

# Moses is called to do Great Things

## Exodus 3:1-7:7





Moses had been gone from Egypt for a long time. He was now 80 years old and had spent the past 40 years as a shepherd. One day he took the sheep up to Mount Horeb to graze. As he sat there, he saw something out of the corner of his eye.

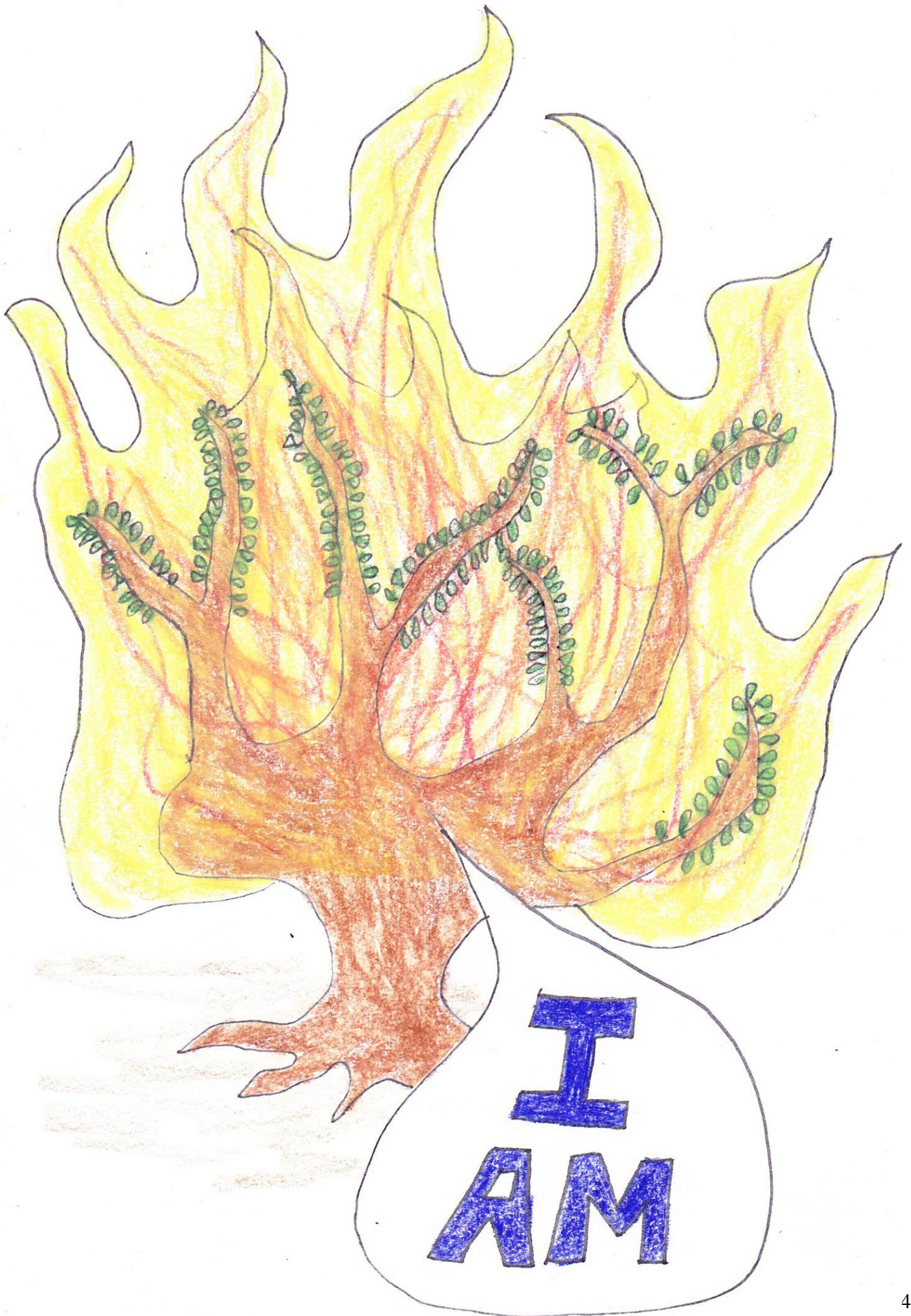
“Moses,” he heard.

“Here I am!” he cried, walking a little further Moses saw a bush on fire, but it didn’t burn up!

Moses you are standing on holy ground,” the bush said.  
“Take off your shoes.”

Who.... What are you?” exclaimed Moses.

“I am the God of your father. I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Moses heard all of this and hid his face in the ground.



God continued, "I have heard the suffering of my people, and now is the time to change it. I will bring them out of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey. I am sending you to Pharaoh."

"But why would he listen to me?" Moses asked.

"I have chosen you. I will be with you," God answered.

Moses still was not convinced, "But what if they ask, 'How do we know God sent you? What is His name?'"

The fire blazed higher as God answered, "I AM WHO I AM, say I AM sent me. Say the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob sent me." God continued, "Assemble the Elders of Israel and tell them what I have told you. Then go with them to Pharaoh and ask to go worship me. Pharaoh will refuse, and I will show my wonders. When you leave the Egyptians will shower you with gifts."



“What if they won’t listen to me?” Moses asked.

“What is in your hand?” God responded.

Moses looked about confused, “My staff?”

“Throw it on the ground,” God commanded.

Moses hesitated a moment and then dropped it. When the staff hit the ground it became a snake. Moses’ eyes widened and he started to back away from it.

God spoke again, “Pick it up by the tail. This is your sign.” Moses picked up the snake and it became a staff again.



Moses still wasn't sure about all of this, "God I know you can do anything, but I'm a poor speaker. No one will listen to me."

"I can make a mute person talk. I CAN teach you to talk," God answered.

Still Moses pressed God, "Please if there is any other way."

The fire blazed higher and still the bush did not burn up, "Your brother Aaron is on his way. You will teach him what to say, and he will speak for you."

So Moses agreed. He went to Zipporah and told her what he must do. After many tearful goodbyes they set out to Egypt.

After traveling many days they met Aaron. Moses and Aaron hugged like old friends. Then Moses told Aaron all God had said and what they needed to do.

They traveled to Egypt and went to talk to the elders of Israel



Moses and Aaron talked for many hours and performed many wonders and signs. They told all about God's plans and what God would do.

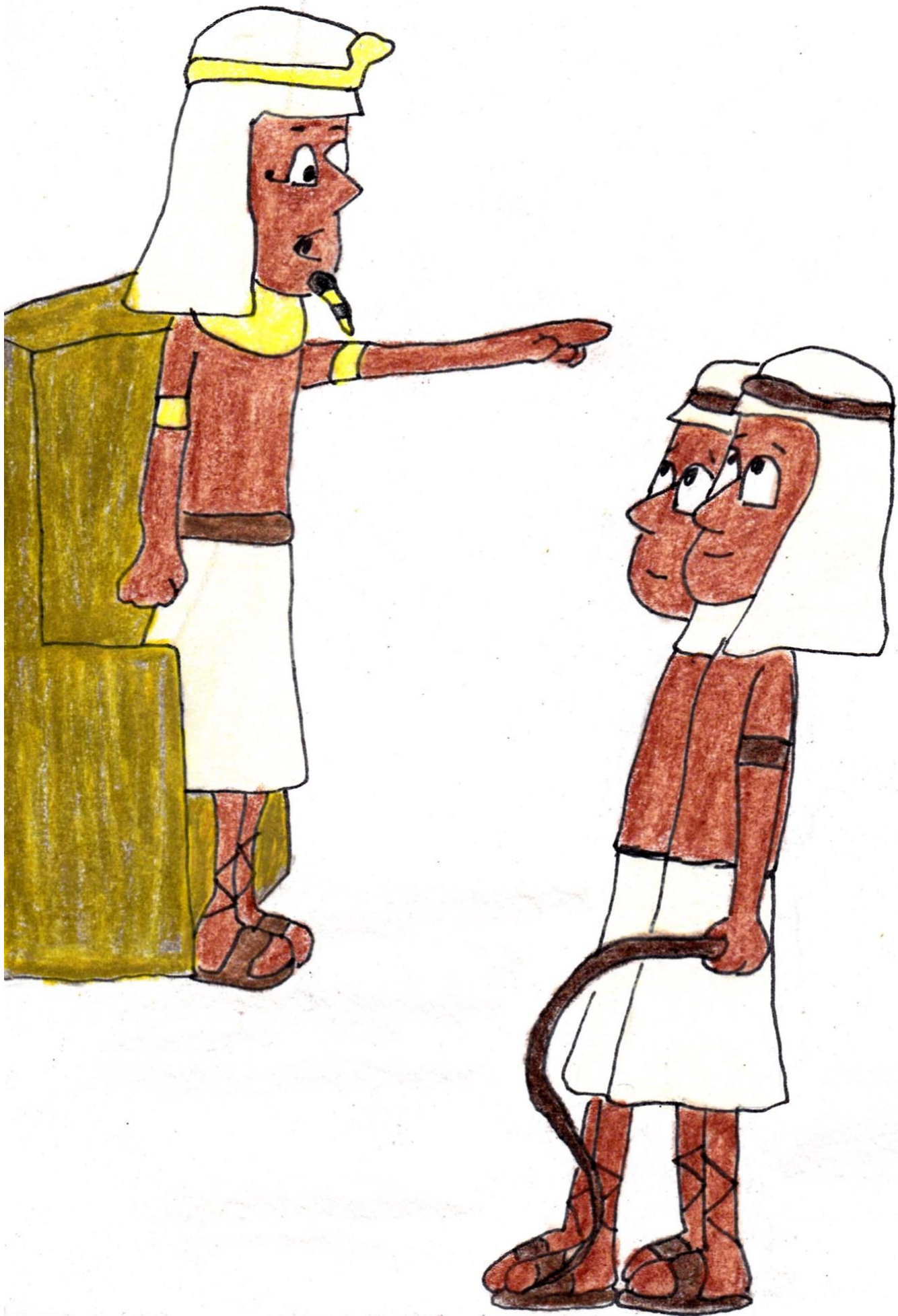
The Israelites heard all of this and praised God for His many wonders and for His plans.

After telling the Israelites all of God's plans they went to Pharaoh.

They walked in and said to Pharaoh, "Let my people go to the desert to worship God."

Pharaoh looked at Moses and Aaron, and then he looked around his throne room. Finally he answered them, "Who is this 'God' that I should let them go? Why should they stop working?"

So Moses and Aaron left.



Later that day Pharaoh met with the Egyptian overseers. “These Hebrews are growing way too sure of themselves. We need to cut them down to size, so stop giving them hay to make bricks. Let’s see them try to go and worship if they’re exhausted.”

The Israelites wandered all over to find straw for their bricks. It was hard work and they weren’t making as many bricks.

The Egyptian overseers began to beat the Israelites for not working hard enough.

Finally some of the Israelites went to Pharaoh, “Why are you doing this to us?” You’re beating us, but we don’t have what we need to make bricks.”

Pharaoh smiled at them and said, “You are lazy. That is why you keep asking to go worship. Nothing will change.”



Enraged they went to Moses and confronted him. “This is your fault. If you hadn’t gone to Pharaoh he wouldn’t be punishing us. Let God judge if you have done right.”

Moses and Aaron stood there and said nothing, after they went back to God in prayer.

“Lord, are you sure this is the right plan? I feel like all I try to do just causes more trouble. Your people are still slaves. Am I doing the right thing God?”

God spoke to Moses, “I AM the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will humble Pharaoh. I will bring you out of Egypt, and you will see my wonders.”

Moses went and told all of this to the Israelites, but they were too afraid to listen.

# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. How old is Moses now? How old are your grandparents?  
Can you imagine your grandpa telling the President to do something?
2. Moses took off his shoes for holy ground. What do you do to show respect for God?
3. Have you ever had to tell your parents or a teacher something you really didn't want to? How did you feel?  
Do you think this is how Moses felt?
4. How did the Israelites make bricks after Moses talked to Pharaoh?

## Middle Kids

1. What does God predict Pharaoh will do? Read Exodus 3:19-20. Why is it important God said this before Pharaoh did?
2. Read Exodus 4:3, is Moses trusting God? Now read v. 4. Did he immediately pick it up? Now what do you think?
3. How do you think Moses is feeling?
4. Can God use anyone? Read Exodus 4:10-11.
5. How do the Israelites and Pharaoh react to what Moses says? Read Exodus 4:31 and 5:2, 4-5.

6. Who did the Israelites blame for their problems? Read Exodus 5:20-21.

## Older Guys

1. Read Acts 7:23-35. What do you learn about Moses from these verses?
2. Read through chapters 3 and 4 and make note of Moses' objections and reactions to God's calling. How does God respond? Does God ever get angry? How should we as parents or caregivers respond when a child balks?
3. Read Exodus 3:18-22. Just from what you know of the rest of the story, how does this come true?
4. Why do the Israelites have to leave to give sacrifices? Read Exodus 8:26 and Genesis 43:32 and 46:33-34.
5. Read Exodus 5:20-21. Who is ultimately to blame for what is happening? Did God know this would happen? Read Genesis 18:14; Exodus 8:22; Deuteronomy 4:39; Psalms 42:2-3; and Psalms 147:5.
6. Read Exodus 6:6-9. Find all the promises God makes.
7. In Exodus 6:6-9 God says, "I am the LORD" 4 times. Why does He say each one?

## Activities

1. If you can build a fire and observe it. Why do you think God chose to speak out of the fire?
2. Go to a pet store and watch a snake. Would you want to pick up a snake that is taller than you? What would be scary about picking it up by the tail?
3. Read through the passage and write down what God says and what Moses says in response.
4. Start a prayer book, and write down your prayers to God. Moses talks to God all the time, and he talks to him about all sorts of things. When you write to God just write about what you want to tell Him, don't worry too much about form. Here's what we did, start with a simple book made from folded paper and stapled (1). Tear tissue paper into small pieces (2). Run a glue stick over the entire cover (3) and start adding pieces. Glue the tissue paper on in whatever pattern you like (4).



## Online

1. Moses the shepherd craft <http://embracinglife-rose.blogspot.com/2011/04/moses-shepherd.html>
2. Moses and the burning bush craft from DLTk Kids  
[http://www.dltk-bible.com/moses and the burning bush craft.htm](http://www.dltk-bible.com/moses_and_the_burning_bush_craft.htm)
3. burning bush craft  
<http://kareninmommyland.blogspot.com/2010/03/moses-and-burning-bush-craft.html>
4. Video explaining that craft  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XxtRnCHkTo>
5. Suggestions of additional books and crafts  
<http://nurseryrhymesandfuntimes.blogspot.com/2011/08/kids-in-word-baby-moses-moses-and.html>

What did God say	What did Moses say