



Bible Point ▶

We can trust God when he gives us a job to do.

Bible Verse

“Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord” (Psalm 40:4a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn how God asked Moses to do a difficult job,
 - discover that they can trust God,
 - encourage Pockets to do a difficult job, and
 - identify jobs they can do.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God speaks to Moses.

**Exodus
3:1–4:17**



When God sent Moses to Egypt to deliver the Israelites from slavery, they, as a people, had been in bondage for 430 years (Exodus 12:40-41; Galatians 3:17), and they were beginning to despair. Had God forgotten them?

No! God was still faithful to his promise to build Abraham’s descendants into a great nation, complete with their own land. But God had earlier prophesied that they would linger in Egypt until the time was right for the Amorites (inhabitants of the Promised Land) to be destroyed (Genesis 15:16).

The Israelites had a long, difficult sojourn in Egypt. Now, as God began setting in motion his plan to deliver them, Moses was faced with a difficult challenge: How could he confront a powerful world leader like Pharaoh, and how could he convince the elders of Israel to go along with the plan, too?

Just as God used miracles to confirm to the Israelite leaders (and eventually to Pharaoh) that Moses was his servant (Exodus 4:1-9), he would use signs and wonders to confirm the authority of his Messiah and the promise of salvation (Hebrews 2:3-4).

Prayer









- Read Daniel 4:1-3.
- When have you witnessed God act powerfully to bring glory to himself?
- Pray: God, help us never lose the wonder that comes from beholding your great power. Let us ever praise you!

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

for your study

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Stone Tablet Name Tags" (p. 27), markers, pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Fantastic Flames —Make "flames," and hear about a fiery bush that didn't burn up.	Paper plates; orange, yellow, and red tissue paper; glue sticks	
	Option 2: The Burning Bush —Set a bush "ablaze" with crepe paper streamers, and learn that God spoke to Moses through a burning bush.	Yellow, orange, and red crepe paper streamers; transparent tape; small tree branch or tall houseplant	
	Option 3: Lead On —Lead each other in creative motions, and discover that we can trust God to lead us.		
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Attempt an impossible task, and then discover that it was possible after all.	Craft cork, water, glass, clear bowl	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Sit near a "burning bush" as they listen to Exodus 3:1–4:17 and learn about the difficult job God asked Moses to do.	Bible, Fantastic Flames from Option 1, Burning Bush from Option 2	
	Do the Bible Story —Experience what Moses might have felt like, following God's directions for something he wasn't sure he could do.	Bible, "Crossing the River Cards" handout (p. 28), scissors, hat	
Closing 	Dish Dilemma —Teach Pockets to face her new job with confidence.	Small paper plate, tape	
	Trust Treats —Sing about trusting God, and enjoy a treat.	CD player, pretzel rods	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Stone Tablet Name Tags” handouts (p. 27), markers, pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► we can trust God when he gives us a job to do.**
- Give each child a photocopy of a stone tablet name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags, and pin or tape them to their clothing. You may wish to cover the name tags with clear adhesive paper so they’ll last for the entire quarter.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed, and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Who do you trust the most?” or “What jobs are easy for you to do? What jobs are difficult?”

Option 1: Fantastic Flames

SUPPLIES: paper plates; orange, yellow, and red tissue paper; glue sticks

Set out paper plates; glue sticks; and orange, yellow, and red tissue paper. Let the children tear off pieces of tissue paper and glue the pieces to their paper plates to make flames. Explain that in today’s story, a man named Moses saw a bush that was on fire but wasn’t burning up! Be sure children make enough Fantastic Flames so each child has one during “Hear and Tell the Bible Story.”

Option 2: The Burning Bush

SUPPLIES: yellow, orange, and red crepe paper streamers; transparent tape; small tree branch or tall houseplant

Bring in a small tree branch or a tall houseplant. Set out the transparent tape and the yellow, orange, and red crepe paper streamers. Have children tear off different lengths of streamers and then tape the streamers to the branch or plant. As children work, explain that a man named Moses saw a burning bush and spoke with God. Set the Burning Bush in a corner, and use the bush during “Hear and Tell the Bible Story.”

BIBLE POINT

teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



teacher tips

If you don’t choose Option 1, provide plain paper plates for children to use during “Hear and Tell the Bible Story.”

teacher tips

If you don’t choose Option 2, draw a large burning bush on a sheet of newsprint before class. Tape the picture to the wall near your story area.

■ Option 3: Lead On

SUPPLIES: none



Have the children form a line, and then give the first child in line the *groan tube*. Explain that whoever holds the *groan tube* gets to be the Leader. Encourage the Leader to march around the room and make up motions for the others to imitate, such as duck-walking, dancing, or walking backward. After 20 seconds, pass the tube to the next child, and let him or her lead. As children play, tell them that God wanted a man named Moses to lead his people on a long journey. Explain that ► *we can trust God when he gives us a job to do.*

BIBLE POINT ►

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

teacher tips

You may find that the end caps of the *groan tube* can be pulled loose. Keep these small parts attached to the tube by gluing the caps in place with plain white glue.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the *CD* to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You'll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up. At first they may need a little encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will become a familiar routine.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the *CD* and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the *CD*, vary the names you use each week.



SING

**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: craft cork, water, glass, clear bowl

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on

you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Before this activity, fill a clear mixing bowl with water, and float a small craft cork in it. Gather children in a circle around the bowl, and then ask:

• **Who can press this cork down without touching it?** Allow volunteers to try pushing the cork under the water without touching the cork.

Then say: **It seems impossible to push the cork down without touching it. But if you watch closely, I can do it!**

Hold a glass upside down over the cork; then press the open mouth of the glass straight down into the water. The surface of the water inside the glass will descend—and the cork will go down with the water's surface! Put the bowl, cork, and glass away. Then ask:

• **What did you think when I said I could do something that seemed impossible?** (No way; I thought you were kidding; I knew you could do it.)

• **What did you think when you saw me push the cork down?** (I thought it was cool; I thought you were clever.)

Say: **I could do something that maybe seemed impossible because I knew the secret of what to do. In our story today, we'll learn that God asked a man named Moses to do something that seemed impossible...and scary! But Moses learned that the secret to doing his task was to trust God. Like Moses, ► we can trust God when he gives us a job to do. Let's get ready to hear about the difficult job God asked Moses to do.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half; then stamp the *Moses stamp* inside one of them. Bookmark **Exodus 3:1-4:17** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I'll choose someone to be the Bible person. The Bible person will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today's Bible person, let's learn our Bible song. As we sing, I'll pass out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



Choose a Bible you'll use for this section of the lesson each week. A children's Bible, such as the *Hands-On Bible* in the easy-to-understand New Living Translation, works best. Some of the children in your class may be reading. If children can understand the words in the Bible, they'll have more interest in reading it—and they'll learn more from it.



**Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.**
(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the man stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person; then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► we can trust God when he gives us a job to do.**



Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to teach us about trust. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, teach me to trust you when you give me a job to do."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► we can trust you when you give us a job to do. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Fantastic Flames from Option 1, Burning Bush from Option 2

Place the folded *Learning Mat: Moses Leads God's People* in one corner of your room, next to the Burning Bush from Option 2. Take the *groan tube* and gather children in the opposite corner.

Hold up a Bible and say: **Our Bible story today comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible.**

The book of Exodus is about the Israelites, God's special people. The Israelites moved to Egypt because there wasn't enough rain to grow food in their own land. God blessed the Israelites, and their families grew and grew. Soon there were so many Israelites in Egypt that Pharaoh, the king, grew fearful. He was afraid that the Israelites might turn against him.

So Pharaoh forced God's special people to be his slaves. They had to work long days in the hot desert sun, tending the fields, making bricks, and building cities. But their families still kept growing bigger and bigger! Finally, Pharaoh gave orders to kill all the Israelite baby boys! God's special people cried out to God for help.

Hold up the *groan tube*. Say: **This *groan tube* makes a noise that reminds us of the sad Israelites.** Turn the *groan tube* upside down so children can hear it. **Can you groan like the *groan tube*? Lead children in groaning as if they're sad. As we walk to our story area, shuffle your feet and groan as if you're a sad, tired Israelite slave.**

Lead children to the opposite corner of the room while shuffling your feet, slumping your shoulders, and groaning.

Have children sit around the Burning Bush. Say: **God heard the Israelites' sad cries and felt sorry for them. Because God is powerful and loving, he knew just what to do to help them. I'll give each of you a Fantastic Flame. When you hear me say that God is speaking in our story, wave your flame toward this bush to create a breeze and make the bush look as if it's on fire. So if I say, "God said..." or "God told Moses..." that means God is speaking.**

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Distribute the Fantastic Flames from Option 1. If you didn't choose Option 1, distribute plain paper plates. As you read the following story, cue children to fan the crepe paper flames on the bush when God speaks. Say: **Far across the desert, a man named Moses was tending a flock of sheep. Suddenly, he noticed that a bush was on fire...but the bush wasn't burning up! When Moses went near the bush, God told him to take off his sandals because the ground Moses was standing on was holy. That means that Moses was standing close to God! So Moses obeyed and took off his sandals.**

Then God said, "I've seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I've heard their cries when the Egyptian slave drivers hurt them. So now I'm sending you to the king of Egypt. Go! Bring my people out of Egypt."

Moses felt afraid. He knew that God had given him a dangerous job to do.

But God said, "I will be with you. Tell the Israelites that I am the same God that their fathers worshipped and that I have sent you."

Moses was still afraid. "What if they don't believe me? I'm not very good at talking to people. Oh, God, please send someone else!"

Then God told Moses to throw down his walking stick. When Moses obeyed, the stick became a snake! God told Moses to grab the snake by its tail. Moses was afraid of the hissing, slithering snake, but when he obeyed, the snake became his walking stick again! God said, "Put your hand inside your coat." So Moses put his hand inside his coat. When he pulled his hand out, it was white with a bad skin disease! Then God told Moses to put his hand back inside the coat. This time when Moses pulled his hand out, it was clean and healthy. Moses saw that God was powerful and could do anything!

So Moses trusted God. Moses picked up his walking stick and went to free the Israelites from the evil Pharaoh.

Collect the Fantastic Flames and the *groan tube* and put them out of sight. Then fold the *Learning Mat* so only the picture of Moses and the burning bush is showing. Say: **Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Ask: • **What did God ask Moses to do?** (Free the Israelites; take God's special people away from Pharaoh.)

• **Why didn't Moses want to obey?** (He was scared; he thought the people wouldn't believe him; he thought Pharaoh might kill him.)

• **How did God help Moses trust him?** (He made the stick turn into a snake; he made Moses' hand sick, and then better.)

• **Why did Moses finally trust God with his special job?** (He saw God's power; he believed that God would help him.)

Say: **At first, Moses was afraid to do such a hard job. But when he saw God's power and heard that God would be with him, he trusted God. Our Bible verse for today, which comes from Psalm 40:4a, says this: ►"Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord." Like Moses, when we remember God's power and realize that God will never leave us alone, it's easy to trust God and do the jobs God asks us to do. ►We can trust God when he gives us a job to do. Now let's play a game about following directions when we're asked to do something.**

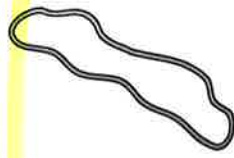


Your 5- and 6-year-olds can listen to and create stories. They can distinguish between real and pretend. They need simple directions—they understand one step at a time.




Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, “Crossing the River Cards” handout (p. 28), scissors, hat



Before the lesson, photocopy the “Crossing the River Cards” handout, and cut apart the direction cards. Fold the cards, place them in a hat, and then set them aside until later in the lesson.

Say: **God gave Moses a special job to do. Moses felt scared, but God gave him directions so Moses would know how to do his job. Let’s play a game that will help us practice following directions.**

Have two adult helpers stretch out the *Chinese jump rope* so that the rope is about 1 foot off the ground and about 8 inches apart. There should be room to easily step in the middle.

Have the children line up on one side of the jump rope and take turns drawing a direction card from the hat. The directions on the cards include:

- Crawl under it.
- Tiptoe over it.
- Step in the middle; then step over it.
- Jump over it.
- Walk backward over it.
- Take a giant step across it.
- Crawl across the top of it on your hands and knees.
- Skip around it.

Read each child’s card for him or her, and have the child cross the rope according to the directions on the card he or she drew. Put the card back into the hat, and allow the next child in line to draw a card and take a turn. Allow each child at least one turn. If time permits, allow children to cross the rope again.

Return the *Chinese jump rope* to the Learning Lab. Gather the children in the middle of the room.

Ask: • **Did you think my special directions for you would be easy or hard? Why?** (Easy, because the rope wasn’t very high off the ground; hard, because I couldn’t jump that far.)

• **Why did you trust me to give you directions that you would be able to follow?** (I trusted you because you’re the teacher and you want me to do well; I wasn’t sure if you were trying to trick me or not.)

Say: **You had to trust me not to give you something to do that would be too hard for you. Just like I gave you a special way to cross the *Chinese jump rope*, God has special things he wants us to do for him. ► We can trust God when he gives us a job to do. He won’t ask us to do anything that’s impossible for us!**

Read **Isaiah 12:2** aloud from an easy-to-understand translation of the Bible, such as the *Hands-On Bible*.

Ask: • **What does Isaiah say about God in this verse?** (That we can trust God; that we don’t have to be afraid; that God has given us victory.)

• **What are some special directions God might give you this week?** (He might tell me to help my mom; to be nice to my sister; to tell my friends about Jesus.)

• **How can you trust God to help you with things he asks you to do?** (I can pray; I can remember that God is with me; I can decide not to be afraid.)

teacher tips

To ensure children’s safety, make sure an adult helper is standing close to the rope as children are jumping and climbing.

BIBLE POINT



Say: ► We can trust God when he gives us a job to do. Whether the job is to be nice to our family members, share toys, or do a new job at home, God will help us do our tasks. We can trust his directions! Right now we have the fun job of visiting Pockets. Let's see if she has to do any hard jobs.

Closing

■ Dish Dilemma

SUPPLIES: small paper plate, tape

Before class, tape a small paper plate to one of Pockets' paws. Take out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, have kids wave goodbye, and then put Pockets away and out of sight.



- **Pockets:** Oh dear, now where did Mom say this goes? Was it in the cabinet or under the sink? What if it goes up on that high shelf? I just can't do this job!
- **Teacher:** Hi, Pockets. What do you have there?
- **Pockets:** My mom said I'm old enough to have a new job—putting the clean dishes away. I'm trying to do my new job, but it's really hard. I keep getting confused, and I'm afraid I might break something. *(Fearfully)* And boy, oh boy, wouldn't my parents be upset if I did THAT!
- **Teacher:** Pockets, I'm sure you're going to do a great job! Your mom wouldn't have given you this task if she thought you couldn't do it. In our Bible story today, someone else had a difficult job. Children, can you tell Pockets what job God gave to Moses? *(Encourage children to tell Pockets how God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Be sure they explain Moses' reluctance and then how he trusted God.)*
- **Pockets:** Wow! God sure gave Moses a big job!
- **Teacher:** That's right—but Moses trusted God, and God helped Moses do the job. ► We can trust God when he gives us a job to do.
- **Pockets:** And I can trust that my mom didn't give me a job that's too hard, either. Now I remember where this dish goes. I was so worried that I wasn't even thinking straight. I'd better hurry and finish putting these things away so I can go play!
- **Teacher:** We'll let you finish your important job, Pockets. See you next week.



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Trust Treats

SUPPLIES: CD player, pretzel rods



Say: **When God changed Moses' walking stick into a snake, Moses saw God's great power and trusted God to help him with his task. Hold up a pretzel rod. These pretzel rods remind me of Moses' "snakey" walking stick. Before we enjoy this tasty snack, let's sing a song to help us remember that ►we can trust God when he gives us a job to do.**

Teach children the words to "I Can Trust God" (track 4) before leading them in singing the song to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me" with the CD. Encourage children to do the motions as they sing.



I can trust God—so can you (*point to self and then to a friend*)—
When he gives us a job to do. (*Hammer fists together.*)
In hard times or when you're scared (*put hand on head; then pretend to bite fingernails in fear*),
Trust that God will be right there. (*Point to heaven.*)

Yes, I can trust God. (*Point to self.*)
Yes, you can trust God. (*Point to friend.*)
We all can trust God. (*Open arms.*)
He'll always be right here. (*Hug self.*)

God's commands are always good. (*Open hands like a book.*)
They help us live the way we should. (*Nod head.*)
God will give us what we need. (*Hold out hands.*)
When we trust God, we'll succeed. (*Fold hands as if praying, and look to heaven.*)

Yes, I can trust God. (*Point to self.*)
Yes, you can trust God. (*Point to friend.*)
We all can trust God. (*Open arms.*)
He'll always be right here. (*Hug self.*)



Turn off the CD player and say: **We can trust God to always give us what we need. The greatest gift God has ever given us is his Son, Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth to die for our sins—for all the wrong things we do. If we believe in Jesus and are sorry for our sins, we can be forever friends with Jesus. Let's pray and thank God for sending us Jesus.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending us Jesus to be our forever friend who is with us all the time. Help us to trust you with the jobs you give us at home and at school. In Jesus' name, amen.** Distribute the pretzels, and let children enjoy eating their "walking sticks."

Collect name tags for next week's use before children leave.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Lively Learning: Free From Pharaoh*

Choose one child to be Pharaoh, and give him or her a crown made from crumpled aluminum foil. Choose another child to be Moses, and give him or her a rolled-up paper grocery sack for a walking stick. Explain that the rest of the children are the Israelites and that they may skip around the room while Pharaoh takes giant steps. Instruct Pharaoh to gently tag as many Israelites as possible. When Israelites are tagged, they must freeze. Moses may hop to the “frozen” Israelites and free them with a gentle tap from the walking stick. After a minute or two, allow children to change roles. Remind children that Moses trusted God to help him with his difficult task.

■ *Make to Take: Wondrous Walking Sticks*



Before this activity, cut paper grocery sacks open. Set out crayons, markers, and the paper grocery sacks. Show children how to crumple and twist the sacks tightly to form walking sticks. Have children use crayons and markers to decorate one side of their “sticks” to look like snakes. Children may act out the story of God turning Moses’ walking stick into a snake. As children work, explain that Moses trusted God to help him with a difficult and scary task.

■ *Treat to Eat: Snake Snacks*

Set out craft sticks, bread sticks, and your choice of food items, such as ice cream syrups and fruit syrups. Let children decorate bread-stick “snakes” by painting tasty stripes and designs on them with craft sticks. Have children use squeeze bottles of honey to stick on mini chocolate-chip eyes. Remind children that God turned Moses’ walking stick into a snake to demonstrate his power.



■ *Story Picture: God Speaks to Moses*

Give each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons; glue sticks; and red, orange, and yellow tissue paper. Have the children color their handouts and then glue scraps of tissue paper to the bush. As the children work, remind them that God gave Moses a difficult job to do and that Moses trusted God.

Crossing the River Cards

Photocopy this page, and cut out the direction cards.

Crawl under it.	Tiptoe over it.
Step in the middle; then step over it.	Jump over it.
Walk backward over it.	Take a giant step across it.
Crawl across the top of it on your hands and knees.	Skip around it.

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we can trust God when he gives us a job to do. Children heard how Moses trusted God when God gave him a difficult task. They prayed and asked God to help them with hard jobs at home and at school.

We can trust God
when he gives us
a job to do.

Verse to Learn

"Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord" (Psalm 40:4a).

Ask Me...

- What job did God ask Moses to do?
- What jobs are hard for you to do?
- How can we encourage each other when we face difficult tasks?

Family Fun

- Take a family walk through a wooded area, park, or even your backyard looking for branches that would make good walking sticks. Bring the sticks home, cut them to the correct length, and then sand them until they're smooth. You may want to stain them and spray them with clear varnish spray.

God Speaks to Moses (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

