



Burning Bush

Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let's hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam's adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

The Pilots Prayer

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

Fun together

Game: Making flames

You will need:

- Flame shapes in yellow (large), orange (medium) and red (small) – see template
- Lining paper 6-8 foot in length.
- Blu-tack
- Glue stick or tape

Prepare flame shapes in yellow (large) orange (medium) and red (small) [template]

Lining paper – 6-8 foot length – blu tacked to a wall at floor height – draw a line to divide it in half



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Divide the children into 2 teams – line up opposite end of the room to the lining paper wall -each team has one half of the paper.

Place the flame shapes (mix them up for an older group) half way between the teams and the wall.

The aim is to be the team 'on fire' by making the most flames on their half of the paper [you will use this as a prop later for the Big Story].

The first player from each team then play Rock, Paper, Scissors once – the winner runs, grabs a flame, and sticks in on their half of the sheet (glue sticks or blu tack/sticky tape handed out). The loser and the winner go to the back of their team line. The next players have their turn, and so on until all the flames are stuck to the sheet.

For an older group – the flames have to be 3 coloured – yellow at the bottom layer, then orange and then red on top – only complete flames count in the scoring at the end.

For a younger group – any colour and size anywhere counts!

For a mixed aged group – get the older ones to 'captain' their team and give instructions to the players about which flames to take, and another to help with the sticking.

Today's theme is God is waiting for us in unexpected and unusual places

The Big Story – Burning Bush **Exodus 3**

Props for the story sack:

- *Small basket*
- *Crown*
- *Woolly hat*
- *Large paper cone, open at both ends, with a simple strip of paper stuck on to use as a handle - to use as a megaphone*
- *You will also need: Flames on long length of lining paper [from the game]*

Volunteers to be:

Moses, Bush, and 2 Flames holders



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Reader 1: Today's story is about Moses – who has already had a very eventful life life!

[Ask a volunteer to be Moses]

Reader 2: [miming these or encourage Moses to mime them] Swimming with sharks? Winning Egypt's Got Talent? Parachute jump? Dancing on Ice?

Reader 1: No [rolls eyes] – let me give you a potted history. First as a baby he was hidden in a basket *[put a small basket on Moses head]*; then rescued by a princess.

Reader 2: Princess Leia?

Reader 1: No – an ancient Egyptian princess, Pharaoh's daughter. Moses grew up in the palace as a prince, *[swop the basket for a crown]* then killed someone for mistreating a slave and had to run for his life out of the country! He married a girl, and joined the family sheep business *[swop the crown for a woolly hat]*.

Reader 2: Phew – so he went from basket babe to posh boy to angry man to woolly wanderer – wow, I really enjoyed today's story!

Reader 1: That was just the background – to explain why is now Moses not living in the palace, but looking after a flock of sheep in a foreign country.

[Ask Moses to walk about]

Reader 2: So he's a lamb keeper? A wool grower? A flock follower?

Reader 1: He's a shepherd. And one day he sees something that makes him stop and stare.

[Ask a Moses to stop still]

Reader 2: A space ship? A circus? A giant T-Rex?

Reader 1: No, a bush!

[Ask a volunteer to be the bush – crouch down]

Reader 2: That wouldn't make me stop and stare!

Reader 1: But this was no ordinary bush – it was on fire!

[Ask 2 volunteers to bring over the flames on the lining paper, and wrap it around the bush – holding it in place]

Reader 2: That would make me run away rather than stop! Help! Fire!!



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Reader 1: But Moses looked closely and saw that the fire was not burning up the bush – the bush was ablaze but not being hurt by the fire

Reader 2: Ok that is odd – and definitely worth stopping for – so he could toast some marshmallows!

Reader 1: Then the bush spoke – MOSES, MOSES

[Give bush the 'megaphone' and encourage them to say MOSES, MOSES]

Reader 2: That's a bit scary! Did he run away then?

Reader 1: No – he is curious, so he goes a bit nearer...

[Ask a Moses to move closer]

Reader 2: And an angel jumped of the bush and said BOO!

Reader 1: No – the bush said -take off your shoes, this is holy ground!

[Ask a Moses to take off his shoes]

Reader 2: Does that mean he has to be careful about falling in a hole?

Reader 1: It means that this is a wonderful and special place because God is waiting to meet Moses here. God and Moses then spend some time together, talking about the country Moses grew up in, Egypt, and how God sees all the bad things happening to the slaves, and wants to rescue them.

Reader 2: Moses must be very pleased to hear that!

Reader 1: Not exactly – because God wants him to go and tell the Egyptian king, Pharaoh, to let all the slaves go!! And Moses is very afraid. So Moses says he will only go if God will tell him God's name.

Reader 2: Wow – so what does God say?

Reader 1: my name is I AM

[Ask the bush to say I AM]

Reader 2: so does Moses go? He'll need to put his shoes back on!!

[Ask Moses to put shoes back on]

Reader 1: Yes he does!! And that is a great story for another day. But for now Moses knows that God, I AM, has called him to go and rescue lots of people.

Reader 2: I Am, that's a strange name – I wonder what that name means?



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Creative adventure Tissue-paper art:

- Black sugar paper or thin card – one piece per child
- White paint or white marker/corrector; or silver/gold pens that can write on black
- Tissue paper – yellow, orange, red, green
- White or green wool or string or raffia
- PVA glue and spreaders
- Scissors

Depending on the age of your children invite them to create a picture of the burning bush using these materials:

Younger – draw the branches of a bush in white paint or using the wool/string (you could do this in advance) and add tissue paper for the leaves (green) and fire (yellow, orange and red) using glue – you could pre-cut leaf shapes in green, and pre-cut small squares of the other colours for scrunching before sticking.

Older – draw the outline of a bush shape with a few thick branches – carefully cut out to leave the gaps between the branches (you could do this in advance). Use overlapping yellow, orange and red pieces of tissue stuck behind the gaps to create the fire (like a stained glass window). Add some green leaves on the front for the bush.

Both styles – in white paint / string / wool – write: I AM in large letters above the burning bush on the front. Older children might like to add 'this is Holy ground' underneath their burning bush.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what your name means?

I wonder why God is called I AM?

I wonder what would make you stop and listen to a bush?

The Adventure Map

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.



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Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

Walking the Way

This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.

For the Younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is:



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Go for a walk outside, using all your senses. Where do you sense God?

Or What does God help you to notice/see?

Adventurers Go!

So, today we have heard how God is waiting for us to discover him, like Moses did – even when we are far away from home, and when life has not turned out the way we thought it would – and God may have a challenge for us!

Prayers (choose one/both)

Dear God – you were waiting to meet Moses in the wilderness -

Thank you that you are waiting to meet us today.

You helped Moses stop and talk with you –

Help us to stop and talk with you each day.

You knew Moses' name, and you know our names –

Thank you for sharing your name – I AM.

AMEN

Active Prayer

Use the lining paper with the flames on it from the game.

Sit the group around the paper and give everyone pens or pencils.

Thank you God that you are always waiting to meet us.

Sometimes you call us by name – write your name or draw your face on a flame

Sometimes you ask us to do things – draw a stick person doing something on a flame

Always you want us to be burning bright with your love – draw a heart on a flame

Thank you God that you are always waiting to meet us.

AMEN



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End Prayer Every Session: All together

We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.

Adventurers go! Amen



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What you need for this session

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The Big Story

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