

# ***I AM: The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

## **Lesson 4: Introduction to the Burning Bush**

### **The Cave Of Wisdom**

#### **Cave Opening: The Burning Bush**



(Have all members remove their shoes and leave them outside of the cave. Stress to the group that they are about to go before the Burning Bush. Enter the Cave together as the Tribe I AM and be seated.)

Spirit Woman (Leader): “You have entered the Cave of “Un-Commitment”. To succeed in The Greatest Battle of Your Life, you must be committed to the tasks ahead. Only your best will do.

The Burning Bush is our symbol of the revelation to us of God’s Dream for our lives. Moses had a dramatic revelation of the “Dream” from God. Your Dream may not be so remarkable and obvious ... but it is there for you to see. But you must be committed to be alert for the signs God places in your path.

At Mt Horeb, the mountain of God, the angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it was not consumed. Moses thought this was a curious sight. Curiosity can be a dangerous emotion, but it caused Moses to do something very brave: enter into the very presence of the almighty God.

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses! Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' This is why we do not wear shoes in the presence of the "Burning Bush" in the cave. But there is much more to God's Dream for Moses. I'll let him tell his story now."

### **Circle of Fire: The Burning Bush – Commitment to the Dream**

*Scripture Reference: Exodus 3: 2-5. Exodus 2:13-14*

#### ***Biblical Character: Moses***

Moses: "My entire life seems like a dream, sometimes a nightmare. When I was a baby, my mother had to place me in a basket and put me in the Nile to avoid being killed by Pharaoh's soldiers. But I was not alone. God was with me in the bulrushes of the river. He protected me and led Pharaoh's daughter to find me and take me into her home. Amazing: from slave baby to royal son.

As a young man I was a leader in Pharaoh's court. One day I saw a soldier beating a slave. The slaves were valuable to me. I became angry and killed the soldier. So much for living in Pharaoh's court, my temper took everything from me. I had to flee Egypt and go into the desert to a place called Midian. There I married and tended the flocks of my father-in-law Jethro.

One day I led my sheep to Mount Horeb. I looked up on the mountain and saw a bush on fire. But the bush was not consumed by the fire. This was very curious to me. I had to see what could burn and not consume. As I came closer to the bush, I noticed no heat came from the fire. This was really curious. I came closer and a voice called out to me from the bush: 'Moses! Moses! Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.'

Wow! Now that was a real shock. I threw off my sandals faster than you could say 'move it'. Then I fell on my knees and hid my face. I was afraid to look at God for fear I would die.

The Lord said: 'I have heard the cries of my people in Egypt and I am concerned about them. I have come down to rescue them and lead them to a land of milk and honey. So I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt.'

Yeah right! Do you know what Pharaoh will do to me when he sees me. I won't last two minutes in Pharaoh's court. So why shouldn't Pharaoh kill me? God answered: 'I will be with you.'

OK. Now I am really worried. Just who are you that Pharaoh will fear you? Who do I say sends me? God answered: 'I AM WHO I AM. Tell the people I AM has sent you to them.'

This is getting better all the time! Now just why should Pharaoh listen to I AM? God answered: 'Throw your staff

down on the ground.’ I did so quickly and a most fearful thing happened: the staff turned into a huge snake! (Throw down your staff at this point.) Wow! That was cool. But then God told me to pick up the snake. Right! God, that’s a big snake and not too friendly looking. ‘Moses, pick it up.’ Yes, Lord, ok I’ll do it, but I won’t like it! So I reached out and touched the snake. Instantly it turned back into my staff. That was a big relief! (This would be a good scene to use some ‘scare them to death’ props. Get a big rubber snake and hid it in your robe sleeve. Throw the staff onto the floor and allow the snake to drop with it. Be prepared for some screaming.)

I still wasn’t too keen about going to Pharaoh, but I left Jethro and headed back across the desert. The rest is history. God did provide for his people to leave Egypt and He did lead them to the Promised Land. But each of us had to be committed to doing God’s Dream to cross the Jordan River and claim it. Commit yourself to finding God’s Dream for you.”

Spirit Woman (Leader): “God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God knew who He was, but Moses was still learning who he was to become in God’s sight. Coincidence or ‘engineering’ by God, either way, Moses led his flock “to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.” God meets us where we are or puts us in a position that he wants for us to hear him.”

Show the video: “Moses and the Burning Bush”. See Appendix 1 Resources for the online link to the Youtube video.

Explain that God knew his own name, I AM, and he knew Moses personally. But Moses did not know himself, his response was: “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” During this course, you are to seek the answer to this question for yourself. Who am I that I should go to the world for Christ.

**Modern Character:** Charlotte Digges (Lottie) Moon – A Chinese Missionary

Show the video in Appendix 2, “A Life of Significance” for this lesson.

**The Dark Side Cave Journey:** There is a Dream for your life, but a lack of commitment on your part to fulfilling that Dream can result in missing the path God has prepared for you.

**Key Learning for the Tribe:** Have courage to accept God’s desire for your life and commit to seeking God’s Dream in all that you do. I AM knows I am (you) and will give you the power to follow Him.

**Craft:** “I Am Committed to the Dream” bookmark

Use the resources in Appendix 8 Crafts, have the students make a bookmark to carry to school in one of their books. This is to serve as a reminder each day that they are travelling on a path toward the Dream of God and are committed to follow it.

***Recreation Activity: Blind Snake Pit Crossing***

See Appendix 6 Recreation for the instructions to Blind Snake Pit Crossing. Be sure to have the members keep their shoes off until after this activity as it will make it more realistic. Don’t want to step on a snake! This game is used to teach commitment to help each member of the Tribe succeed along their path.