



September's B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in God's world.

September's Bible Verse

And God said, "I will be with you." Exodus 3:12, NIV

September's B.i.G. Theme

God Chooses Us

Lesson 1 ★ Moses and the Burning Bush

Today's Bible Story

Exodus 2:11-21; 3:1-12

Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Moses hearing God speak to him through a burning bush.
- ★ Children will recognize that they can trust God's guidance and care and know that God is always with us.

Moses was born in Egypt at a time when the Hebrew population in Egypt had grown into a nation of three million people. The Egyptians, fearing this large Hebrew presence, had forced the Hebrews into slave labor. But the Hebrew population continued to grow. In an effort to subdue the Hebrews, the Pharaoh ordered all newborn male Hebrew children to be killed.

Moses' mother had hidden her baby for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she put Moses in a papyrus basket, placed the basket among the reeds, and sent her daughter Miriam to watch over him. When the Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, she had the basket brought up out of the river. The Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own child, and Moses grew up among royalty in the Pharaoh's palace.

When Moses was grown, he witnessed the slavery of the Hebrew people in Egypt. One day when Moses thought that no one was watching, he killed an Egyptian who beat a Hebrew slave. But when the Pharaoh found out, Moses had to flee for his life.

Moses settled in Midian where he married, had a family, and worked as a shepherd, tending the flocks of his father-in-law. Moses had escaped his past and settled into a simpler life than that of an Egyptian prince. But God had greater plans for Moses.

One day, while watching his flocks, Moses encountered God in the flames of a burning bush. In this holy meeting, God commissioned Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt. Moses felt inadequate for the job. It had been a long time since Moses had been in Egypt. His life now was uncomplicated and ordinary. But God often uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. "I will send you, and I will be with you," God told Moses—even after Moses offered excuses to say he could not do what God asked.

God still speaks to us today—perhaps not through a burning bush, but we are all called. Whatever the calling, God promises to always be with us. Listen for God's voice in your classroom this year. Use this teaching opportunity to let the children know that they too are called by God. As you teach, remember that God is with you. Thank God for calling you, and for giving you the opportunity to Live B.I.G.

Invite them in ... (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
What Do You Hear?	
Listening Ears	✓
Play a Listening Game	✓

... Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Backyard Time	✓
Hear the Bible Story	✓
Praise Time	✓
I Will Be With You	✓

... Into Life (15 minutes)

Color by Listening	✓
Take Off Your Sandals	✓
Act Out the Story	
Closing Worship	✓



TimeSaver

Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



EcoFriendly

Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

DVD Summary: Backyard Time

Mr. Z and Ms. Lucy welcome the kids to Backyard Time. Mr. Z looks through his telescope at the great big world and explains that Backyard Time is a time for learning what a great big God we have, that God loves us with a great big love, and that we are part of God's great big world. Mr. Z recalls the story of Moses and the burning bush. When Mr. Z opens the Backyard mailbox to read this month's Bible verse, he realizes the Bible verse and Bongo are both missing. Mr. Z follows Bongo's voice to find the Bible verse and then reminds the children that God is always with us. Mr. Z encourages the children to think about times God is with them.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in God's world.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Welcome!

Supplies: Stickers, Kids' Book—inside back cover, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television, paper punch, scissors, yarn, marker

Prepare

- ★ Write each child's name on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ Display the chart, positioned at a height the children can easily reach.
- ★ Cut out a nametag for each child (**Kids' Book—inside back cover**).
- ★ Punch holes in the nametags, and use yarn to create nametag necklaces.
- ★ Write each child's name on a nametag.

Do

- ★ Welcome the children as they arrive.
- ★ Give each child a nametag to wear and a burning bush **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ **Say:** (*Child's name*), I am glad you are here! Did you know God is here too? Our Bible verse says: "And God said, 'I will be with you'" (Exodus 3:12, NIV).
- ★ Help the children sign the Bible verse (**DVD and Leader—inside cover**).

Live B.i.G. God loves us and promises: "I will be with you."

What Do You Hear?

Supplies: CD player and CD of sound effects or tape recorder and audio tape

Check with your public library for CDs containing sound effects, or download free sound effects from alfreesoundeffects.com.



Prepare

- ★ Locate a CD of sounds children will recognize. Or, create your own recording of sounds such as running water, the telephone ringing, a doorbell, a vacuum cleaner, a dog barking, a car horn, brushing your teeth, footsteps, or humming.

Do

- ★ **Say:** Let's play a listening game. When I play a sound, listen carefully. Then tell me what the sound is. Are you ready? Let's listen.
- ★ Play the first sound.
- ★ **Ask:** What did you hear?
- ★ Repeat with the other sounds. After each one ask: "What did you hear?"

Invite them in . . .

- ★ **Say:** Thank you for listening so carefully! Today we will hear a story about a man named Moses. Moses was a good listener, just like you! When God spoke, Moses recognized God's voice and listened carefully.
- ★ **Ask:** How do you think it would feel to hear God's voice? What do you think God's voice would sound like?
- ★ **Say:** We don't know how God's voice sounds, but we can listen to God when we read the Bible and when we pray.

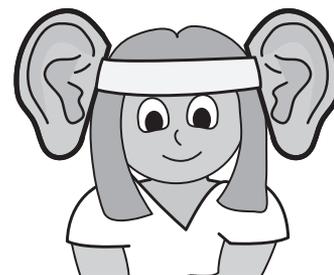
Live B.i.G. God spoke to Moses from a burning bush, and Moses listened.

Listening Ears

Supplies: Kids' Book, 9-by-12 construction paper, scissors, tape

Prepare

- ★ Punch out a set of listening ears (**Kids' Book**) for each child.



- Do**
- ★ Give each child a sheet of 9-by-12 construction paper.
 - ★ Help the child cut a strip 12-inches long and about 2-inches wide from the construction paper.
 - ★ Help the child attach the ends of the strip together with tape to form a headband that fits his or her forehead.
 - ★ Give each child a set of listening ears (**Kids' Book**).
 - ★ Help the child tape the ears to the outside of each side of the headband.
 - ★ **Say:** These are our listening ears. Our listening ears will remind us to listen to God. When God called Moses, Moses listened. We can listen to God too.
 - ★ Invite the children to wear their listening ears.
 - ★ Plan to use the listening ears for "Play a Listening Game" (below) and "Hear the Bible Story" (page 12).

Live B.i.G. God gave us ears for listening. It is important to listen to God.

Play a Listening Game

Supplies: listening ears the children made (above)

Use a Bongo puppet to lead this game.



- Do**
- ★ **Say:** Let's play a listening game. When we hear the phrase "Bongo says," we will do what Bongo says to do. But if we do not hear "Bongo says," we won't do it! Okay, let's begin. Stand up. (*Children should remain seated.*)
 - ★ **Say:** Oh, Bongo did not say it, so we need to stay sitting down!
 - ★ **Say:** Okay, here we go again. Bongo says: "Stand up." (*Everyone stands.*)
 - ★ **Say:** Bongo says: "Wear your listening ears."
 - ★ Continue calling out actions. Say the phrase "Bongo says" about half of the time.
 - ★ Do not eliminate a child if he or she makes a mistake.
 - ★ Conclude the game by saying: "Bongo says: 'Move to the storytelling area.'"

Live B.i.G. We can have fun learning what God wants us to do.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in God's world.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Backyard Time

Supplies: Kids' Book—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television, gluestick, paper brad, DVD-Time Wheel (**Kids' Book—inside front cover**)

Prepare:

- ★ Tear out one DVD-Time Wheel (**Kids' Book—inside front cover**).
- ★ Attach the arrow to the wheel with a paper brad.
- ★ Post the DVD-Time Wheel near the television, and point the arrow on the wheel to Backyard Time.

Do

- ★ Show the children the DVD-Time Wheel.
- ★ **Say:** Look! The arrow on our wheel is pointing to Backyard Time. Let's see what our friends in the Backyard are up to today.
- ★ Watch Backyard Time (**DVD**).
- ★ **Say:** When Mr. Z first looked for today's Bible verse, it was missing.
- ★ **Ask:** How was Mr. Z able to find today's Bible verse? (*He listened to Bongo's voice.*) What did the Bible verse say? (*"And God said, 'I will be with you.'"*)
- ★ **Ask:** What are some times when you have known that God was with you?

Live B.i.G. God loves us and is always with us, no matter where we are.

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible, listening ears the children made (page 11)

Do

- ★ Invite the children to sit, wearing their listening ears.
- ★ **Say:** Today we have on listening ears. We will hear a story about a man who used his listening ears to hear God. Let's find out what he heard.
- ★ Open your Bible to Exodus 3.

Moses and the Burning Bush

Moses was a shepherd. One day Moses was in the wilderness, watching over his sheep. Suddenly, Moses saw a strange sight! He saw a bush that was on fire!

Moses took a closer look. There was something strange about this burning bush. Moses saw fire coming out of the

bush, but the bush was not burning up. It was still green and alive.

Then Moses heard a voice coming from the burning bush. It was the voice of God. The voice called out, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses answered, "Here I am."

Then God said, "Moses, don't come any closer. Take off your sandals." Moses listened to God and took off his sandals. He knew that the place was holy and special because God was there.

God told Moses: "I have a special job for you to do. I have chosen you to go to Egypt to help free my people who are slaves." Moses was worried. He didn't think he could do such a big job.

But God said to Moses, "I will be with you."

- ★ **Say:** Just like Moses, God is with us too. Everywhere we go, and no matter what we do, we know that God is with us.
- ★ **Ask:** What do you think Moses thought when he saw the burning bush?
- ★ **Ask:** Why did Moses have to take off his shoes? (*The ground he was standing on was holy ground.*) What does the word *holy* mean? (*set apart for God*)

Live B.i.G. Listening to stories from the Bible helps us learn about God.

Praise Time

Supplies: Leader—page 4, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ **Say:** God chose Moses for an important job—the job of leading God's people out of Egypt. Moses wasn't sure he could do what God wanted him to do, but God knew that Moses had just the stuff it takes to be God's helper!
- ★ **Say:** God has chosen you to be God's helper too. You are not too small or too young to make a difference in God's world. Like Moses, you have just the stuff it takes! And remember—you do not have to do it all by yourself. God has chosen other people to help too. God will always be with you, and God will always help you.
- ★ Play "God Chooses Me" (DVD). Let the children sing along. Encourage those who can to sign the words with the group.

Live B.i.G. Big or small, short or tall, God chooses me!

I Will Be With You

Supplies: Leader—page 16, markers or crayons, scissors, construction paper, gluesticks

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy "I Will Be With You" (Leader—page 16) for each child.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Today's Bible verse says, "And God said, 'I will be with you.'" We are going to write the Scripture using pictures and words.
- ★ Give each child a copy of "I Will Be With You" (Leader—page 16).
 - ★ Invite the children to color and cut out the four pieces of the verse.
 - ★ Show the children how to organize and glue the pictures onto a sheet of construction paper to form the Bible verse.
 - ★ Write in the missing words (*will* and *with*) on each child's paper.
 - ★ **Say:** Let's use our pictures and read our Bible verse together.
 - ★ **Say:** You can take your rebus home and read the Bible verse with your family.

Live B.i.G. The Bible tells us that God is always with us.



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We believe that God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in God's world.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Color by Listening

Supplies: Leader—page 17, markers or crayons

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Color by Listening” (**Leader—page 17**) for each child.

Do ★ Give each child a copy of “Color by Listening” (**Leader—page 17**).

- ★ **Say:** This is a special coloring page. Listen carefully as I say the directions to help you color the page.
- ★ **Say:** Look for areas that have hearts. Color those areas orange.
- ★ **Say:** When you see a space with a star, color it green.
- ★ **Say:** When you see an area that has circles, color that area red.
- ★ **Say:** It is good to practice listening and following directions. Today's story is about a man named Moses who listened carefully to God and followed God's directions.

Live B.i.G. We can listen carefully to discover how God wants us to live.

Take Off Your Sandals

Supplies: card stock, pencil, chenille stems, crayons or markers, scissors, decorative stickers, paper punch

Do ★ **Say:** In Moses' time, people wore sandals. Let's make sandals to help us remember our Bible story.

- ★ Invite each child to stand on a piece of cardstock, wearing shoes, as you trace around one of his or her feet.
- ★ Invite the children to cut around the traced feet.
- ★ Punch a hole in the top of each sandal, and a hole on each side of the sandal as shown.
- ★ For each sandal, help the child insert one chenille stem up through the top hole and down through one side hole and a second chenille stem up through the top hole and down through the opposite side hole.
- ★ Twist the chenille stems together on the back of each sandal.
- ★ Let the children decorate their sandals with crayons, markers, or stickers.
- ★ **Say:** God told Moses to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. The ground was holy because God was there.
- ★ **Ask:** What are some places you think are holy?



Live B.i.G. When we are in God's presence, we are on holy ground.

Act Out the Story

Supplies: artificial plant resembling a bush, red Christmas lights, red metallic foil, scissors, small electric fan, Bible-times costumes, sandals the children made earlier (page 14), toy sheep

Prepare

- ★ String red Christmas lights on the artificial plant.
- ★ Cut red foil into strips. Tie single strips of foil onto the branches of the plant.
- ★ Position a small electric fan so it will blow on the bush you have created.

Do

- ★ Have the children wear Bible-times costumes and the sandals they made earlier.
- ★ Encourage the children to act out the story as you remind them of what happened.
 - One day, Moses was taking care of a flock of sheep.
 - All of a sudden, Moses saw something very unusual! (*Turn out the room lights, and plug in the Christmas lights. Turn on the fan to blow on the bush.*)
 - Moses was curious. “I wonder what that could be,” he said. “The bush looks like it’s on fire, but it’s not burning up. I think I will go closer.”
 - As Moses moved closer, he heard a voice calling to him: “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” (*Encourage the children to say: “Here I am.”*)
 - “Take off your sandals,” the voice said. “You are standing on holy ground.” (*Have the children take off their sandals and stand or kneel around the bush.*)
 - Moses realized that the voice was the voice of God. At first Moses was afraid. (*Have the children turn their faces away from the bush, and cover their eyes.*)
 - “Moses, I have chosen you for an important job,” God said. “I want you to rescue my people who are slaves in Egypt.” Moses was surprised. “I’m just an ordinary person,” he said. “Why did you choose me?” (*Encourage the children to ask “Why me?”*)
 - “I will send you,” God said. “And I will be with you!”

Live B.i.G. God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in God’s world.

Closing Worship

Supplies: Kids’ Book, Stickers, Leader—page 143, scissors

Prepare

- ★ Cut out an “All About Me” card (**Kids’ Book—inside back cover**) for each child.
- ★ Detach a Bible bookmark (**Kids’ Book**) for each child.
- ★ Photocopy “September—Living Big at Home” (**Leader—page 143**) for each child.

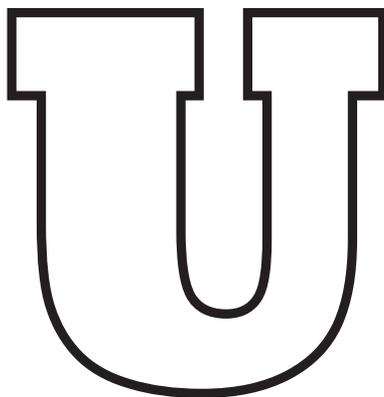
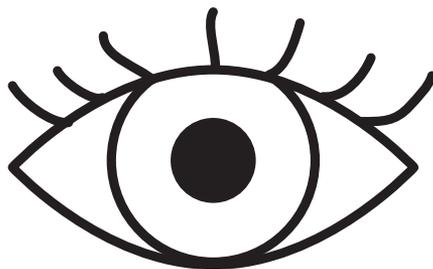
Do

- ★ **Say:** God called Moses from the burning bush, and God calls each of you.
- ★ **Say:** God promises to help you and to be with you always.
- ★ Place a “God Is With Me” worship badge (**Stickers**) on each child.
- ★ Say the Bible verse together: “And God said, ‘I will be with you’” (Exodus 3:12, NIV).
- ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for loving us and for being with us. Amen.
- ★ Give each child a Bible bookmark (**Kids’ Book**), an “All About Me” card (**Kids’ Book—inside back cover**), and a copy of “September—Living Big at Home” (**Leader—page 143**) to take home.

Live B.i.G. We are thankful that God is with us.

I Will Be With You

And God Said,



- Color and cut out each picture.
- Arrange the pictures to form the Bible verse: "I will be with you."
- Glue the pictures in order on a piece of construction paper.
- Write the missing words of the verse (*will, with*) on the paper.

Color by Listening

Listen carefully to your teacher's instructions to discover which colors to use.

