

 Exodus 3:1–4:17

09/15/2019

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 grow paper snakes.

Supplies

- paper-wrapped straws (1 per child, plus 1 for each leader)
- eyedroppers (optional)—available in the pharmacy section at retailers such as Target and Walgreens or at craft and hobby stores
- cups of water
- towels for cleanup



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids try to re-create the burning bush and other signs God showed Moses.

Supplies

- Bibles
- “Not Good Enough” handouts (roughly 1 for every 5 kids) (download [here](#))
- paper
- pencils
- tennis ball
- red, orange, and yellow crepe paper
- chair
- jumbo craft sticks (1 per child)
- markers
- cups of water (1 for every 5 kids)
- red food coloring

Easy Prep

- Cut the “Not Good Enough” handouts in half. Put all the Math Problems halves together in a pile and all the Draw This halves together in another pile.
- Tear off long lengths of the crepe paper so they’re ready to become “fire” for the burning bush.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game where they change seats.

Supplies

- chairs (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Place the chairs close together in a circle.



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)



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids give their excuses to God.



CRAFT

Kids make spinners that appear to change.

Supplies

- plain white paper
- scissors
- poster board or cardboard (food packaging works well)
- lids, cups, bowls, or other large circles for kids to trace
- pencils
- glue sticks
- markers
- string (about 30 inches per child)
- thumbtacks

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**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 kids 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’re going to learn that God doesn’t change, so we can trust him when we’re unsure. In the Bible, he gave himself the name “I Am.” He was saying, “I am who I am, and I don’t change.” Let’s think about what it would be like if we could change into anything!**

Share

- Tell kids what *you* would transform into if you could transform into anything.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share what *they* would transform into if they could transform into anything.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Exodus 3, and say: **It’s fun to think about transforming into other things. But we can be glad that God doesn’t change, because he’s already perfect! Let’s look at how knowing that helped Moses in the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. God uses the Bible to talk to us and to help us see his heart. The more we see his heart, the more he can change our hearts. Let’s listen and talk to him.**

Pray, praising God for never changing.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Straw Paper Snakes

Supplies

- paper-wrapped straws (1 per child, plus 1 for each leader)
- eyedroppers (optional)—available in the pharmacy section at retailers such as Target and Walgreens or at craft and hobby stores
- cups of water
- towels for cleanup

Tips

- We found that using eyedroppers helped control the drops of water. However, using your finger to store and slowly release water from a straw works, too. If using a straw, have kids practice releasing just a drop of water at a time, rather than the whole stream of water.
- Practice “growing” a couple of snakes beforehand so you know how it works. [Here's a demonstration.](#)

Remove Straw Paper

Say: **In our Bible story today, God caused Moses’ staff to change into a moving snake. Did you know that there’s a way to make lifeless straw paper move like a snake, too? First we need to carefully remove the paper from the straw without ripping it.**

- Give each child a wrapped straw. Place cups of water on the tables within reach.
- Begin by tearing off one end of the paper wrapper from the straw.
- Carefully scrunch the wrapper down toward the other end of the straw, as if you were going to remove it. Keep the paper on the straw until the whole wrapper is fully compact on one end of the straw. Once you start scrunching the paper down, don’t pull it back up, and make sure the paper doesn’t get wet.
- Once it’s fully compact, push the paper off the straw, avoiding wet surfaces.

Make Straw Paper Move

Say: **Our straw papers appear lifeless.**

Ask: • **What do you think will happen when we add some drops of water?**

Say: **Let’s see if you’re correct!**

- Use an eyedropper or straw to drop only one drop of water onto the end of the straw paper. It will move and “grow.”
- Continue slowly adding drops along the straw paper until it stops growing. The water causes the paper to “unscrunch,” making it look like it’s growing or slithering like a snake.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did the straw paper change throughout this experiment?**

Say: **The straw paper changed its form several times. At first it was long, then it was short, and then it moved like a snake! Moses talked with God at the burning bush a long time ago, and God surprised Moses like the moving straw paper might have surprised us. God doesn’t change. The same God who was with Moses at the burning bush is still with us today.**

Ask: • **How does it help you to know that God, who helped Moses, still helps *you* today?**

Say: **God doesn’t change. He did amazing things to prepare Moses to lead the Israelites, and God will do amazing things to help us as we live for him today.**



Supplies

- Bibles
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- pencils
- tennis ball
- red, orange, and yellow crepe paper
- chair
- jumbo craft sticks (1 per child)
- markers
- cups of water (1 for every 5 kids)
- red food coloring

Easy Prep

- Cut the “Not Good Enough” handouts in half. Put all the Math Problems halves together in a pile and all the Draw This halves together in another pile.
- Tear off long lengths of the crepe paper so they’re ready to become “fire” for the burning bush.

Do Something You’re Bad At

Say: **In today’s Bible story, we’ll learn about a guy who didn’t feel like he was very good at speaking. Maybe you’ve felt that way about speaking in front of a crowd or doing something else. I’m going to name five categories. Pick the one you’re *worst* at.**

As you call out each category, point to a different place in the room. Have kids move based on what they’re worst at from these categories:

- spelling
- math
- sports
- singing
- drawing

Say: **All of you are good at some things and not-so-good at other things. Normally, you try to do more of the things you’re best at. But right now, you’re going to do something you feel like you don’t do very well.**

Give each group of kids one of the following assignments:

- spelling: Give kids paper and pencils. You’ll read this list of words, and kids will try to spell the words right: *excellent, aerosol, chihuahua, psychologist, Leviticus*.
- math: Give each child a Math Problems section of the handout and a pencil. Challenge kids to solve all the problems as quickly as possible.
- sports: Give kids a tennis ball. Challenge them to play catch using only one hand, without dropping the ball.
- singing: Challenge kids to sing the national anthem (repeatedly).
- drawing: Give each child a Draw This section from the handout and a pencil. Challenge kids to draw each item.

After a few minutes, stop kids even if they haven’t completed all of their tasks. You don’t need to evaluate how kids did; the point was to evoke the feeling of inadequacy through doing hard tasks.

Ask: • **How did you feel about being asked to do something you’re bad at?**

• **How would you have felt if you had to do that in front of a huge audience or on TV?**

• **Tell about another time you had to do something you didn’t think you were good at.** Share your own example first. Then have kids discuss in their groups so each person gets to share.

Say: **In our Bible story, God asked a man named Moses to do something Moses *really* didn’t feel very good at. And the *king* was going to be his audience! Wow! Moses had to learn that even though he didn’t feel good enough, God has the power to do anything! Let’s find out what happened to Moses.**

See a Bush on Fire

Set a chair in the middle of the room. Say: **Imagine this chair is a bush. Pretty ordinary, right?**

Ask: • **What would happen if I lit this bush on fire?**

Say: **Normally, if you light a bush on fire, it will burn up, and eventually the bush will be gone. But watch what happens when I light this one on fire!**

Throw red, yellow, and orange crepe paper on the chair.

Ask: • **Why do you think our bush isn't burning up?**

Say: **Okay, maybe my trick wasn't very impressive. But check this out!**

Read Exodus 3:2-5.

Say: **Since Moses had to take off his shoes, let's take off our shoes as we check out our bush that is clearly on fire.** Allow time for kids to remove their shoes and creep up to inspect the chair.

Say: **As Moses checked out the bush, God spoke to him from it. He told Moses that he'd heard that his people, the Israelites, were being treated really badly by the Egyptians. The Israelites lived in Egypt as slaves to the Egyptians. God wanted Moses to help them get out of Egypt. He told Moses to go talk to Pharaoh about it. *Pharaoh* is what they call a king in Egypt.**

Ask: • **How would you feel about going to talk to the leader of a country?**

Learn God's Name

Say: **I wonder how *Moses* felt about it. Before I read these verses, you should know that they also mention God by a name you might not know but the Israelites knew. The name is *Yahweh* (YAH-way). That's the name the Israelites already knew God by, and it means "Lord." He's also going to introduce a new name they didn't know.**

Read Exodus 3:11, 13-15.

Say: **I Am. That's a strange name.**

Ask: • **What does the name *I Am* tell you about God?**

• **List some things in our world that never change—ever!**

Say: **It's hard to think of things that don't change *at all*. That's because only God is completely and 100 percent unchanging. God doesn't change, so we can trust him when we're unsure. The name *I Am* is a reminder of that. He just always is! The same God who was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—guys who'd lived way before Moses—was the same God Moses spoke with at the bush. And he's the same God we worship today! We can trust him when we're unsure, because he will never, ever change or become less powerful or loving.**

Make a Snake Staff

Say: **Even though God answered Moses' question with a reassurance that God is *I Am*, Moses *still* didn't want to go. After all, he felt like he was just a regular guy—not some big, important leader. So God gave another sign to show his power. Let's see what it was.**

Read Exodus 4:1-5.

Ask: • **What does this sign tell you about God?**

Say: **God doesn't change, so Moses could trust that God could repeat this same sign over and over. When Moses wasn't sure he was good enough, he could trust in God's unchanging power.**

Let's make a reminder of this sign.

Give each child a craft stick, and have him or her draw a snake on one side of the craft stick. Kids can hold the sticks one way to be regular staffs and then flip them to turn into snakes. Have kids set their "snake sticks" out of the way for the rest of the Core Bible Discovery time.



Change Your Hand

Say: **Just in case that wasn't enough of a sign, God gave Moses another surprising one. I'll show you the sign.**

Put your hand behind your back. Then pull it out and say as if you're revealing a magic trick: **Aha!**

Say: **That didn't work. Let's see if *your* hands change from that trick!** Allow time for kids to repeat your "trick."

Say: **This isn't working out for us. That's because we're not God—we don't have his awesome, unchanging power! Let's see what happened to Moses' hand.**

Read Exodus 4:6-7.

Say: **Moses didn't have to be good enough, because God could work through him. God wanted the Israelites to trust that he was mighty enough to do what he promised—get them out of Egypt! We may not be able to repeat the hand trick, but we *can* trust that God doesn't change. Whatever he wants to do through us, he can!**

Turn Water Red

Say: **And just in case Moses did the snake sign...and the hand sign...and people *still* didn't believe they could trust God, he gave Moses one more surprising sign.**

Read Exodus 4:9.

Have kids form groups of five. Let each child put a drop of red food coloring in his or her group's cup of water, making it turn red.

Ask: • **How would you react if you really turned water into blood?**

Say: **Our water is still water—we just dyed it red. But God's unchanging power can do *anything*! We can trust in his power even when we're not sure we can do something.**

Ask: • **Which sign seems the most surprising to you: the bush, the snake, the hand, or the blood?**

Say: **God gave Moses a lot of signs. The bush, the staff, the hand, and the water all changed. Things around us change, too. God's name, I Am, shows that he doesn't change, so we can trust him when we're unsure. His awesome power is always there for us.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Some Things Never Change

[10 min]

Supplies

- chairs (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Place the chairs close together in a circle.

Change Seats

Say: **Through Moses' talk with God in our Bible story today, we learned something amazing about God: God doesn't change. That might not seem like much at first, but when you think about it, that means what's true about God is true and will *always* be true.**

Let's play a fun game of truths. Some things will be true for you, and some won't, so play close attention.

- Have everyone take a seat in the circle with you standing in the center to start.
- The person in the center will call out something simple and true about himself or herself, such as "I'm wearing a blue shirt," and everyone also wearing a blue shirt will scramble to try to exchange seats. The person in the center will also try to get a seat.
- The person left without a seat is now in the center and will call out another statement.
- Keep the rounds moving quickly to keep the game high-energy.
- Throughout the game, make sure you're the one in the center a few times so you can call out things that are true about God that apply to everyone, such as...
 - God loves me.
 - God wants to be my friend.
 - God listens to me when I talk to him.
 - God made me.
- When you call out the truths about God, help kids realize that those apply to all of them and that they should all be trying to exchange seats.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

Talk About It

- Ask:
- **What are some of the truths called out today that change, such as a color you're wearing?**
 - **What truths called out today are *always* true and never change?**
 - **What's it like to know that God's love for you will never change, even if you change?**

Say: **We're used to things changing around us. We change all the time—our minds change, our favorites change, our friends change. Things that are true about us can change even from one day to the next. But God doesn't change. God loves you and always will; God wants to be your friend and always will. God kept his word to Moses, so we can trust God to keep his word to us.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Moving Memory

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.**



Surrender

Choose a Spot and Pray

Say: **When we're not sure we're good enough, we can trust that God is. He showed his power through Moses, and God doesn't change. He's still powerful enough to work through regular people like us...even though we try to make excuses.**

- Read the list of excuses Moses made:
 - I'm not the right person for the job.
 - I'm not close enough to God.
 - I might look stupid.
 - I'm not good enough. I don't have what it takes.
 - I just don't want to.
- For each one, point to a corner. (The fifth one will be the center of the room.)
- Have kids choose a place in the room that best represents what makes them feel unsure about themselves and what they can do for God.
- Kids will pray with others in their corner, giving their concerns to God.

Pray

Pray: **Dear God, thank you that even when we're unsure about what we can do, you never change, and we can trust you. Because you're the same powerful God all the time, you can do amazing things through imperfect people like us. Help us trust you because you don't change. In Jesus' name, amen.**

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



Supplies

- plain white paper
- scissors
- poster board or cardboard (food packaging works well)
- lids, cups, bowls, or other large circles for kids to trace
- pencils
- glue sticks
- markers
- string (about 30 inches per child)
- thumbtacks

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Spinners

Show kids the sample craft you made, and have a child help you wind it up so kids can watch it spin. Say: **The images on my spinner appeared to change when it spun. But nothing really changed about the spinner; our perspective is what changed. Let's each make one!**

Set out supplies to share, and have kids follow these instructions to make their own spinners.

- Trace a circle onto cardboard, and trace the same circle twice on a piece of paper.
- Cut out all three circles.
- Glue the two white circles to the cardboard circle, one on each side.
- Decorate the circles with different colors on both sides. We found that dots appear to change the most when spinning, but let kids use their imaginations.
- Use a thumbtack to poke two holes right next to each other near the center of the circle.
- Move the thumbtack around to make the holes a little bigger.
- Cut a length of string about 30 inches long.
- Thread each end through a different hole, and then tie the ends together to make a loop with the circle in the middle.

Spin It

Have kids spin their spinners by working with a partner.

- One child will hold both ends of the string loop.
- The other child will wind the circle several times.
- Kids can watch how their dots appear to become stripes as the circle spins.
- Kids can reverse the spinning by moving their hands slightly closer together when the string is almost unwound.
- Have kids see how long they can get one spin to last.



Talk About It

Ask: • **How did your circle appear to change when it was spinning?**

• **How do you know it didn't really change?**

Say: **God doesn't change.** Sometimes it might seem like he's not there or he's not big enough to handle our problems. But that's not true! Our perspective might have changed, but God is still the same big God who was with Moses and could do amazing things through him! When we feel unsure, we can trust God to be the same big God he always has been.

Have kids take their spinners home and show their friends and families how they appear to change but don't, like God doesn't change.