

Covenant Renewal 2018

Kids' Church Lesson

Bible Story: God Uses Moses to Free the Israelites | Exodus 1 - 14 (*with emphasis on Exodus 2:1 - 4:17*)

Bottom Line: God's Got Me to Help the People I See

Getting Ready

Here's everything you need to get ready for this lesson:

Intro Activity (Small Groups):

Uniquely You Game

A strip of paper and pen for each child, a container (eg. a hat, large plastic cup) for each group

Story (Large Group):

Storytelling materials: A sandy brown piece of felt or brown paper (approx 80cm x 80cm), several small people figures that can stand alone to represent the People of God, a small figure to represent Moses, a tealight candle, a lighter/matches, a basket/bag/box to keep your storytelling materials in. Here's an example of what they might look like:



Alternatively, you may choose to use our 'Story Images' and 'Digital Alternative Story Script', or your own method.

Response Time (Small or Large Group):

Who Has God Sent You to Help?

Pre-made or purchased chains of people (*one for each child*), felt pens or colouring pencils, googly eyes (*a pair for for each child*), a small candle and lighter/matches (*for each group*).

Covenant Renewal/Kids Promise Cards

Kids Covenant Renewal Cards (*one for each child*), pens.

Family Time

Print copies of the Family Time card for each child or family, and distribute them.

Intro Activity (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

1. Welcome and Warm Up

Help children settle in and warm up to conversation by asking ice-breaker questions.

- Tell us about your favourite thing that happened this week.
- Tell about something you did this week that surprised yourself or surprised someone else.

2. Uniquely You

Remind children that they are different to anyone else, and that is exactly what helps them to make a difference - leads into story and response.

What You Do:

Give every child a piece of paper and a pen. Ask them to secretly write down something that is unique or special about them - something that makes them different to everyone else in the group. Once children are finished, ask them to fold their paper and place it in the container. Take turns pulling a piece of paper and reading what it says - everyone tries to guess who is being described.

What You Say:

“What a fun reminder that we are all very different, in wonderful ways. *(You may like to highlight the joy/gifts each person brings to your group if time.)* Today we’re going to hear a story about a guy who was unique, and was just the person God needed for His plan.”

Story (Large Group, 10-15 minutes)

Setting Up the Story

Gather the kids together - it can be helpful to sit in a circle so everyone has a great view of the story (if possible logistically).

"Today we're going to hear from God! There are lots of different ways we can hear from God - sometimes He speaks to us through the words of other people, often He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible, and sometimes we hear His voice in our minds. I'm sure some of you have heard from God before!

We're going to hear about part of God's Big Story - it's a huge story that the Bible tells us about, and it's a story we're part of too!

So, are you ready for a story?"

Position the storytelling materials right next to you, pause for a moment, and begin.

Telling the Story

Dump the piece of 'desert' fabric on the floor. I wonder what this could be. *(Take answers from children, not saying whether correct or incorrect - simply acknowledging their responses.)*

Flatten and smooth out the 'desert'. Oh, it could be the desert. The vast, dangerous desert.

Place the People of God figures on the underlay near the right corner closest to you. Put your hands over the people, fingertips touching the felt, trapping the people. These are the Israelites, the People of God. They lived in the land of Egypt, but they were trapped; slaves to the Pharaoh. Suffering and crying for help.

Hold the Moses figure in your hand, Here is Moses. Moses was born in an Israelite family. But

showing him to the children.

when he was just a baby, he was adopted by an Egyptian princess and so was raised in the house of the king, Pharaoh.

Place Moses alongside the People of God in the right corner closest to you.

One day, when Moses was a young man, he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Israelites. His blood boiled. He was so angry, he killed the Egyptian. Afraid of what would happen to him, Moses ran away into the desert.

'Walk' Moses across the 'desert' to the far corner on your left.

Many years passed. Egypt had a new Pharaoh, but still the People of God, trapped, suffering and crying out for help, worked as slaves in Egypt.

Moses had left his old self behind in Egypt and started a new family in Midian. One day something amazing happened to remind Moses who he really was.

Pick up a tealight candle, light it and place it next to Moses in the far left corner. 'Walk' Moses closer to the candle.

Moses was out caring for his sheep when he saw something incredible - a bush that was burning but did not burn up. As he got closer to take a look, he heard a voice. God was speaking.

"Moses, I have seen the misery of my people and heard them begging for my help. I have come down to rescue them - I'm sending you to go back and set them free."

Moses was shocked, amazed, and afraid.

"I can't," he said.

But God said, "You can. I've got you."

"I don't want to," said Moses.

"I want you to," said God.

So Moses said, "Will you come with me?"

And God said, "Of course I will. I promise."

Walk Moses back across the desert to the People of God in the right corner closest to you.

So Moses went back to Egypt to tell the Pharaoh to let the People of God go. Many times Moses asked the Pharaoh to free the Israelites but each time Pharaoh refused.

God sent terrible plagues to Egypt until the Egyptians were miserable! Finally Pharaoh said, "Just take them!"

Walk Moses and the People of God figures in a line back across to the left corner furthest from you.

And so the People of God followed Moses. And Moses followed God, through the water into freedom.

Unpacking the Story

Now, I wonder what part of the story you like best? *(Allow children to respond)*

I wonder which part of the story is the most important? *(Allow children to respond)*

I wonder if there is anything we can leave out and still have all the story we need? *(Allow children to respond)*

I wonder where you are in the story, or which part of the story is about you? *(Allow children to respond)*

You know, people might have looked at Moses and thought, 'that guy's a criminal'. Or, 'he's a coward, he ran away from the people who needed him'. Or maybe, 'he's a nobody. He just looks after sheep!'

But that wasn't what God saw. *(Pick up the Moses figure from the story materials and hold him in your hand, showing him to the children.)* God looked at Moses and thought, 'this is just the person I need for my big plan to save my people'.

- Moses knew the People of God, actually he was one of them, and was angry and upset for them.

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- Moses had grown up like one of the Egyptians and knew the place and systems where he would go to ask Pharaoh to release the people.
 - Moses had spent time in the desert leading sheep, and he was going to use all he knew about that to lead the People of God through the desert, through the water into freedom.

Moses was part of the plan - a big part of the plan!

But Moses wasn't sure, was he? God kinda had to convince him! Moses said, "I can't do that." And God said, "You can." Moses said, "I don't want to." And God said, "I want you to." But when Moses said, "I will." God responded, "I'll be with you. I got you. Promise!" (*Place Moses back in the story.*)

Making it Personal

There are other people who need God's help! They feel alone, they're hurting, they're lost, they're hungry and some don't know God. They need God's help.

They could be at your school, on your team, they might be a friend, or someone who isn't your friend yet. Can you think of anyone who needs God's help? (*Pause to let children wonder, and then respond! You may like to give an example like the following to get them thinking...*)

Perhaps there is someone at school who is lonely... what sort of help do you think they would need? What can you do?

Today God is asking you, "Will you help my people?" Just like God needed Moses to help the Israelites, he needs YOU. Because of who YOU are and all YOU can do, you're just the right person. He's got you right where you are to help the people around you. You're part of the big plan.

You've got a choice, of course! Here it is: You can choose to do nothing. You might say, "I don't know how to do that." Or, "I don't know any people who need help." Or, "I'd rather just do things for myself."

Or, you can choose to say, "You need me, God? Your people need my help? Here I am! I will help!"

Some of you have probably already promised God that You will be part of His plan and help others - if you're a Junior Soldier, that's part of your promise right? *By His Help. I will be His loving and obedient child and will help others to follow Him.* If that's the case, today is about making that same promise again. Sometimes we forget about promises we made, or they don't seem so important anymore. Today, you can choose to make your (*Junior Soldier*) promise again.

And when you do that, when you promise, for the first time or again, to follow and help God, he has already promised to be with you. He's got you!

That's why our bottom line for today is: **God's got me to help the people I see.**

Let's say that together: **"God's got me to help the people I see!"**

Setting Up the Response Time

So, it's your choice: do you want to stand around making excuses like Moses did? Or will you say, "I will! I'll help!"

In a moment, I'm going to ask you to think about two things.

1. The first thing is I want you to think about the people around you who need help. Who are the people you can see who are suffering? Who are begging for help? What do they need help with? God's got you where you are to help *those* people! Who are they? What do they need? How can *you* help? (*Hold up chain of people*). You're going to get a chain of people for you to decorate or write on to remind you of those people who God has planned for you to help!
2. The second thing is that you're going to have a chance to say to God, "Yes God. I know you've got me here to help others. I will!" (*Hold up Kids Promise Card*). You're going to get one of these cards, and if you're ready to say, "Yes God, today I say yes to being part of Your plan to help others," then you can pray with your leader and say that to God. And then write your name on this card to remind yourself of your promise. If you're not ready, that's okay too. We want you to take this card away and pray about it and think about it. One day, when you're ready, you can write your name on it then.



Response Time (Small or Large Group, 15-25 minutes)

1. Who Has God Sent You to Help?

What You Say and Do:

"Remember how God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. We're going to light this candle to remind us that God is here, that God is speaking to us today."

> Light a candle and place it in the centre of the group (or in a safe place). Distribute the chains of people and felt pens to each child.

"I wonder who you know that needs help - God's help. Your help. People who are alone, hurting, lost, hungry, or don't know God. It could be one person, or it could be a bunch of people. They might be at your school, or on your team, or somewhere else." *(Pause and let children wonder, either non-verbally or verbally.)*

> Give some relevant examples (based on your community and the age/stage of the children in your group) of people who might be alone, hurting, lost, hungry or don't know God.

"I wonder what they need help with? I wonder how you can help?" *(You may choose to have a group discussion about this, or you may like to speak with the children individually to hear their responses.)*

"God wants us to keep looking for people who need His help. He wants us to help the people we see today, and the people we meet and see tomorrow and the next day, and the next day..."

> Encourage the kids to decorate or write on the people chain to:

A: Remind them to keep looking for the people God wants them to help - draw themselves and stick the googly eyes on them.

B: Remind them of the specific people in their life today who they see and God wants them to help - draw some of those people.

2. Covenant Renewal Cards

What You Do:

Distribute a Kids Covenant Renewal Card to each child. Encourage kids to move out to a spot where they're not touching anyone else. Remind them that now is when they can choose to respond to God asking them to be part of the big plan to help his people.

If they're ready to say, "I will," they can pray on their own or with a leader, thanking God for promising to be with them and saying to God that they will help those who need His help, even if it's hard.

If they're not sure or not ready, they can talk to God on their own or with a leader about how they're feeling about that too!

Family Time

Don't forget to hand out a Family Time card to each child or family so they can keep the conversation about Covenant Renewal going at home!