



## 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:*

**HE**

#### **HOW LONG HAS GOD EXISTED?**

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

**WE**

#### **CAN WE LIVE FOREVER?**

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

**ME**

#### **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

# Large Group ROADMAP

**1****WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, printable pages, painter's tape

**2****FIND IT IN  
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slides

**3****BIBLE  
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****THE BURNING BUSH  
(EXODUS 3)**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible; teaching slides; red, yellow and orange streamers

**4****REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

**5****LARGE GROUP  
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

# Welcome



**Say:** Hello, everyone! I will call out several things. If you think the thing that I mention will last forever, go to the wall marked "Forever." If you think it's something that's only temporary, go to the wall marked "Temporary." Ready?

*Call the items from the list below. Give time after each for kids to move to the correct wall.*

- God's love
- Electronic devices
- Hiking boots
- New life in Jesus
- A big mountain
- God's faithfulness

**Say:** Everything in this world will crumble and turn to dust one day, but God and His faithful love will last forever!

## SUPPLIES:

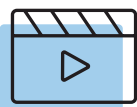
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, printable pages, painter's tape

## PREP:

Print the printable pages. Tape the "Forever" sign to one wall of your space. Tape the "Temporary" sign to the opposite wall.

## LEADER TIP:

If your space or size of group aren't conducive... for movement, have kids stand for "Forever" and sit for "Temporary."



## INTRO VIDEO

*Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.*

**Say:** Carson had nothing to worry about—Lee was just a little late to the climbing gym.

**Discuss:** What are some things that make you worry or feel anxious?

**Say:** We never have to worry that God will change or let us down. Today's Brite Idea is: God will forever be God.

*Show teaching slide: Brite Idea*

*Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions*

## TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:

- HE** How long has God existed?
- WE** Can we live forever?

## AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:

- ME** How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT  
IN THE

Bible

## WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

*Show teaching slide: God's Big Story*

**Say:** The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

**Creation:** God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

**Redemption:** God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

**Restoration:** When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

## WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

*Show teaching illustration: Jacob's Dream.*

**Say:** Two weeks ago we learned about Jacob's dream and how God never changes.

*Show teaching image: Joyful Reunion.*

**Say:** Then we learned about Joseph and his brothers and how God can be trusted.

*Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible.*

**Say:** This week's story comes from the book of Exodus. Exodus is found in the Old Testament, between the books of Genesis and Leviticus.

*Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline.*

**Say:** This story falls in the "Exodus" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened when the Israelites lived as slaves in Egypt!

*Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme.*

**Say:** This month we are focusing on the truth that God is unchanging.

**Say:** This week we will learn about a man named Moses who met God in a most peculiar and powerful way.

## LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

*Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Exodus. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Exodus 3).*

# 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.



## BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

*Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game*

### SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

### PREP:

None

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids partner up. They will answer the question by working together to make a "T" out of their bodies for True and an "F" out of their bodies for False.

- 1. The Israelites called out to God from Egypt, but He didn't hear them. (False)**

*God heard their prayers and answered them.*

- 2. God told Moses to take off his gloves because the ground where he was standing was holy. (False)**

*God told Moses to take off his sandals.*

- 3. God promised to take the Israelites back to Egypt. (False)**

*God promised to rescue them, bring them out of Egypt and give them a new land.*

- 4. God told Moses, "I AM who I AM." (True)**

- 5. God has existed exactly as long as the Earth has. (False)**

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

- 6. We can live forever. (True)**

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



# Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



## SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

## PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer

**HE**

### How long has God existed?

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

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer

**WE**

### Can we live forever?

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



## MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**(HEBREWS 13:8)**



## VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video  
after the verse is read.



**PRAY:** God, You are forever God and we worship You. Thank You for Your great love that gives all who follow Your Son the gift of eternal life! Amen.