**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 1 of 4

# Moses

### MEETING AIM

To reflect on how and why God called Moses.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Exodus 3:1-4:23

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your particular situation.

This story is quite well known, particularly with young people from a church background. However, these are strange events! A bush that is on fire but not burning up, a leprous arm, a stick turning into a snake, God speaking from the bush – all things that might make us run a mile! Recognise the strangeness of this passage, but help young people realise its significance in the story of salvation, and how God addresses Moses’ objections to serving.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

As the young people arrive, ask them to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. Ask the group to reflect on their week: “Have you encountered God over the last week? If so, where and how?”

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** list of items available in your meeting space

Hold a scavenger hunt. Read out the items on your list one by one. The first person to find that item and bring it to you gets a point. As you play, talk about ‘rounding up’ the different things on the list. Include a toy sheep as one of the items.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bibles

Explain that you’re going to be looking at Moses this week, but specifically the story of the burning bush. Ask the group if they know what happened in Moses’ life up to this point. If they have some knowledge of his story, they might be able to fill in what has already happened, but be prepared to help. This recap is to put the story of the burning bush in context of Moses’ life so far.

The conversation between God and Moses in the burning bush is quite a bizarre one! Not only is God appearing as a burning bush, but the dialogue between the two is quite strange, though wonderful. Don’t shy away from this being a weird moment – the idea with doing this is to recognise how strange (and maybe even comedic) it is!

Ask for two volunteers from the group to do some acting, and one to read. If you get too many volunteers, you can ask them to rotate reading parts. Invite ask one actor to crouch down and one to stand up. Explain that one is Moses and one is God, as the burning bush! Invite everyone to find the Bible passage, and ask the narrator to read the passage, but with Moses and the burning bush reading their parts.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the group these questions, making sure everyone has the chance to contribute:

* What do you think was going through Moses’ mind throughout the encounter?
* What have you learned about God through this encounter?
* Why do you think God asked Moses to go?
* How do you think you would have felt if you were Moses?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** ‘fire’-coloured paper or Post-it notes; Blu Tack; scissors

Make sure everyone has some Post-it notes or paper, and ask each group cut out flame shapes.

Explain that Moses noticed God in the burning bush when he was going through his ordinary shepherding work. Though Moses was reluctant with the task, he was ready to respond to God by saying: “Here I am” (3:4). It might be helpful to discuss how they can be available to God, how they can listen out for him, or the kind of things God might ask of them in their lives, while you’re cutting out together. Ask the group to keep their flames safe and stick them somewhere that they’ll see regularly when they get home, as a reminder to look out for God and be available to him in the middle of their ordinary lives.

Ask the group to take a moment of silence and individual reflection. Suggest that it might be helpful if they shut their eyes to help them focus and think.

When you’ve reached a quiet atmosphere, ask them to imagine if it was them stumbling across a burning bush. Encourage them to think about what they might feel if God had asked them to do a big task like Moses’. They might think about what makes them hesitant to say yes. What do the young people sense God might ask them to do with their lives for him and for his people? Give a good amount of silence and time after each question for them to consider quietly.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Moses’ response when God called him was: “Here I am.” Explain that this is a big prayer to pray! God asks us if we’re available to do his work, and sometimes that involves doing things we didn’t expect or feel ready for!

Ask the group to shut their eyes and pray for everyone, that you would be ready for what God would ask you to do. Ask them to open their hands and hold them out as a sign of being ready, and at the end of the prayer invite them to join in agreement by saying: “Here I am.”

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