



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 1: Throw It Down

NOTES: Print out Series Summary and hand a copy to each SG leader. Meet with SG leaders before the service and go over the big themes of the series, how to discipline, tickets/candy, offering.

GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Stick Ball": See game for supply list

TUNE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

REMIND TIME:

- **(A/V)** Opening series video, Powerpoints, and 1 video clip
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over UNITE – I can connect Jesus to every part of my life.

TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about how we wear different kinds of glasses, and what glasses are for
- **Teach Them:** About the story of Moses and his encounter with God, and what God asked of him
- **Challenge Them:** Encouraging kids to ask God for a new perspective, Spotlight verse

GIVE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents come

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

TEACH them

2nd Segment: (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

BIBLE text

Exodus 4:1-17 – The power behind the staff

PROPS n things

- The Bible
- PowerPoints from UNITE_PP_Moses_wk1 file in Speaker_Materials folder
- Some kind of basket that would signify a baby basket
- A shepherd's staff (could be a tree branch or walking stick)
- Video clip "History_Leading_to_Exodus" found in the Speaker_Materials folder
- Video clip "Moses_Burning_Bush" found in the Speaker_Materials folder

BEGIN speaking

Show slide ("Exodus 4:1-17")

Let's turn to the book of Exodus. Exodus is in the Old Testament; the second book of the Bible, right after Genesis.

GOD'S PLAN:

Exodus is the great story of God's rescue of His people out of Egypt and into relationship with Himself. We've been learning about the journey of God's promise – His blessing – which started with Abraham, was passed down through Isaac, then Jacob and on down through the generations that followed. God reminds the Jewish people many times that "they will be my people and I will be their God" (Genesis 17:8, Exodus 6:7). Constantly, God refers to Himself as, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." (Exodus 3:6)

GIVE HISTORY LEADING UP TO MOSES:

Optional: **Show video (“History_Leading_to_Exodus”)**
(You may choose to show the video clip, “History_Leading_to_Exodus” in place of talking out the history as stated below, or do both for reinforcement.)

Show slide (“Review”)

In our Bible history, **(show first slide bullet)** we learn that Abraham had a son named Isaac. **(show second slide bullet)** Isaac had a son named Jacob, **(show third slide bullet)** and Jacob had 12 sons. One of those sons was named Joseph, Jacob's favorite. Because the other sons knew that Joseph was their father's favorite, it made them jealous. They nearly killed Joseph over their own jealousy. But instead, they sold him into slavery, and Jacob wound up in Egypt. **(show fourth slide bullet)** Through many twists and turns in Joseph's life, he ended up being second in command over all of Egypt. Only Pharaoh, the king, was above Joseph in power.

God used Joseph to save Egypt, as well as his own Hebrew people, from a terrible famine in the land. Joseph was a great leader, an excellent manager, and a hero to the people. But as time went on, Joseph passed away, and a new Pharaoh came into power. He looked at the Hebrews and saw how much they were growing in number. Out of fear, he thought that if he didn't do something, the Hebrew people would try to take over his country. **(show fifth slide bullet)** So he forced them to become slaves. He treated them poorly and they worked and toiled in very difficult conditions for 400 years.

MOSES – EXODUS 2:

Then a very special man comes on the scene. His name is Moses. **(Pick up the baby basket)** Now, many of you know that Moses, as a young Hebrew child, was saved from being killed by the Egyptian king when his mother placed him in a floating basket and hid him among the reeds in the river. What happened after that? **(Take answers.)** The Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses among the reeds, and raises him in Pharaoh's palace. Moses had it made in the palace, but soon God would draw Moses out of his fancy life and into a much tougher, higher calling.

Many of you also know that Moses killed an Egyptian out of anger. He knew it was wrong but the damage was done. When Pharaoh heard what Moses did, he wanted Moses killed. So Moses ran away to the land of Midian.

MOSES THE SHEPHERD:

Moses was now living in the desert. He got married, had two sons and became a common shepherd – taking care of sheep and minding his own business. If Moses were living in today's times, he would be just an average Joe, going to work each day, coming home the same time each day, kissing the wife and kids, sitting down to

dinner, watching some T.V. in the evening, and then going to bed; just an average Joe living a simple, average life. That was Moses living in the land of Midian.

MOSES MEETS GOD:

But that is not the end of the story for Moses. One day, Moses was tending to the sheep that belonged to his father-in-law, Jethro. He led the flock to the west side of the wilderness to a place called Horeb, the mountain of God (a.k.a. Mt. Sinai). This is the famous encounter with God; the burning bush that doesn't burn up. God speaks to Moses, "Moses! Moses." Moses replies, "Here I am," as if God is having a hard time seeing him! God tells Moses to take off his sandals. Why? **(Take answers)** That's right! God says in chapter 3, verse 5: "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground." He continues, "I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob."

GOD'S PLAN:

Then God lays out his plan. He's seen the suffering of his people back in Egypt. He wants to save them from the Egyptians. He wants to bring them to a good land, a land they can call their own – a land with good soil and excellent water supply – a land with a lot of room.

We can only imagine what Moses is thinking at this point: "Yeah....okay Lord...but what does this have to do with me?"

God says, "So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh. I want you to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. They are my people." Moses is *like* (making the timeout sign with your hands) "Come again? I didn't quite hear that last part."

Kids...sometimes when we are asked to do something that we don't think we can do, we get afraid. We start coming up with reasons why we can't do the thing we've been asked to do.

PERSONAL STORY:

(Tell your own personal story, or say, "I knew this one family that...")

Show slide ("Ape Cave")

One time, our family went to the lava tubes at the base of Mt. Saint Helens in Washington and started making all kinds of excuses: "What if the volcano explodes again while we're in here? What if there are bats in here? What if we get lost? What if there is no way out at the other end? What if we fall into a big pit? What if our flashlight runs out of batteries?" What if.... what if.... what if! Her questions just kept replaying in her mind, her worry grew, and the tears began to flow. She was literally gripped with fear and could barely function in the tunnel.

MOSES MAKES EXCUSES:

This is what happened to Moses when he started thinking about what God was asking him to do. His fear took over, and he started making excuses.

(Optional: Show video (“Moses_Burning_Bush”))

Let's recap some of the excuses that Moses had for God:

Show slide (“Excuse #1”)

- Excuse #1: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” (Ex. 3:11a)
 - o Moses doesn't think very highly of himself – his perspective is simply different from the way God sees him.
 - o Being humble and weak is often the right recipe for God to use someone. He rarely chooses the tallest, strongest, most confident person to carry out His work.

Show slide (“Excuse #2”)

- Excuse #2: “Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (Ex. 3:11b)
 - o Moses is saying to God, “Hey God, are you sure you've got the right man? I'm nobody! I can't do *that*.”
 - o God tries to reassure Moses: “I will be with you. I will give you miraculous signs.”
 - o Kids, when God asks you to do something for Him, He doesn't make mistakes. He didn't get you mixed up with someone else. He wants you, whether you feel you are ready or not; whether you think you can do it or not; whether you are scared or not.

Moses starts playing the “What If” game.

Show slide (“Excuse #3”)

- Excuse #3: (*paraphrase*) “What if I go to the people of Israel, and...and I say something like, “So...guys...the God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ And then *they* ask me, (*acting child-like sarcastic*) ‘ Well, what's his name?’ What am I supposed to say then?”
 - o Moses is acting like he just stumped God with a question that He can't answer. Does he think he's got God backed up into a corner? ‘Oh Moses...you got me there...I'm speechless! What was I thinking sending you?!’
 - o But God answers very calmly, “I am who I am. Here is what you must say to the Israelites. Tell them, ‘**I am** has sent me to you.’”
 - o Moses is probably thinking to himself, “Shoot! That didn't seem to faze Him a bit! What's my next excuse?”
 - o The Lord then gives Moses some very specific instructions on what to do. He tells him to expect Pharaoh to resist in letting His people go, but that He

will perform all kinds of miracles that will then cause Pharaoh to change his mind.

Show slide ("Excuse #4")

- Excuse #4: It's hard to know whether Moses was really dialed in and listening to God, because the very next thing out of his mouth was another "what if" excuse. "What if the elders of Israel won't believe me? What if they won't listen to me? Suppose they say, 'The Lord didn't appear to you.' Then what should I do now Lord? Huh? Huh?" (Ex. 4:1)
 - o Poor Moses; so gripped with fear. He can't even think straight. He's talking face-to-face with the Almighty God of the universe, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the creator of heaven and earth. And still...he can't get his eyes off of himself. All he sees is what he can do in his own strength. "What if I don't have the answers? What if I don't have the ability? What if I say the wrong thing? What if I let You down? What if they want to kill me? Why don't you send my brother, Aaron?" It's all about him.

THE STAFF:

(Picking up the staff) If I was the Lord, I might be thinking, "This is going to be harder than I thought!" So God tells Moses to take the wooden staff with him (v17). He tells Moses that he will be able to do miraculous signs with it. We know that later on, Moses used that stick to turn the Nile River into blood. He threw the stick down and it turned into a snake. He raised the stick to part the Red Sea. He used it to strike a rock and water came out. God wanted Moses to have something he could see and touch to remind him that all the power and confidence he needed was right in his very own hands. The wooden staff would boost Moses' confidence to go forward and do what God was asking him to do.

CLOSING:

Now kids...was the wooden staff filled with powers? Was it a magic staff? **(Take answers.)** Absolutely not! The stick was just a stick. It was God that made the stick a powerful tool. **(Putting on the thick glasses)** God knew that this stick was something Moses would need because Moses' perspective was still not right. His faith lens was too small. He couldn't see what God saw. His trust in the Lord's power was still weak. Now, if Moses somehow lost his stick, would he be less powerful? **(Take answers.)** Of course not! The stick is only powerful because God is behind the power. Moses wasn't holding a powerful stick in his hands – He was holding the power of God in His hands.

Do you remember the story where Jesus was raised from the dead, but one of his disciples, Thomas, said that he wouldn't believe unless he stuck his own fingers into the wounds of Jesus? When Jesus appeared, what did he say? He told Thomas,

“Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

Some of you have been waiting to see a sign before you really believe. You need to hold something or see something in order to trust in God's power. But what Jesus was trying to tell Thomas, and what God was trying to tell Moses, and what He is still trying to tell you and me today is... God's power has been right in front of us all along. The power to love is from God. The power to forgive someone when they did you wrong is from God. The power to make the right decision even when everyone is against you is from God. **(Holding the stick out in front of you)** All the power you need is already in your hands – if you believe and trust in the Lord. When we **connect Jesus to every part of our lives**, we not only believe in His power, we feel and experience His power. When our hearts are united with God and we lean upon His strength and power, there is nothing we cannot do.

Show slide (“Take-Away Point”)

Our action hero, Unity, wants us to remember this Take-Away Point from today's lesson. Say it with me: **“When Moses had excuses, God had the answers.”**

As you can see, Unity holds a flashlight in her hand to remind her to be a light to those around her. When someone needs to hear about God, the Great I Am, she doesn't make excuses like, “Oh, they won't want to hear me,” or “What if they make fun of me or reject me?” Nope. She just shines her light by telling them what God has done in her life. That's how we all should be; bold and confident that God is in control and He will tell us what to say, and show us what we should do.

EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)

CHALLENGE them

3rd Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

*The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.*

PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from UNITE_PP_Moses_wk1 file in Speaker_Materials directory

BEGIN speaking

Remember kids, when you are gripped with fear – when you are filled with excuses about why you can't trust God, that's when you know that your thinking is a little dislocated. Has anyone ever dislocated an arm or a shoulder? It's painful! The doctor has to put it back into place. That's kind of how fear is. Your vision of God is a little fuzzy – a little mis-shaped like those funny mirrors at the carnival that make you look too short, or too thin.

Do you know what an IQ is? **(Take answers)** IQ is a number that shows how naturally smart you are. Did you know that people who study the brain have found when you get fearful, or stressed out, your IQ goes down? That's right – you get dummer when you get fearful and worried. Your body now begins to change the way blood is sent around your body and brain. Being stressed changes how your brain receives blood and how much it gets, and which parts light up and which shut down.

If this describes you, it's time to let God correct your view of yourself and what you let affect you. It's time to allow Him to show you a new way to see yourself, and a new way to see Him and others. All the power you need is right in front of you. Power is not in the money we have, the house we live in, the things that we buy or the friends we have. The power is in our belief in the one true God of the universe, Who loves you and cares for you like you are the only one in the universe. God's love for you is more powerful, greater, and stronger than anything this world has to offer. Let's pray for a new perspective – to grab hold of God's power each day so we can face the challenges and temptations of life with courage.

Let's Pray: ***"Dear God, some of us wear glasses, and we know what it's like to not see clearly. Having glasses just makes everything more crisp and clear in the world. To be afraid of what You ask us to do is like not having clear vision. Our fear causes us to not see things as You see things. Just like glasses correct our vision, You have the ability to correct our thinking, and our hearts. Living a life without fear is like wearing glasses for our eyes; it makes everything more crisp and clear. Lord, unite our hearts so closely with Yours that we if give into fear, we will quickly remember that You are with us, and we can trust You, no matter what happens to us or to those we care about. In Jesus Name, Amen."***

God has the answers! Your staff is your belief in Him. He'll take care of the rest!

Show slide ("Spotlight Verse")

Say the Spotlight Verse with me from James 4:8: ***"Come near to God and He will come near to you."***

Great job! Next week, we're going to talk about a very famous story that involves water and rescue. Until then, have a great week!

ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



GRADES
1-3



EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk

WEEK 1: Throw It Down

EXPLORE – their opinion

We all know what eye glasses are used for. What kinds of eyesight problems do glasses try to correct? (**Seeing far, seeing close**) What do we use to see really tiny things? (**microscope**) How do we see far-away planets and stars? (**telescope**)

How many of you have had a hard, difficult teacher? Or maybe you have to deal with a bully at school? It's hard to see or think clearly when these things happen. There are people we can go to when we need help in handling a situation the right way. Repeat after me:

- **We can read God's Word to see how Jesus would handle it**
- **We can go to God in prayer. The Holy Spirit is our guide and counselor**
- **We can go to our parents or someone older and wiser than us**

Let's say our tagline together: **"I can connect Jesus to every part of my life."**



Stop at the Stop Sign, and wait for further instruction before moving to next segment.



Don't rush it!
Remember,
the goal is not to
just get through it,
but to **get it through.**



Your 2 goals:
relate with them,
reinforce the lesson.

EXPLORE – their opinion

Moses met God at a place called:

- A. Horkin Shergin B. Hubba Bubba **C. Horeb (Mt. Sinai: "The mountain of God")**

Finish the sentence that God spoke to Moses: "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is _____."

- A. Really hot **B. Holy ground** C. Filled with dinosaur bones

How long were the Hebrew people in slavery and bondage to Egypt?

- A. A nansecond B. 40 days and 40 nights C. 4 and 3/4 years **D. 400 years**

I'm going to act out 3 of Moses' excuses in an overly dramatic way. Then I want you to say back to me in your own dramatic way. Have fun with it. If you want to try, just raise your hand, or I'll pick one of you to say it back: (**The goal is to get them to remember these excuses.**)

- A. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" (Ex. 3:11a)
B. "Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Ex. 3:11b)
D. "What if the elders of Israel won't believe me?" (Ex. 4:1)

What did God tell Moses to bring with him in order to show God's power? (**His staff—the staff was not powerful, but God used it to demonstrate His power.**)

Let's say our Take-Away Point for today: **"When Moses had excuses, God had the answers."**





GRADES
1-3



EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk

ENCOURAGE – their walk

In our story today, God clearly picked Moses, an ordinary guy, to carry out a big task. Just like God wanted to unite His people and rescue them, He wants to unite and rescue us so we can be with Him in heaven. Jesus said, **“If you remain joined to Me and my words remain in you, ask for anything you wish. And it will be done for you.”** (John 15:7) We don’t always know how God will use us, but we do know that He wants us to shine our light, and tell others about the amazing love and grace of Jesus.

Let’s pray that the Lord will give us a desire to shine our light out in a world that needs to hear about Him: **“Dear God, thank you for our story about Moses and his real fears about what God was asking him to do. We all have similar fears when we are put into situations that make us feel uncomfortable. But You know what you are doing in our hearts. You know that we need to grow in our faith in You, so that we can one day shine our light to other people that really need Your love and grace. Unite our hearts with You so we can obey whatever You ask of us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”**



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse.**

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.



To help us unite our hearts with God, we have a new set of UNITE Action Cards to take home. Action Card #7 says, “Pick out 3 worship songs to play in room, and while you listen to them, write down all the things you love about God.” Who wants one?

MEMORIZE – God’s Word



SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

“Come near to God and He will come near to you.” ~James 4:8 (NIV)

The thing we know about God is that He never, never moves away from us. It’s us that moves away from Him. This verse encourages us to come close to Him, learn and obey His commands, and stay on the good and moral path. And what does He promise? He will come near to us.

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

It’s such a privilege to be able to give in order to help people.

Can you think of a time when you helped someone that was in need or hurting?

It’s good to open our eyes and look around for people who need love and friendship. When you find someone like that, invite them to play with you, pray for them at night, and see how God works in their life through your love and concern for them.