



# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

# THE GREAT ESCAPE

### BIG IDEA

God can help you do great things.

### THE BIBLE

**Moses and the Burning Bush:** Exodus 3:1-4:18 (2 Corinthians 9:8, Hebrews 13:20-21, Philippians 4:12-13)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #1 - Balance Beam
- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #2 - Bush With Leaves
- **ACTIVITY** | The Hidden Message
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God can help you do great things.
- **IMAGE** | Campfire
- **BIBLE STORY** | Exodus 3:1-4:18
- **VIDEO** | Prince of Egypt
- **ACTIVITY** | Take Off Your Shoes Relay
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Moving Raisins
- **SCRIPTURE** | 2 Corinthians 9:8; Hebrews 13:20-21
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **RESPONSE** | Pipe Cleaner Staff
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Colossians 3:20; Psalm 46:10

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - What did God want Moses to do?
  - What were some of Moses' excuses?
  - How did God say He would help?
  - What are some hard things God wants us to do?
  - What kinds of excuses do we make for not doing things God wants us to do?
  - How can God help us?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Philippians 4:12-13
- **ACTIVITY** | Big Idea Search
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Colossians 3:20; Psalm 46:10



# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

# THE GREAT ESCAPE

### BIG IDEA

God can help you do great things.

### THE BIBLE

**Moses and the Burning Bush:** Exodus 3:1-4:18 (2 Corinthians 9:8, Hebrews 13:20-21, Philippians 4:12-13)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### ACTIVITY | Puzzle #1 – Balance Beam

- Welcome to our second week of *The Great Escape!* Last week, we started a series of challenges that will help us escape from the escape room we're calling Egypt. Today, we'll try to complete level two. When you complete each challenge, you'll get an item to help you discover the Big Idea for today. Remember, you have to discover the Big Idea each week to be able to escape from Egypt.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can play this as one large group or do it in small groups. Have the kids line up on a balance beam, wooden board, or piece of tape or string on the ground. Challenge them to put themselves in the right order without falling off the line. Give them only one clue: the verse Exodus 3:6 which describes God as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If they need a hint, ask them who was born first in that list. The names are in order from oldest to youngest, so kids will need to put themselves in order from oldest to youngest. When they do it, they can move on to Puzzle #2.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *To help preteens depend on each other and allow those who hide in the shadows to shine during these puzzles, see your weekly instructions for some hacks for the first three activities.*

#### ACTIVITY | Puzzle #2 – Bush With Leaves

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the "Bush With Leaves" printable and cut out the leaves. Tape the picture of a large bush on the wall with at least twenty leaves attached to the wall. There will be ten leaves with writing on the backside. Nine leaves will have one letter from the phrase "I AM WHO I AM" and a tenth leaf will have the reference, Exodus 3:14. Have the kids find the correct leaves with writing on the back and put the phrase in order (using the Bible if needed). The leader will give them a piece of*

paper that has a Bible verse and an invisible message written in lemon juice. You can set up different bushes on the wall for each group if you want them all to be able to work at the same time.

### ACTIVITY | PUZZLE #3 -- The Hidden Message

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You need to prepare this clue prior to kids arriving for the day. On the bottom of the printable page, write the Big Idea for this week (God can help you do great things) using invisible ink. Squeeze lemon juice into a bowl. Dip one end of a cotton swab into the juice. Then write, "God can help you do great things" on the bottom of the page. Allow plenty of time to dry. During the activity, kids will work together to use the different colored letters to figure out the secret message, "Heat Me." When they show their correct answer to the leader, the leader will show them that they have a hair dryer. The heat will cause the lemon juice message to appear, revealing the Big Idea. **Note: Only an adult should use the hair dryer.**
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** This activity could be overwhelming for a child with special needs if there are a lot of children crowding around the piece of paper trying to figure out the secret message. Have a copy of the same Bible verse and message for them to work on separately, with the support of a peer or buddy.
- You discovered half of the Big Ideas for our series! You're halfway to your escape! Today, we'll talk about the big escape God made happen through Moses.

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### THE BIG IDEA | God can help you do great things.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
  - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
    - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
    - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
    - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
  - **FOR PRETEENS:** See your weekly instructions for some fun ideas to let your preteens discover each week's Big Idea with an escape room theme.
- This week's Big Idea: **God can help you do great things.**

### IMAGE | Campfire

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids a picture of a campfire.
- **Who has been around a campfire before?**
- Let's describe it using all of our senses. Even if you haven't seen one, let's imagine together what it might be like. **What would you see when you're around a campfire?**
- **What would you hear?**
- **What would you feel?**
- **What would you smell?**
- **What would happen after the campfire has been burning for a while?** If no one adds more wood or coals to it, the fire would stop burning.

- Today, we're going to hear about a time when God used a fire to grab Moses' attention, but it is different than any other fire.

### BIBLE STORY | Exodus 3:1-4:18

- Last week, we learned about Moses being put in a basket in the river, and raised in the palace by Pharaoh's daughter. Moses grew up in Egypt, but then he ran away and lived in another town. He got married and settled down. He was minding his own business, when one day something crazy happened. Let's read from the Bible to find out what happened.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What was Moses doing when he found the bush?** He was taking care of a flock of sheep in the desert.
- **What was unusual about the bush?** It was on fire, but the fire didn't spread or burn out.
- **What big thing did God want Moses to do?** God wanted Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free.
- **Was Moses excited to do this?** Not at first; Moses came up with all kinds of excuses. He said he wasn't a very good speaker. He didn't think the people would believe him. He didn't want to go alone. God had an answer for all of Moses' excuses.
- God promised Moses He would be with him and help him.
- **Do you know anyone who has done anything great for God? Do you think that person did it all on their own?**
- You can do great things for God, too. It might be something like helping someone who needs help, or sharing God's love with people who need to know Him. It might be sticking up for another person who is getting picked on. It might be through a talent like singing or writing. It doesn't have to be a big thing to be something great for God. You can make a big difference even in acts that seem small. Whatever you do for God, remember He will help you do it.

### VIDEO | Prince of Egypt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch [this video](#) that shows the burning bush scene from the movie, *The Prince of Egypt*.
- **How was this movie scene different or the same from what you envisioned when we read about it in the Bible?**
- We don't know exactly what the scene looked like — the movie directors used their imaginations just like we do, but what we do know from the Bible is it had to be a very powerful moment. God was very clear about what He wanted Moses to do and He told Moses about how He would help.

### ACTIVITY | Take Off Your Shoes Relay

- God told Moses to take off His shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Let's play a game that involves taking our shoes off.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids take off their shoes and pile them together in the middle of the floor. Divide the kids into two teams. When you say, "Go," the first person from each team will run to the pile of shoes, find theirs, put them on, and then run back to their team. The second person will then do the same. The winning team is the one that gets all of their shoes back on first.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *When dividing teams, try to make sure each team has an even number of students*

who have shoes with laces that are tied. If everyone has sandals or slip-on shoes, then only allow them to get one per turn.

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?

**OBJECT LESSON | Moving Raisins**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids a clear cup of water and a clear cup of Sprite. Tell them water represents us trying to do on our own what God has called us to do, and the Sprite represents us relying on God to help us. Put several raisins in each cup and let the kids see the differences. The raisins in the Sprite will move around. The raisins in the water will sink.
- **What did the raisins do differently in each of these cups?**
- **What can this experiment remind us about trying to do things in our power and doing things while we rely on God?**
- **What are some times when you might need to remember God is helping you?**
- Moses was right; there was no way he could free God's people on his own. God was clear to Moses that it would be God making it happen, not Moses on his own.
- We can depend on God's help in our lives to do great things for Him. It may not be leading people out of Egypt, like Moses, but we can do great things, big or small, to help people and share God's love with others every day.

**SCRIPTURE | 2 Corinthians 9:8, Hebrews 13:20-21**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verses in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What does 2 Corinthians 9:8 say God does for you so you can do the good work He has for you?**
- **What does Hebrews 13:20-21 say He will do for you?**
- God will help us just like He helped Moses. **What are some examples of things we know God wants us to do?**
- **Why is it encouraging to know God is helping us do things that seem difficult?**

**MUSIC | Worship**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can use any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Great Things" by Phil Wickham or "Nothing Is Impossible" by PlanetShakers.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Use simple instruments such as tambourines, egg shakers, triangles, castanets, and wood blocks. Kids with special needs can be impacted in amazing ways by the power of music, and musical instruments enhance their range of motion and handgrip. Encourage children to tune in to the sounds around them and try to mimic them by using their hands, feet, voice, and instruments.
- As you sing today, think about how good God is to help us do great things for Him. He doesn't leave us on our own.

**RESPONSE | Pipe Cleaner Staff**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a brown pipe cleaner and show them how to bend the pipe cleaner to look like a shepherd's staff, which looks like a hook. Then have them close their eyes and hold the pipe cleaner in the palm of their hand. Give them a moment to pray and ask God to help them in one

area of their lives where they need His help to do something good.

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Give them a bin of pipe cleaners and let them play with them and bend them into different shapes during the prayer and response time. This is a great tactile activity to help them focus.
- God called Moses to do a really big, scary thing, but God didn't leave him alone to do it. Moses's ability to go to Pharaoh and ask for the people to be released was totally dependent on help from "I AM" – the One who always was, is, and always will be.
- God can help you do great things, too. Let's all close our eyes and imagine the pipe cleaners in our hands is like Moses' staff. We know God used Moses' staff as a sign of the great things Moses could do with God's help.
- While you have your eyes closed, think of one area in your life where you need God's help to do something good. You can say a prayer asking God for His help.

#### MEMORY VERSES | Colossians 3:20, Psalm 46:1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then, work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

#### DISCUSSION

- **What did God want Moses to do?** (Tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.)
- **What were some of Moses' excuses?** (Pharaoh wouldn't listen to him; he wasn't a good speaker; he didn't want to go alone.)
- **How did God say He would help?** (God told him to say "I AM" sent him, gave him miracles to show, and sent Aaron with him.)
- **What are some hard things God wants us to do?**
- **What kinds of excuses do we make for not doing things God wants us to do?**
- **How can God help us?**

#### SCRIPTURE | Philippians 4:12-13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **Which part of this passage have you heard quoted a lot? Why do you think people say it so often?**
- **Does this passage mean you can do anything you want – like go to the Super Bowl, jump off a building without getting hurt, or fly like a bird? What does it really mean?**

#### ACTIVITY | Big Idea Search

- You have one more task to complete before we're done. Your job is to find the Big Idea paper and the Scripture paper in 30 seconds to figure out how God helps us do great things.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, write the Big Idea and the verse Philippians 4:13 with a black light pen on a small piece of white paper. Cut a lot of other blank pieces of paper and spread all the

pieces out. Hide a black light pen and let the kids find the pen and use it to shine on the pieces of paper until they find the one with the big idea.

- **What do these clues point tell us about how we can do great things?** Let's look up Philippians 4:13.
- Paul could be content even in prison because he found his strength and help from Jesus. God can give us strength too.

#### MEMORY VERSES | Colossians 3:20, Psalm 46:1

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