

The Fire That Didn't Go Out

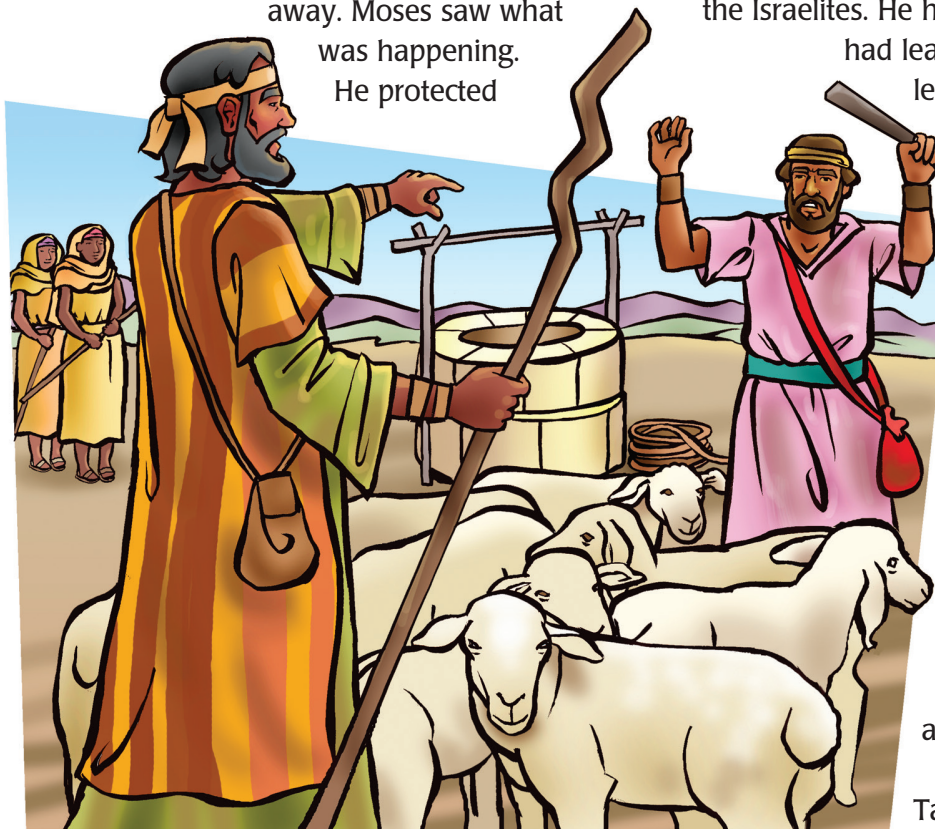
Exodus 3; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 251-255

Have you ever enjoyed sitting by a campfire or by a burning fireplace at home? If you do not add wood, the fire will go out. In our story today Moses saw a fire, but it did not burn anything, and it did not go out.

It had been 40 years since Moses had run away from Egypt. He knew now that he had been wrong. Killing was not part of God's plan. But God had not left him. He had protected Moses as he traveled over the desert.

Moses remembered the first evening in Midian. While he had rested near a well, some shepherdesses came to draw water. They always watered their animals at that well. But some shepherds came and tried to chase the women

away. Moses saw what was happening. He protected



them from the shepherds. Then he drew water for the women's sheep.

The women took Moses home with them and fed him. Their father, Jethro, hired Moses to work for him. Later Moses married Jethro's daughter Zipporah, one of the shepherdesses. And now he and Zipporah had two sons.

The pharaoh Moses had run from was dead. But the Israelites were worse off than ever. The new pharaoh was more cruel than the old one. How Moses wished he hadn't taken matters into his own hands. He wished he hadn't killed that Egyptian! If he had only waited for God to show him when to act! His people might have been free by now.

God knew that Moses was ready to lead the Israelites. He had learned to be humble. He had learned to wait for God. He had learned patience as he took care of sheep.

One day Moses was caring for his father-in-law's flocks as usual. Suddenly he saw a bush burning. Moses saw that the bush kept burning. But it didn't burn up! The fire was not going out! He decided to have a closer look. As he stood before the bush, he heard a voice.

"Moses! Moses!" the voice said.

"Here I am," Moses answered.

"Do not come any closer. Take off your shoes. You are

The Message

We worship God when we are reverent.

Memory Verse

“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground”

(Exodus 3:5, NIV).

standing on holy ground,” said the voice. “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and of Jacob.”

Quickly Moses took off his sandals and bowed low.

The voice continued: “I have seen the trouble of My people. And I want you to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let My people go.”

“But, Lord, who am I to go to Pharaoh?” Moses asked.

“I will be with you,” God promised. “When you leave Egypt, you will come back to this mountain and worship Me.”

Moses answered, “But what will I tell the Israelites? Who will I say sent me?”

God replied, “Tell the Israelites that the God of their fathers sent you. Tell them that I know what is happening. Tell them I have sent you to rescue them. They will listen to you.

“I know that the king of the Egyptians will not believe you. But that will give me a great opportunity. I will do many signs so that everyone will know that I am the true God.”

Moses loved, honored, and respected God. Although he felt unworthy, he would do what God had said. By his deeds Moses

would worship God with true reverence and respect. You, too, can worship God with reverence and respect.





S A B B A T H

READ Read your lesson story to your family. What did Moses do for 40 years? If possible, plan a trip to a farm to see some sheep. Sheep are often called silly. Ask your family why. Name some Bible "shepherd" stories you know.

READ Use the internet or an encyclopedia to discover five facts about sheep.

DO Sing a song about animals; then thank God for people who look after them.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Exodus 3:1-3 during family worship. Use a Bible map to find Mount Horeb.

MAKE Before worship, put a small branch in a jar of sand or dirt. Cut out some colored paper flame shapes and write one word of your memory verse on each. Thread yarn through the shapes and hang them on the branch. Use this to help learn your memory verse and review it every day.

DO Ask your mom or dad to help you light a bonfire. Or light a candle and look at the flame. Sing praise songs as you watch the flames.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Exodus 3:4-6 during family worship. What did God tell Moses to do with his shoes? Why don't we take off our shoes at church?

DO Try calling to a family member. Be close together and then move further and further apart. How far did you go before you could not hear each other?

THINK What are the three parts of your ear? (Hint: See a dictionary or research online.)

PRAY Pray that God will help you to listen when He speaks to you.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Exodus 3:7-12 during family worship. Draw a picture or make a model of what you think the Promised Land was like.

DO God talked of a land flowing with milk and honey. What did He mean? Survey everyone in your family to find out what their favorite food is.

DO On a map, measure the distance from Egypt to Mount Horeb. Where would you be if you traveled that distance from your home?

PRAY Ask God to bless people who are traveling.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Exodus 3:13-15. How did God describe Himself? Find out three things about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What does your name mean? Ask your parents why they chose that name.

DO Sing "Holy, Holy" (Sing for Joy, no. 6). Then ask God to help you always to use His name with respect.

T H U R S D A Y

READ For worship today read and discuss Exodus 3:16-22. What treasures did God promise the Israelites would take from Egypt? What is the most valuable thing you own? Review your memory verse together. Sing some praise songs; then ask God to help you value the right things.

DO Begin to plan what you need to do to get ready for Sabbath.



When God told Moses about Canaan, He called it the "land of milk and honey." That means a land full of good things.



FRIDAY

- DO** Before sundown, clean your shoes for Sabbath. Think of Moses as you clean them.
- DO** During worship, act out the story of Moses with your family. Suggest that everyone take off their shoes during worship.
- DO** Sing praise songs, then invite God to be with your family on His special day.
- DO** Say your memory verse for your family.

The Fire That Didn't Go Out PUZZLE

Directions: Look at these pictures from Moses' life. First, name them. Then number them in the order that they happened.

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