in their lives, ready to do big things through them.
- Think About: How has your view of God changed? What makes that different from God himself changing?

**Dig In to Prayer**

- Pray that God would give kids confidence in who he is, even when they feel unsure.

**Quick Tip**

- If you have kids with disabilities in your class, be sensitive to them during active games and learning experiences. Every effort you make to include each child makes an eternal difference to that person—and to his or her family. Moses may have had a speech impediment, but God sent him to talk to the leader of a country! Help kids see that God doesn't change and there are no limits to what he can do through us.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### OBJECT LESSON

Kids see beads jump out of a jar.

#### Supplies

- Mason jars (1 for every 5 kids)
- plastic beaded necklaces (10 for every 5 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- Use scissors to cut the beaded necklaces to create strands of beads. Then tie 10 strands together to create 1 long string of beads. Make 1 long string of beads for every 5 kids.



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids act out the Bible story and unwrap a crepe paper ball to find surprise objects.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- crepe paper
- 2 toothpicks
- tiny plastic snake or small drawing of a snake
- sticky note
- transparent tape
- red, yellow, orange, and green washable markers
- wet wipe
- small plastic bag of dirt
- red food coloring
- cup of water
- bulletin board paper
- "Crepe Paper Ball Instructions" handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))

#### Easy Prep

- Determine an area that can symbolize the "wilderness." On a sheet of bulletin board paper, draw a large green bush. Hang the bush in the wilderness.
- Use the easy steps found on the "Crepe Paper Ball Instructions" handout to make a crepe paper ball (it'll take only a couple of minutes).



### CRAFT

Kids make a burning bush cup.

#### Supplies

- 8-ounce clear plastic cups (1 per child)
- brown construction paper cut into 1x9-inch strips (1 per child)
- green, yellow, orange, and red tissue paper
- glue sticks or washable glue
- battery-operated tealight candles (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Memory that changes.

#### Supplies

- 16 large, opaque plastic cups (all the same color)

- 8 pairs of objects that fit under your upside-down plastic cups (such as cotton balls, coins, pompoms, paper clips, googly eyes, clothespins, balls, and plastic bottle caps)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

**Kids play Tag and run to safety.**

### Supplies

- masking tape (optional)



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

**Kids draw something they're unsure of, pray about it, and put it in an unchanging container.**

### Supplies

- cookie tin with a lid
- paper
- crayons

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



## Supplies

- Bible

## Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers give a fist bump to four friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” with an extra “happy” as many times as the child is old. If the child is turning 10, they’d say, “Happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

## Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that God doesn’t change. He’s always the same—and that means he’s always good! We can trust him. God has a great big love for us, so we don’t want him to change. Let’s think of some things that change and decide whether we want them to change.**

## Share

- Say: **Sometimes movies and TV shows have things that change, like transformer cars that turn into robots.**
- Ask: • **What are some good things about a car that could change into a robot?** Share one reason *you* think that might be a good change. You might say you could ride in the car and then use the robot arms to reach something high up on a building.
- In small groups, have kids share what *they* think would be good about a car that could change into a robot. Help children with more ideas, if needed. They might say the robot could walk over a stream but a car can’t. They also might say a robot can fight a bad guy but a car can’t.
- Say: **If the car turned into a *mean* robot, then we wouldn’t want *that* change. Other movies show people who can turn into animals, like a lady who turns into a cat.** Share one reason *you* think that might be a good change. You might say that the lady could relax like a cat does.
- In small groups, have kids share what *they* think would be good about a person who can turn into an animal. They might say that the animal could climb better than a person or the animal can run faster than a person.
- Say: **If the person turned into a big scary animal, then we might not want *that* change.**

## Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **God doesn’t need to ever change because God is so powerful. We don’t want God to change because he’s already exactly what we need. God is so loving that he loves us more than anyone else. And God is with us all the time no matter what—that never changes. The Bible has stories that show us that we can trust God because he doesn’t change. Let’s learn why we can trust God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that we can trust him because he doesn’t change.



## OBJECT LESSON

### Keep Giving!

[10 min]

### Supplies

- Mason jars (1 for every 5 kids)
- plastic beaded necklaces (10 for every 5 kids)

### Easy Prep

- Use scissors to cut the beaded necklaces to create strands of beads. Then tie 10 strands together to create 1 long string of beads. Make 1 long string of beads for every 5 kids.

### Tip

- We used a pint-size Mason jar, but you could use a larger jar or a coffee mug for this experiment, too. Simply add or subtract bead strands depending on the size of container.

### Put Beads in a Jar

Show kids the beads. Say: **Look at this long string of beads.** Invite kids to tell you about the color and other things they notice about the beads.

Say: **These beads are colorful, pretty, and shiny. And they can do something surprising! Let's find out what it is.**

- Form leader-led groups of five kids, and give each group a long string of beads and a Mason jar.
- Have the adult or teen helper assist kids as they carefully lower the beads into the jar, leaving the end of the long string barely hanging over the edge of the jar.



### Pull the End of the Beads

Say: **Now all our beads are in the jar, and they aren't moving at all. But that will change! Watch this.** Stand on a chair, and hold a jar of beads above your head. Gently pull the end of the string of beads, and then let go. Your motion will cause the rest of the beads to "jump" out of the jar and onto the floor.

- Have adult and teen helpers lead the kids in their small groups to make their bead strings do the same. Jars can sit on a table.
- Have kids work together to put the beads back into the jar; then give another child a turn to pull on the string and put the beads in motion.
- Repeat, giving each child a turn.

### **Talk About It**

Say: **Our beads looked like snakes when they jumped out of the jars. In our Bible story, Moses was so surprised when God made his staff turn into a snake. And the same God who surprised Moses in the Bible still surprises us today. God doesn't change. God is still amazing and powerful, just as he was back when Moses lived.**

Tell one way God has surprised *you*. Perhaps he sent a friend to unexpectedly visit you at your house or he surprised you with a raise at work.

Ask: • **When has God surprised you?** Kids might mention getting a new toy or having a special guest join them for dinner.

Say: **God surprised Moses when he showed his amazing power. And God has amazing surprises for us, too, because God doesn't change. God loves us so much, and we can trust him. We can know that he'll always be there for us, and sometimes he'll even surprise us with his amazing power, too.**



## Supplies

- Bible
- crepe paper
- 2 toothpicks
- tiny plastic snake or small drawing of a snake
- sticky note
- transparent tape
- red, yellow, orange, and green washable markers
- wet wipe
- small plastic bag of dirt
- red food coloring
- cup of water
- bulletin board paper
- “Crepe Paper Ball Instructions” handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))

## Easy Prep

- Determine an area that can symbolize the “wilderness.” On a sheet of bulletin board paper, draw a large green bush. Hang the bush in the wilderness.
- Use the easy steps found on the “Crepe Paper Ball Instructions” handout to make a crepe paper ball (it’ll take only a couple of minutes).

## Act It Out

Say: **Today we’re learning that God doesn’t change. God is strong today, and he was strong a long time ago in the Bible. God loves us today, and he loved the people we read about in the Bible. God doesn’t change—ever! That means we can trust God. We can be sure he’ll take care of us like he cared for the people in the Bible.**

Show a Bible. Say: **Let’s look in our Bible to find out how God took care of his friends, the Israelites.**

**God used a man named Moses. Moses was the Israelites’ leader. One day Moses was in the wilderness. The wilderness is a place where there aren’t many people around, like a big field or a forest.** Lead children to the “wilderness” that you prepped ahead of time.

Say: **While Moses was taking care of his animals, he noticed a bush.** Point to the bush you drew. **Something strange was happening with the bush, so Moses stopped to look at it.** Make a few marks on the bush with a red, yellow, or orange marker. **The bush was on fire! But the bush wasn’t changing or burning up.** Invite the children to color in the bush with red, yellow, or orange markers to make it look like a fire is on it.

Say: **God was in the fire, and God said to Moses, “Here I am. Take off your shoes because you’re in a very special place.” So Moses took off his shoes.** Lead children to remove their shoes.

Say: **God said to Moses, “I made everyone. I made your parents, your grandparents, and all your family.” God made all the people in the Bible, and he even made you and me. The Bible shows us that people trusted God and followed him. And because God doesn’t change, we can trust God, too.**

Point to the bush. Say: **Even though Moses knew God is good, it was a little scary when God showed up in the fire. Moses knew that God is amazing. He was afraid to be so close to such an amazing God, so he hid his face.** Lead children to cover their faces like Moses did.

Say: **But God told Moses, “I can see how sad your family and friends are. I want to help them. Tell your friends and family that I’m going to take them to a new place where they’ll be safe and have everything they need.”**

**But Moses said, “I’m not important enough to do it.” Moses was scared to do such a big thing.**

Share about a time you were scared to do something. You might share about a new job. You might also

share about a tricky recipe you tried or a piece of furniture you built.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you were scared to do something.** Kids might share about going to a new school, learning to ride a bike, or moving to a new neighborhood.

Say: **God is with you when you're scared. And God will always take care of you. God doesn't change, so we can trust him to *always* take care of us. God wanted Moses to trust him, too. But Moses still didn't think he was important enough to help God.**

### **Unwrap the Ball**

Say: **Let's do something to help us learn how God showed he's trustworthy and he doesn't change.**

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **God decided to show Moses some amazing surprises to help Moses understand how strong and powerful God is. We'll use this surprise ball to find out the surprises God showed Moses.**

Have the child on your left unravel the surprise ball for only a count of three and then pass the ball to the next child. Continue having the children each unravel the ball for a count of three until the first toothpick falls out.

Have the child who is closest to the toothpick pick it up and show it. Say: **Look! It's a tiny version of Moses' staff. A staff is like a big stick that can help you walk, and it can help you show your animals where to go. Usually, a staff would be almost as tall as you! God told Moses to throw his staff on the ground.** Invite the child to toss the toothpick to the floor.

Continue having kids unravel the ball as before until the tiny toy snake falls out. Have the child who is closest to the snake pick it up and immediately drop it onto the floor. Say: **When Moses threw his staff on the ground, God made it turn into a big snake! God told Moses, "Pick up the snake by its tail."** Invite the child who unwrapped the snake to pick it up by its tail. Let kids pass it around and look at it. Then set it aside.

Say: **God showed Moses he's powerful and he can do amazing things. But God doesn't change, so we can be sure that God's still powerful and he can do amazing things with us. Let's see what else God can do.**

Continue having kids unravel the ball until the second toothpick falls out. Show the second toothpick. Say: **When Moses picked up the snake by its tail, it turned right back into a staff! God was so powerful, and he's powerful today. God doesn't change. He wanted Moses to trust him, and he wants us to trust him, too. So God kept showing Moses his power. Next, God told Moses to put his hand in his coat.**

Continue having kids unravel the ball until the hand shows. Point out the marks on the hand. Say: **Moses' hand was healthy when he put it into his coat, but when he pulled it out, his hand was sick. God told Moses to put his hand back into his coat a second time.**

Use the wet wipe to clean the marks off the hand. Say: **When Moses pulled out his hand a second time, it was healthy again! God made Moses' hand sick, and then he made it better to show Moses that God can do anything. And God doesn't change, so God can do anything today, too!**

**Let's find out about one more thing God did to show Moses that he's trustworthy.** Continue having kids unwrap the ball until the bag of dirt falls out. Show it to kids. Say: **God told Moses he could also get some water from a river and put it in the dirt. Pour some water into the bag with the dirt. God said he'd change the water to blood.** Add drops of food coloring into the dirt and water.

Say: **God told Moses, "I'll help you show these amazing things to your friends and family. Then they'll know that I'm powerful." God is still powerful like that today. We can trust God because he always does good things. God doesn't change, and we can be sure that he'll take care of us. God will always love us. God will always want the best for us. And that will never change because God doesn't change. We can trust him!** Lead children in cheering, "We can trust God!"





## CRAFT

### Burning Bush

[20 min]

### Supplies

- 8-ounce clear plastic cups (1 per child)
- brown construction paper cut into 1x9-inch strips (1 per child)
- green, yellow, orange, and red tissue paper
- glue sticks or washable glue
- battery-operated tealight candles (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### Make Burning Bushes

Say: **In our Bible story, Moses saw something really surprising: a bush that was on fire but didn't burn up! Only God could do something that amazing. God talked to Moses from the burning bush, and he reminded Moses that God doesn't change, so we can trust him.** Show kids the sample craft. **Let's make a burning bush craft to remember how God talked to Moses. We can remember that we can trust God always because God never changes.**

- Give each child a plastic cup.
- Help kids each glue a brown strip of paper around the base of their cups.
- Let kids tear off small pieces of green tissue paper, crumple them, and then glue them to the outside of their cups for leaves. Tell kids to leave space between the leaves so you can still see through parts of the cup.
- While kids work, remind them how amazing it is that God talked to Moses from a fiery bush that didn't burn up. Ask kids about a cool way they would want God to talk with them if they could choose anything.
- Then let kids tear strips from the red, yellow, and orange tissue paper and glue them inside their cups for fire.
- If you have battery-operated tealights, let kids borrow them during the craft time to put in their cups to add to the "fire" effect.



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Moving Memory

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#### Supplies

- 16 large, opaque plastic cups (all the same color)
- 8 pairs of objects that fit under your upside-down plastic cups (such as cotton balls, coins, pompoms, paper clips, googly eyes, clothespins, balls, and plastic bottle caps)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

#### Play a 3-D Version of Memory

Say: **In our Bible story, Moses heard a lot from God, and one of the most important things he learned is that God doesn't change.**

**Never, ever changing makes God special because we're used to seeing things that *do* change.**

**Let's see what that's like with a game.**

- Have everyone gather in a circle around the supplies you've gathered.
- Allow everyone to see the objects as you place one under each upside-down cup.
- Move the cups around to mix up where the objects are. Then invite a child to be the first to try to find a pair by lifting two cups.
- After the first cup is picked up say: **Change up!** Shuffle the cups again before allowing the second cup to be chosen.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- Move around the circle clockwise, allowing each child to try to find a matching pair—shuffling the cups between the first and second cup choice. If a match is found, pull those objects and cups from the game and then continue.
- When all the pairs have been found or everyone has had a try, round one ends.
- For round two, do the same as round one, except this time you'll shuffle the cups only once, at the beginning of the round. Make a promise that you won't move the cups this time, and keep your promise.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **Which round of the game did you like more, and why?**

• **What was it like when I kept changing where the cups were?**

Say: **When I kept changing the cups in the first round, it made it harder to find matches. You got confused about where things were, and you couldn't trust that everything was where you remembered. Change happens a lot in our lives. It can be confusing, frustrating, and scary, and it can leave us wondering who we can trust.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time something in your life changed but you didn't want it to.** Share an example from your own life to help kids think of their own.

Say: **God doesn't change. God is like the second round when the cups didn't change. We may not always be able to fully see who God is, just as we couldn't see under the cups. But we can trust that what we know to be true about him will stay the same. When everything around us is changing, we can trust that God doesn't change.**



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Always Safe

[10 min]

### Supplies

- masking tape (optional)

### Play Tag

Say: **Let's play Tag. One person will be "It," and there will always be a safe area that the rest of us can go to—that will never change.** Explain the rules:

- Designate one area of the room to be "safe." It could be a wall, a rug, or an area marked off with masking tape. Explain to kids that they can't be tagged in the safe area.
- Choose a child to be It. On "go" It will run and try to tag other kids. When a child is tagged, he or she becomes the new It.

Check that children understand the rules.

### Talk About It

Say: **In our game, there was something that *never* changed—the safe area. God is like that. God is always good, and God is always safe. God always loves us, and he's always with us. We can always go to God when we need a safe place because God doesn't change.**



### Supplies

- cookie tin with a lid
- paper
- crayons

### Draw

Say: **Today we learned that God doesn't change, so we can trust him when we're unsure. That means when we're worried or we don't know what to do, we can trust God. When Moses was worried and unsure about what God asked him to do, God reminded Moses that he was always with Moses. God's always there for us, too, and that never, ever changes. Let's think about something we're worried about right now.**

Share about a few things *you* sometimes worry about, and then tell why you can trust God with those worries. Remind children of God's unchanging nature as you share. For example, "Sometimes I worry about money. But God gave me my job where I make money, and I know God is going to take care of me. God always has taken care of me, and he always will because God doesn't change."

Ask: • **What's something you're worried about right now?**

After children share, have them draw pictures of things they're worried or unsure about.

### Pray

Have kids fold their papers, and give each child a turn to put his or her worry in the tin. Say: **We put our worries in this strong tin that won't change. Like the tin, God is strong and he never, ever changes. We can be sure God will be with us and help us through our worries.**

**Let's talk to God about our worries and thank him that he's always with us and that he never, ever changes!** Lead the children in a prayer, mentioning that even though our worries change, God doesn't change and he'll always take care of us. Ask God to help kids trust God, and thank him that he never changes.

Thank kids for coming to church, and invite them to come back next week.