

THE CALL OF MOSES

Old Testament Lesson #35

When Moses was an adult, he fled to the land of Midian.

On his journey, he rested by a well. A group of women came to water their flocks, but some shepherds drove them away. Moses came to their rescue and watered their flocks. They were the daughters of Reuel (ROO-el). Moses was invited to stay with Reuel and later married his daughter Zipporah (zi-PO-ra). They had a son whom he named Gershom (GUR-shom).

Eventually the king of Egypt died. The Israelites continued to suffer at the hands of the Egyptians. They cried out to God for help. God remembered the promise he made to deliver them from Egypt.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law in the desert near Mount Horeb. God appeared to Moses through an angel in a burning bush. The bush was not consumed, and Moses went closer to it to see why the bush did not burn up. God spoke to Moses out of the bush, telling him he was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He had seen the suffering of his people, and he was now ready to rescue them. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and “bring ... the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Moses was hesitant and doubted his ability as a leader. He asked God to tell him his name, so that if asked by the Israelites, he would know what to say. God said that his name was “I AM WHO I AM” (or “I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE”). Moses was to tell the people that “I AM” had sent him. This was the name by which God chose to reveal himself to Israel. The name was to become a memorial throughout their generations.

God told Moses to gather the elders and tell them that God would fulfill his promise to them.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Like Israel, Midian is a nation that descended from Abraham. Midian was one of the sons born to Abraham and Keturah (ke-TU-ra). Abraham married her after his wife Sarah had died (Genesis 25:1-4).
- Reuel was also called Jethro (JETH-ro) (compare Exodus 2:18 and Exodus 3:1).
- Mount Horeb is part of the same mountain as Mount Sinai.

- God’s name “I AM” is translated from the Hebrew *Yahweh*. This Hebrew word is translated into English as either LORD or GOD. The translators distinguish this from other Hebrew words for God by printing it in all capital letters.
- Moses is commended for his faith in Hebrews 11:24-28.
- While still in Egypt, Moses had killed an Egyptian who had beaten a Hebrew. Pharaoh learned about this and attempted to have Moses killed. So Moses fled to Midian.
- Acts 7:35 refers to the burning bush incident.

The Call of Moses

- I. Moses fled to Midian.
 - A. On his trip, he rested by a well.
 - B. Some women came to the well to water their flocks, but shepherds drove them away.
 - C. Moses intervened for the women and watered their flocks.
 - D. The women were daughters of Reuel.
- II. Moses was invited to stay with Reuel.
 - A. He loved the daughter named Zipporah and married her.
 - B. Moses and Zipporah had a son named Gershom.
- III. The king of Egypt died.
 - A. The Israelites still suffered under the Egyptians.
 - B. They cried to God for help, and God remembered the promise to deliver them.
 - C. While Moses was tending a flock in the desert, God spoke to him out of a burning bush.
- IV. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and ask to take the Israelites out of Egypt.
 - A. Moses was reluctant to follow the command.
 - B. Moses wondered why he was chosen.
 - C. Moses wanted to know how to answer the Israelites when they asked who God was.
 - D. God said Moses should say that “I AM” sent him.

ANSWER KEY:


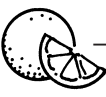

Zipporah, Gershom





“Bring the Israelites out of Egypt.”

God spoke to Moses through an angel in a burning bush.

When Moses was an adult he fled to Midian.
There he married one of the daughters of Reuel.






























Add and subtract words or letters to find the name of his wife and their son.

 - er +  - nge +  - and = _____

 - at +  - oe +  - use +  - ouse = _____



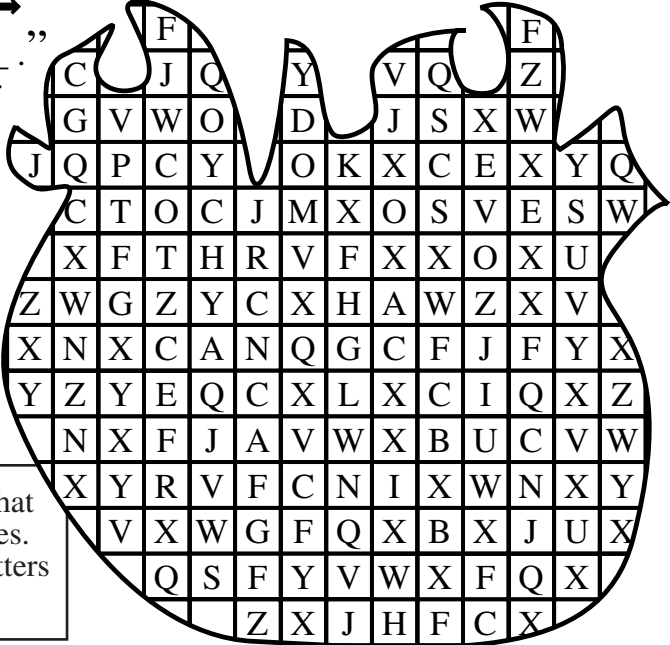
What did God say to Moses?

“
        
         
    
    ”

Use the code to learn what was said.

A=↑	G=↷	N=↑	S=↔
B=↓	H=←	O=↕	T=↔
E=↷	I=↔	P=↷	U=↓
F=→	L=↓	R=↷	Y=↔

Moses was tending his father-in-law's flocks in the desert near Mount Horeb. Something happened there! What was it?



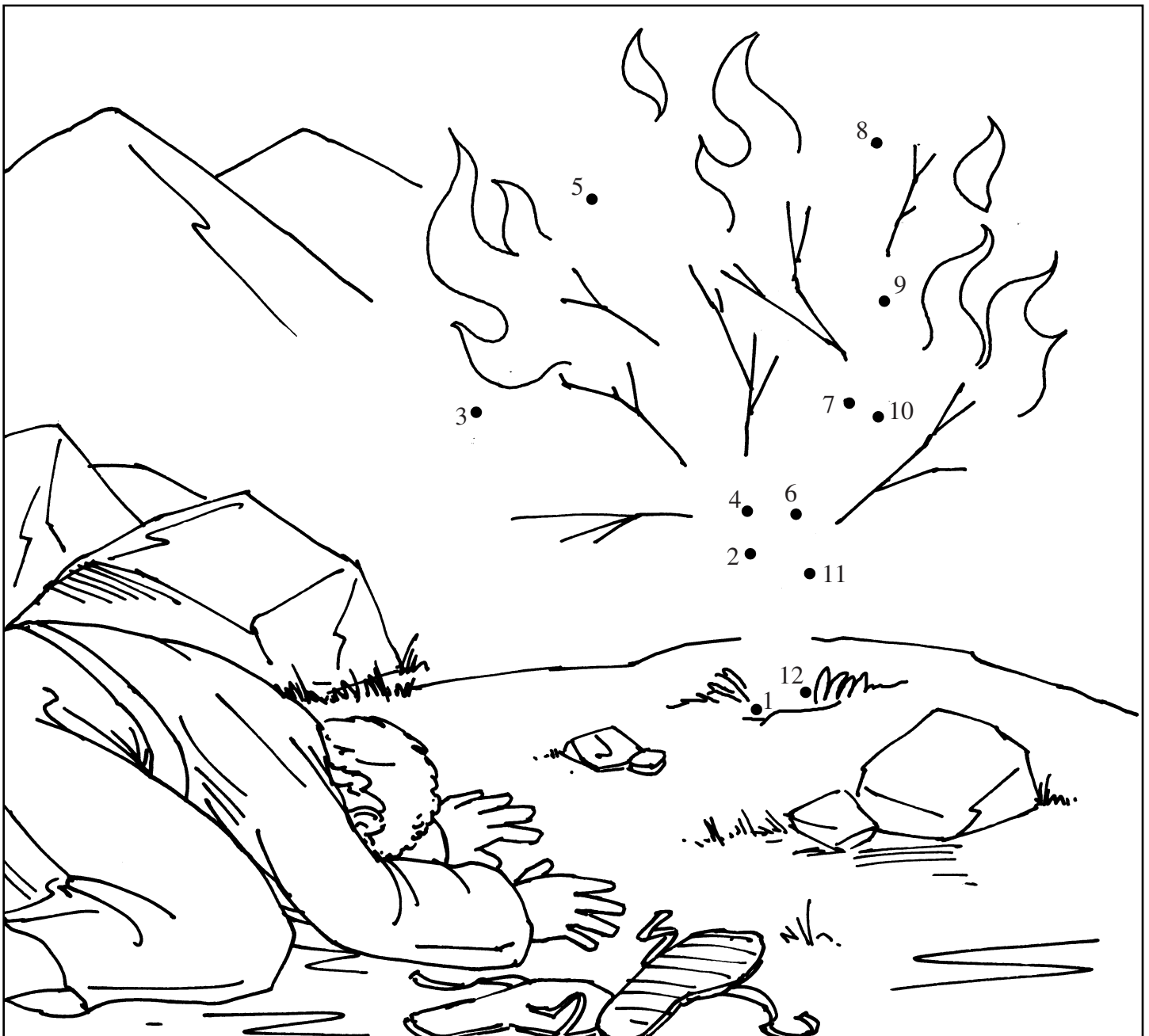
Cross out the letters that appear 6 or more times. Write the remaining letters below in order.

Name _____

God appeared to Moses and told him to lead his people out of Egypt.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Name _____