



THE BURNING BUSH

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 3

FOCUS VERSES: Revelation 22:13, Psalm 90:2; John 3:16;
1 John 5:13

Summary: God's people were slaves in Egypt and were treated harshly. They called out for God to rescue them. Moses was tending sheep and saw a bush on fire, but it wasn't burning up. God instructed Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand that the Israelite people be released. When Moses asked who to say sent him, the Lord responded with, "I AM who I AM." God has always existed and always will. Eventually, the people were freed from slavery in Egypt, just like God said.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God will forever be God.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



HOW LONG HAS GOD EXISTED?

God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything and He has no end.



CAN WE LIVE FOREVER?

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: SIGNS OF A PREDATOR

Statistics show that 90 percent of kids who have been abused know their abuser. Because churches are generally welcoming and open environments, they can attract those who seek to harm kids. People who abuse are cunning and hide what they are doing, but there are signs you can be aware of. Predators will often:

- **Show extra interest in a kid:** We want adults in our churches to invest in kids, but predators will take it too far. They may have a “favorite kid” to whom they give focused attention, including providing gifts, inviting them to special events or bringing them special treats.
- **Try to gain trust with kids and adults:** Predators may go above and beyond to earn the trust of others. They may seem to be extra-dependable or helpful.
- **Spend more time with kids than adults:** The predator may seem childish or “extra fun” but has little interest in developing relationships with other people their age.
- **Develop secrecy with kids:** The predator’s secrets may seem innocent, such as “Don’t tell your mom I gave you that candy,” but it could be a grooming tactic on kids to protect darker secrets.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Children are taught that everything has a beginning. Babies and puppies are born, chickens come from eggs and plants come from seeds. But where did God come from? This question is one of the most commonly asked by kids. As concrete thinkers, it is challenging for them to grasp that God has no beginning. In today’s lesson, kids will learn that God is eternal. He has always existed and will exist forever. Emphasize that He has no beginning and He didn’t have to be created. Point out that this is one way God is different from people and all of creation. Help kids understand that there are parts of God that we will never fully grasp with our human minds, and that’s okay!

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Eternal: always existed and always will

Eternal life: living forever, even after death on Earth

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Unchanging: always stays the same

Bible TEACHING

THE BURNING BUSH EXODUS 3



PRAY: Dear God, yesterday, today and forever, You are Lord over all! You met Moses in a burning bush, and You meet us through Your Word. Like Moses, may we trust Your holy Word. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible; teaching slides; red, yellow and orange streamers

PREP:

Tear approximately 1-inch pieces of streamers.

LEADER TIP:

Only have the kids wave the streamers when indicated in the script to reduce distraction.

Say: Many years after Joseph died, God's people, the Israelites, kept growing and growing in number, just like God had promised Abraham. A new Pharaoh ruled over Egypt who did not remember Joseph. He feared the growing number of the Israelites, so he made them slaves. The Israelites called out to God, asking Him to save them. God heard their prayers.

Say: An Israelite named Moses was tending his sheep.

Call a volunteer to come to the front of the space and play Moses. Have Moses wave to the group.

Say: Suddenly, Moses saw something incredible. An angel of the Lord appeared in a burning bush.

Show teaching illustration: Moses and The Burning Bush.

Give one red streamer and one orange streamer to every kid and lead them to wave their streamers high in the air to represent fire.

Say: Moses noticed that even though the bush was on fire, it wasn't burning up.

Have kids continue to wave their streamers.

Say: God called to Moses from the bush: "Moses! Moses!"

Say: "Here I am," Moses said.

Have Moses say, "Here I am!" The group should stop waving the streamers.

Bible

TEACHING
CONTINUED

Read Exodus 3:5–6 directly from the Bible: *Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

Show teaching illustration: Moses Taking off Sandals.

Have Moses take off his shoes.

Say: The Lord had seen the Israelites’ suffering. He promised to rescue them, bring them out of Egypt and give them a new land flowing with milk and honey. God was sending Moses to tell Pharaoh to release the people from Egypt.

Have Moses repeat the following dialogue after you.

Say: “Me?” Moses asked. “Who am I? And whom will I tell them sent me?”

Say: “I AM who I AM.” God replied, telling Moses He was the God who always was, always is and always will be.

Have the group shout, “I AM who I AM!” and wave the streamers.

Say: Because God is eternal, He could tell Moses exactly what was going to happen. Pharaoh would refuse to release the Israelites, God would send great signs and plagues, and eventually the Israelites would be freed.

Invite the volunteer to return to their seat. Take up the streamers.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God has always existed and always will. He is the only One who can make a way for us to have eternal life with Him. Just like the Israelites were trapped in Egypt, we are trapped by our sin. We need a Rescuer. God’s own Son, Jesus, came to Earth to free us from our sin. Only by His forgiveness of our sin and by trusting in Him as our Savior can we live forever with God.

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

I NEED A RESCUE!

SUPPLIES: None

OR

WHOSE SHOE?

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

ORDER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

OR

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper (1 per 2 kids), writing supplies

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors

OR

CHAT WITH GOD

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape



I NEED A RESCUE!

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Set expectations ahead of time regarding whether kids are allowed to run or if they need to walk during the activity.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids with physical limitations can be the “rescue commander” and direct the rescuer to kids who need it.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that He always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Say:** Let’s play a game!
5. **Say:** This game is just like freeze tag. Most of you will be Israelites wandering around. If you get tagged by the tagger you must say, “I need a rescue!” in order for the rescuer to come and unfreeze you.
6. *Choose a tagger and a rescuer.*
7. *Play a few rounds, giving different kids an opportunity to be either the tagger or the rescuer.*
8. *Gather kids back together.*
9. **Discuss:** How did it feel when you were tagged? Could you do anything to free yourself from being frozen?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning a story from the Bible about when God rescued the Israelites in a big way. They were utterly helpless without God rescuing them.



WHOSE SHOE?

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Some kids might not want to take off their shoes. They can use two pieces of balled colored paper instead (one to hold and one for the pile).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that He never changes and always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
5. **Say:** Let's play a game to get to know each other better!
6. **Say:** We will all take off one shoe and put it in a pile in the middle of our circle. When I start the game, you will grab a shoe, but make sure you don't grab yours!
7. **Say:** After you have grabbed a shoe, go find the person wearing the other shoe. When you find them, tell them who the oldest person in your family is!
8. *Play as many rounds as time allows.*
9. *Use these "get to know you" questions:*
 - Do you like bonfires or fireplaces better?
 - Where is the farthest place from your home that you have visited?
 - Have you ever moved? If so, from where?
 - What is your favorite type of shoe?
 - What is the oldest item your family owns? Will it last forever?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

In today's story, we will see why someone had to take off their sandals! Each of our questions a moment ago is related to our story in some way. Today we are learning about what shoes, a burning bush, traveling far, moving and things that last forever all have to do with each other!



ORDER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.
Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).

LEADER TIP: Place a rubber band around each memory verse set to easily prep ahead and distribute supplies during the activity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God show the Israelites that He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow?
3. **Discuss:** What did God tell Moses that His name is?
4. **Say:** God told Moses to tell the Israelites His name is "I AM that I AM." He was saying that He is eternal.
5. **Discuss:** How long has God existed?
6. **Say:** God has always existed and will always exist. He was here before everything, and He has no end.
7. **Say:** We will work in groups to put the memory verse in order as fast as you can!
8. *Divide kids into groups of three.*
9. *Hand out verse cards to each group.*
10. *Start the game and help kids as needed.*
11. *After all the groups have put their verse in order, read the verse aloud together.*
12. *Have kids scramble up their cards and repeat the activity.*
13. *Play as many rounds as you have time for.*
14. **Discuss:** What is comforting to you about this verse?
15. *Lead kids to find Revelation 22:13 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
16. **Say:** God will forever be God. God has always existed and will always exist.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is great news that God will forever be God and His love for us will never ever end! It is so important for us to hide God's Word in our hearts to remind us of these important truths.



BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, paper (1 per 2 kids), writing supplies

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Prepare a list of things that have a beginning and end to help kids brainstorm.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God talk to Moses?
2. **Discuss:** What did God tell Moses that His name is?
3. **Say:** God told Moses to tell the Israelites His name is "I AM that I AM." He was saying that He is eternal.
4. *Lead kids to find Revelation 22:13 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Say:** With a partner, you will brainstorm something that has a beginning and an end—like a song, a movie, a story or even a school day. You will then come up with a way to present that thing to the group. You can draw a picture of it, write words to describe it or even act it out.
6. *Divide kids into pairs. Give pairs time to work on their presentation.*
7. *Invite pairs to share what they come up with.*
8. **Discuss:** How long has God existed?
9. **Say:** God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything, and He has no end. All the things you all came up with have an ending, but praise God—He does not!
10. *Lead kids to find Psalm 90:2 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
11. **Discuss:** What does everlasting mean?
12. **Say:** It means that God has always existed and will last forever.
13. **Discuss:** What is comforting about knowing that God will forever be God?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is great news that God will forever be God and His love for us will never ever end! We can hide God's Word in our hearts to remind us of these important truths.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Do you think scientists ever change their mind?

Say: Sometimes scientists' theories shift as they discover new things. Many scientists used to believe that the universe had existed forever. They didn't think it had any starting or ending point. But now, most believe that there was a start to the universe at some point in time. If the universe had a beginning, someone had to create it and exist before it. We can trust the Bible's explanation that God created the universe and that He existed before it was created. Because no one was around when the universe was created, whatever you believe about creation requires faith—believing without being able to see. Science points to the universe having a beginning. Faith allows us to trust that God is the One who created it and the One who has always existed.

Read Hebrews 11:3 directly from the Bible: *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Discuss: Have you ever wondered where God came from?

Discuss: A lot of people ask that question. Why would that be something people wonder about?

Discuss: What does the Bible tell us about that?

Say: When the Lord told Moses "I AM who I AM," He was reminding Moses that He had always existed and always will. He doesn't have a beginning. Because He is God, He is different from people. He was not made by anything or anyone else. He has always existed. That can be hard to wrap our minds around. Everything else that we know of has a beginning. But God is the Creator. He was not created. It is okay if we can't fully understand how that can be true. There are things about God that we will never completely understand because we are humans and He is God. Romans 11:33 says: *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!* We will never understand everything about God, but we can trust He is forever God and He is forever good.



THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and cut them out. Keep the Leader Guide with you.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Why did the Israelites need to be saved? Whom did they have to trust?
2. **Say:** The Israelites had to trust God to save them. They couldn't save themselves—only God could! We need to be saved, too—not from Pharaoh but from our sin, the wrong things we do that separate us from God.
3. **Say:** Every day we make choices—some small and some big. I'll give your group a scenario to act out. You'll show what you think the best decision would be.
4. *Divide kids into four groups, distribute cards and give groups time to practice.*
5. *Invite groups to act out their scenario and decision for the group. Use the Leader Guide to discuss each scenario.*
6. **Discuss:** We make decisions every day, some right and some wrong. What is the most important decision anyone can ever make?
7. *Lead kids to find 1 John 5:13 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
8. **Discuss:** Whom does this verse say to believe in?
9. **Discuss:** Can we live forever?
10. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
11. **Say:** God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so we could be forgiven and live forever with Him. We can't earn that by making good choices; it's a gift we receive when we trust in Jesus as our Savior.
12. **Say:** The most important choice we'll ever make is to follow Jesus. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life.
13. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. You are always good and always with us. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
14. **Say:** God will forever be God. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



CHAT WITH GOD

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and cut out (1 prayer card per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did the Israelites need saving from?
2. **Discuss:** Whom did the Israelites have to trust to save them?
3. **Discuss:** What do we need saving from? Whom do we have to trust?
4. **Discuss:** Can we live forever?
5. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
6. **Say:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life.
7. **Say:** Let's use a model to pray and chat with God. We don't always have to pray this way, but it is a good tool to help us.
8. *Explain the "CHAT" prayer method. Tape up the matching printable page where kids can see it.*
 - C—Confession (confess your sins to God)
 - H—Honor (show God honor and respect by praising Him)
 - A—Ask (make requests of God for yourself and others)
 - T—Thank (thank God for who He is and what He's done for you)
9. *Spend time praying for each point, pointing to the matching page. Give time in between for kids to quietly pray. After a minute, pray aloud for that point. Continue until you have prayed through all the CHAT points.*
10. **Say:** Because we know that God is eternal, we can also know we can live forever with Him when we trust in Jesus as our Savior. Not only can we talk to God during our life on Earth, but we can also spend forever with Him!
11. *Distribute a prayer card to everyone.*
12. **Say:** Have a CHAT with God this week. He always wants to hear from you!
13. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. You are always good and always with us. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
14. **Say:** God will forever be God. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



ORDER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).

Jesus

Christ

is

the

same

yesterday



ORDER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 2 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).

and

today

and

forever.

(Hebrews

13:8)



ORDER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

CUSTOMIZABLE

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).

	
	
	
	
	
	
(Hebrews	13:8)



Scenario Cards

Your friends
are making fun
of the new kid
in your class.
***What will you
decide to do?***

You know that
you need a
Savior to save
you from your
sins. ***What will
you decide
to do?***

You feel
convicted about
an unkind
decision you
made. ***What
will you decide
to do?***

You want to
pray and talk to
God but
aren't sure how
to start. ***What
will you decide
to do?***



Leader Guide

Scenarios:

1. Someone is being made fun of.
2. In need of a Savior.
3. Unkind decisions.
4. How to pray?

After each scenario discuss:

- Why did you make the decision you did?
- Was that an easy or hard decision? Why?
- Was it an important decision? Why?



CHAT PRAYER



C

Confession - Tell God something you are
sorry for.



CHAT PRAYER

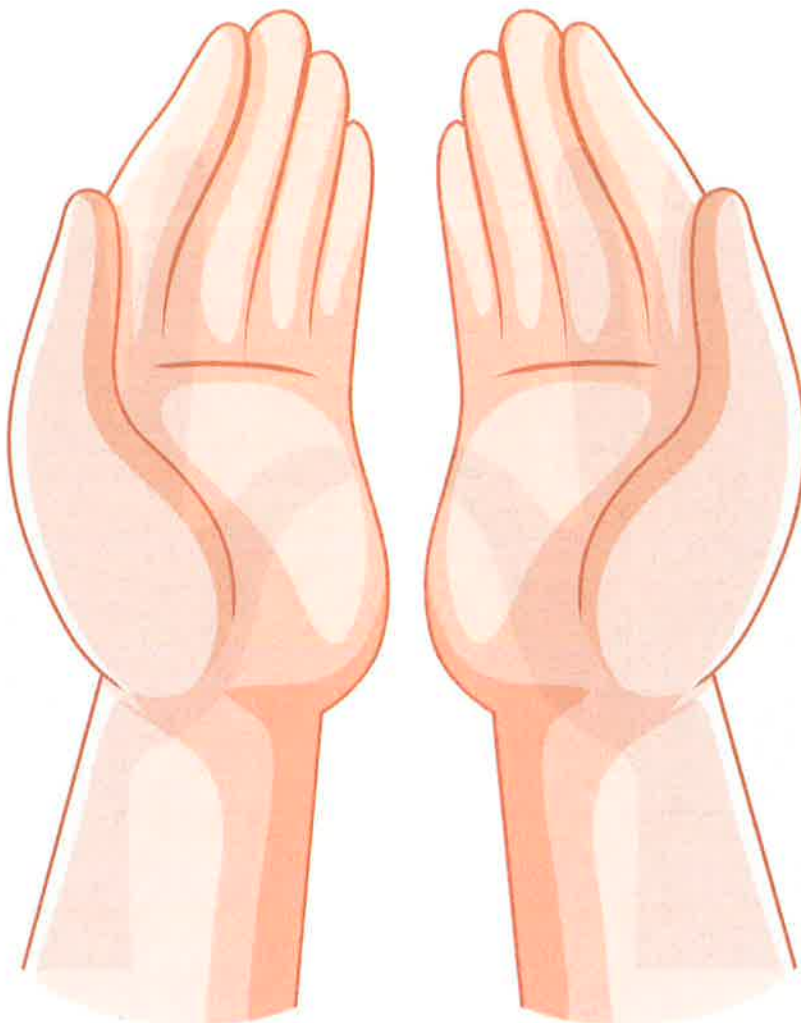


H

Honor - Tell God something amazing
about Him.



CHAT PRAYER



A

Ask - Ask God for something.



CHAT PRAYER



T

***Thank* - Thank God for something good
in your life.**



CHAT PRAYER CARD

CHAT to God this week!



Confess: Tell God something you are sorry for.



Honor: Tell God something amazing about Him.



Ask: Ask God for something.



Thank: Thank God for something good in your life.

CHAT to God this week!



Confess: Tell God something you are sorry for.



Honor: Tell God something amazing about Him.



Ask: Ask God for something.



Thank: Thank God for something good in your life.

CHAT to God this week!



Confess: Tell God something you are sorry for.



Honor: Tell God something amazing about Him.



Ask: Ask God for something.



Thank: Thank God for something good in your life.



TAKE-HOME

THE BURNING BUSH

BIBLE PASSAGE: EXODUS 3 God's people were slaves in Egypt and cried for help. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and sent him to Pharaoh. God said "I AM," and He freed His people, just as He promised.

POINT TO JESUS: Just like the Israelites were trapped in Egypt, we are trapped by our sin. We need a Rescuer. God's own Son, Jesus, came to earth to free us from our sin. Jesus alone is our hope to live forever with our eternal God.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.
(HEBREWS 13:8)*

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR LEADER DID
THAT YOU LIKED?**



HOW LONG HAS GOD EXISTED?
God has always existed and
will always exist. He was before
everything and He has no end.



CAN WE LIVE FOREVER?
When we trust in Jesus as our Savior,
we can have eternal life.

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Draw an "8". Have everyone trace it with a finger. Talk about how God has no beginning or end.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Where God came from can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**





GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week! Read each passage and answer the three questions.



DAY 1

Read: Exodus 3:1-6

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 2

Read: Exodus 3:7-15

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 3

Read: Isaiah 40:8, 28

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 4

Read: John 1:1-5, 14

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?





TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

THE BURNING BUSH



WHAT'S DIFFERENT

FINISH THE STORY

Instructions: Write the beginning of a story on the first line. Pass it to a friend to do the second line. Go back and forth until your story is done!

FIND THE ITEMS

- Find the following items : heart, pencil, sunglasses
fish, feather, paper airplane, hot dog



