



LESSON 16

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God has a plan for our lives. He speaks to us and wants to use us for His glory.

Bible Character(s): Moses

Scripture Reference: Exodus 1-4



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Exodus 1-4. God fulfilled His promise to Jacob by making his descendants into a large nation, but they were slaves and cried out to God for deliverance. God answered their cries for freedom when he called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. How are you leading? Are there areas God is calling you to lead? Are you seeking His will for your life? God has a good and perfect plan for each of us, and He desires to use us to bring Him glory if we allow Him. You can trust Him, since He is with you.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Exodus Wordsearch



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will begin studying in Exodus. We will see how God continued to work in the descendants of Jacob by making them into a great nation. But God's people eventually became slaves in the land

of Egypt. Then, out of Jacob's descendants came Moses, who God used as a part of His great plan to rescue His people.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? Who was afraid? What are you afraid of? In our last lesson we finished our study of Genesis. We saw how God created us to worship Him and have a relationship with Him. We saw how our perfect relationship with Him was broken by the first sin. We studied the lives of many different people who were following God and looked at the godly character many of them possessed. We also saw many of them live independently from God and the consequences that resulted. We ended with Joseph showing love to his brothers, who sold him as a slave. Joseph knew God had a plan for him and would use him to save the lives of many people during the years of famine. Joseph recognized that God had intended everything that happened to him for good and for God's purpose.

Now we are going to begin our study of Exodus by looking deeper into the plan God has for every one of us. We will study the first four chapters and begin to learn about a man named Moses. Moses was the person who wrote the book of Exodus. We will see how he was afraid but God used him to do great things.

Exodus Review



The purpose is to review the first two chapters of Exodus.

Supplies:

Exodus 1 worksheet (1 per session)

Exodus 2 worksheet (1 per session)

Divide the class into two groups – the Exodus 1 group and the Exodus 2 group. (One camp counselor per group.) Have each group look up and read its particular Bible passage and complete the worksheet by matching the correct answers to each question. Then come back together to share.

Tie It Together



Let's look at Exodus 1 first. What did the group learn from that passage? (Allow responses.)

God kept His promise to Jacob by making the Israelites into a great nation. The Israelites filled the land in Egypt, and the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, was afraid that they would overpower the Egyptians. He made all of the Israelites become slaves, which means they had to work hard without getting paid. Their lives were very difficult but this did not stop them from having large families. Pharaoh ordered all baby boys to be killed as soon as they were born. The midwives (women who delivered the babies) refused to obey Pharaoh because they feared and loved God, so they allowed all of the baby boys to

live. God blessed the midwives with more children. God also blessed the Israelites with more children.

Let's go on to the other passage. What did that group learn from that passage? (Allow responses.) There was a baby boy born to a man and woman from the Israelite tribe of Levi (one of Jacob's sons). The mother saw that her son was a special baby and hid him as long as she could. Then she put him in a basket in the Nile River while his sister watched what happened to him. Pharaoh's daughter found and took the baby, and had a Hebrew woman come to nurse him. This woman happened to be his mother. When he was older he was taken back to Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, to be her son. She named him Moses, which means "to lift out," because she lifted him out of the water. We can see that Moses was special because God had a plan for him. Moses was saved from death and taken in by the princess as her son.

As Moses grew older, he understood that he was a Hebrew (Israelite) and he saw the hard work the Hebrew slaves were forced to do. After killing an Egyptian who was fighting with a Hebrew, he fled to the land of Midian out of fear. There he met and married Zipporah after saving her brothers and sisters from a group of shepherds. Years passed and the Israelites still suffered as slaves. They cried out to God for help and God remembered His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God appeared to Moses as a burning bush. When Moses moved closer to see why the bush was not being burned up by the fire, God spoke to him.

Let's begin in Exodus 3 and see what God said to Moses.

Exodus 3:7-11 [NLT]

7 Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

God was faithful to His people. He had a plan to use Moses to lead the Israelite nation out of Egypt. Why do you think Moses was afraid of God's plan to use him? (Allow responses.) He was fearful and did not think he was strong enough to be the person to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Let's see how God responded.

Exodus 3: 12-17

12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

13 But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

14 God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

*This is my eternal name,
my name to remember for all generations.*

16 “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. 17 I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey - the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.”

God promised Moses that He would be with him. God had confidence in Moses for this mighty task because He had His plan for Moses mapped out before Moses was even born! But Moses still felt inadequate and feared the mission God wanted to use him for. Moses continued to object, bringing up different reasons why he was not fit for the job.

Why Me?



The purpose is to help the campers understand God’s will for them.

Supplies:

Bush poster (1 per session)

Flame cutouts (15 per session)

Worksheet - “What Keeps Me From Doing God’s Will?” side (1 per camper)

Glue

Have the campers come up with different things they know God wants them to do and write them on their flames. Then have them glue the flames to the bush poster. Put your class name and service time on the poster and hang it on the clothesline to keep in the room as a reminder throughout the year.

After they have finished pasting the flames to the bush, give them a worksheet and have them turn to the “What Keeps Me from Doing God’s Will?” side. Ask them to list different things that keep them from doing God’s will. (For example, selfishness, laziness, fear, etc.)

Tie It Together



What are some different things that we know God wants us to do? (Worship Him, obey our parents, love others, pray, read our Bible, etc.) God desires for us to do these things because He wants us to follow Him and trust in His plan for our life. What makes it difficult to do these things? What keeps us from doing what God wants us to do? (Fear, confusion, feeling of inadequacy, pride,

stubbornness, selfishness, etc.) Just like Moses kept coming up with reasons why he could not do God's will, we often make excuses for why we do not obey God. But God told Moses that He would be with him and therefore there was nothing Moses could not do. All Moses needed and all we need is to have God with us and we can do anything according to His will! God has a plan for each of us that He created before we were born and He is there to give us everything we need in order to accomplish His plan. All we have to do is put our faith and trust in Him.

God then told Moses that the elders of Israel would listen to and accept Moses' message, but Moses still doubted God's plan. So God gave him the power to perform 3 different signs to help convince the Israelite elders and people that God was with him: turning his staff into a snake, making his hand look like it had a skin disease, and turning water from the Nile River into blood.

Let's continue with the story to see how Moses responded.

Exodus 4:10-17, 29-31

10 But Moses pleaded with the LORD, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled."

11 Then the LORD asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say."

13 But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else."

14 Then the LORD became angry with Moses. "All right," he said. "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. 15 Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. 16 Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say. 17 And take your shepherd's staff with you, and use it to perform the miraculous signs I have shown you."

29 Then Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt and called all the elders of Israel together. 30 Aaron told them everything the LORD had told Moses, and Moses performed the miraculous signs as they watched. 31 Then the people of Israel were convinced that the LORD had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Moses questioned God over and over out of fear and doubt because he did not want to do the mission God had planned for him. Even though Moses pleaded continuously to get out of it, God's plan would prevail because God wanted to use Moses for His glory. When Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt the people believed that God had sent Moses and Aaron to rescue them and they immediately worshiped God for it. God's plan for each of us is good and God desires us to seek His will in everything we do and be obedient to what He asks.

How Do I Know God's Plan For Me?



The purpose is to help the campers understand how they can discern God's plan.

Supplies:

Scenarios guide (1 per bin)

Worksheet – “Tools to Discern God's Will” side (1 per camper)

Read through the three scenarios. Ask the campers what they think God would want them to do in each situation and let them discuss what the best decisions are. Challenge them to talk through different ways they can discern God's will. (Teachers – think about introducing the idea of using a concordance). As you talk through the Tie It Together below, have campers turn to the “Tools to Discern God's Will” side of their worksheets and let them write in the three main tools for them to discern God's will (1 – Pray, 2 – Seek counsel (ask their parents), 3 – Look in the Bible (with their parents' help)).

Tie It Together



God created us to worship Him by living our lives to bring glory to Him. To bring glory to God we have to make choices based on what we think He would want us to do. This is called seeking God's will.

God gives us different tools to discern what His will is for us:

- 1) We can PRAY to Him for guidance and wisdom.
- 2) We can GO TO THE BIBLE to see what God says about any choice or situation in our life.
- 3) We can then SEEK COUNSEL from people like our parents, or our camp counselor, and allow them to help guide us in seeking God's will.

Proverbs 3:5 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.” We can put our trust in God's will because He knows what is best for us.

Can any of you think of a situation in your life right now in which you need to seek God's will? Does anyone want to share that situation? (Allow responses.) What are you doing to seek God's will for it? How can you seek God's will for it? (Allow responses.)

Wrapping Up

God has a plan for each of us. We may feel things like fear, confusion, or doubt as we learn more about what God's plan is but we can know that God is always with us and He is all we need. God wants to use each of us to share His love with those around us. If we seek His will and make ourselves available to what He wants for us, He can use us to bring glory to His name. He gives us different tools to use to discern what He wants for us; prayer, the Bible, and counsel from others. We were created to worship Him, and He wants us to live for Him by seeking His will in our lives.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer with your campers, asking God to show each of you how He wants to use you. Pray that He give you the courage to do what He wants you to do.



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