



Date: _____
Series: Our "Can Do" God
Winter Year 2, Lesson 33

We Can Do Great Things with God as Our Leader

Primary Scripture: Exodus 3. Moses and the Burning Bush

Key Verse: Exodus 3:14, "God answered Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This is what you must say to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.'"

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need leadership. What better leadership to have than God? Kids need to realize that God can take ordinary people and do extraordinary things through them when they follow him as their leader. Kids need to know they can make a difference now, not only after they have grown to adulthood. God can use them now. Through faith in Christ, they can follow him and do extraordinary things.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gives us his ultimate leadership through the sacrifice of the cross. Because of his forgiveness, we can follow him wholeheartedly.

Jesus in us: God, himself, promised to be with Moses throughout his ministry of delivering God's people. Likewise, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus delivers us the same promise – "I will be with you always."

Jesus through us: Just as Jesus called his first disciples and they had a ministry to set people free, so God called Moses. Through us God will also reach others. He can do extraordinary things through those who are willing to follow his leadership.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Show pictures of various leaders or heroes that the kids might look up to. These pictures might be from posters or cereal boxes. After showing the pictures, simply ask the kids:

Who is your leader or hero?

**For God to be our leader, what would we have to do? (Follow him.)
Even though we have other leaders and people to follow in our lives,
God wants to be the main leader. That is why worshipping him is so
important. When we worship God, we tell him that he is above all
else and we want to follow him. Let's pray.**

**We worship in the name of God the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit. Holy God, we worship you, we love you,
and we want to follow you. Come be our leader in all that
we do. Amen.**

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Boys and girls, think about something that you might have done this week that you know was not following God's plan. It might have been some way in which you did not show love to God or someone else. Let's pray.

Dear God, we want to follow you in all that we do. Sometimes, though, we do not. We want to tell you about those times right now and tell you that we are sorry for disobeying you. Pause for kids to think about their sins. Because Jesus followed your law perfectly and gave his life for the price of our sin, please forgive us. Please give us new power to follow you even more closely right now. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

God's promise is that, because of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You can now follow God even better!

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Put the offering basket by the cross.

The cross is another sign or symbol that Jesus followed God's plan perfectly. Jesus offered his whole life for us. When we put our offering by the cross, we are following what Jesus did – offering a bit of ourselves so that we can better follow God.

Talk about your current mission project.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Play “**Simon Says.**”

You might want to have a guest adult, who speaks fast, come in to lead the game. This game can be quite challenging when commands are given at a fast rate and the leader does something different than he commands. It is very tricky to listen only to the commands and ignore the motions.

After the game, discuss accordingly. If kids were oftentimes fooled because the leader said one thing and did another, that could be an illustration of how leaders can fool us today. They can say one thing but do another. That is not a good leader. It is hard to follow them.

God, however, does not say one thing and do another. Jesus was a perfect example for us. God always helps us to follow him because we make mistakes. He gives us a chance to get back into the game. He gives us forgiveness so that we can have renewed power to follow him even more closely.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: a couple sheets of flash paper (order from <http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospelstore/cp-app.cgi?usr=50X3079594&rnd=1505738&rrc=N&cip=66.37.239.194&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=>), a handheld lighter, and a divider or screen. This could simply be a sheet held by two assistants.

To introduce the Bible event, you will do a trick to show: God takes ordinary people and lets them do extraordinary things because they are following an extraordinary God. An example of this is that an ordinary kid will do something extraordinary because he has been shown how.

The following trick is simple but requires caution and practice beforehand.

Describe yourself as a fire thrower. Demonstrate your fire throwing ability by taking a 1"x4" strip of flash paper, holding it beneath the partition, lighting it on one corner, and flicking it out in the air over the partition. It will have the appearance of throwing fire. This is quite an amazing trick.

Then insist that it is only by talent, skill, and knowledge that you can perform such feats. Next, select a volunteer and bring him behind the partition. Give him brief instructions on how to do the trick. After the training, the volunteer will perform the fire throwing. Introduce the volunteer with lots of fanfare and admiration.

After the volunteer performs the trick, say:

God is the one who does amazing feats. He does extraordinary things. Surprisingly though, he will take ordinary people and do extraordinary things through them. Those ordinary people just need to follow where God leads. This is just like our volunteer today. He was an ordinary kid that could do an extraordinary thing because he was following an extraordinary presenter.

Remind kids that it is very dangerous to play with fire. Today's trick was not burning anything kids could find around the house. Warn the kids not to try to do anything like this at home.

Today's Bible event comes from Exodus 3 and 4. It had to do with fire and God calling someone very special to follow him. Does anyone know what that story might be?

Other hints might be offered to lead the kids to the answer of Moses and the burning bush.

Today's Bible event will be shown on video from Family Entertainment's Animated Stories from the Bible series called *Moses*.

Be sure to preview the video ahead of time so that just the right section of video can be shown.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids share ways they have made God their leader and followed him. Or have them share extraordinary things they or others have done because they follow God.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- pictures of various leaders or heroes

Bible Event:

- a couple sheets of flash paper—order from: <http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospelstore/cp-app.cgi?usr=50X3079594&rnd=1505738&rrc=N&cip=66.37.239.194&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=>
- handheld lighter
- sheet
- video from Family Entertainment's Animated Stories from the Bible series called *Moses*—order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=MSD

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