

Your Word is a light for my life today

What a joy to learn with Moses that God's love is eternal, ever alive! God does not change. He has always been with his people. He is always with us and he always will be. Before such a great mystery of love, we can act like Moses and turn to the Lord, offering him our heart. He will transform it and he will fill it with his power and with his love. Then we will be able to carry out his work of love and to put ourselves without fear at the service of our brothers and sisters.

Give the children some time for them to:

- Stay and pray in silence, calling God by his Name, entrusting to him everything: joys and sufferings, and letting God fill their hearts with the fire of his love so that they may share it with all those around them.
- Go to the 'House of Nazareth' for the activities

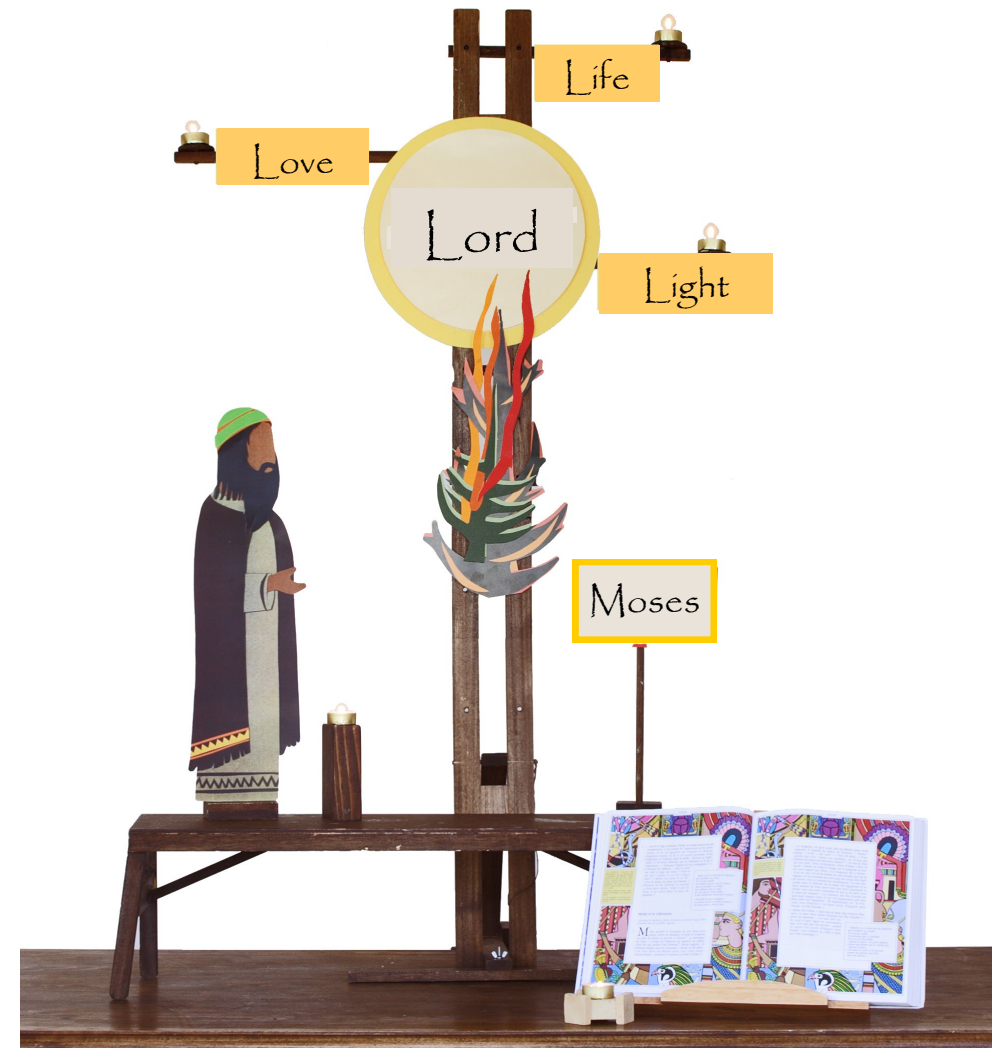
CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE HYMN OR SONG

PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

The Medal of the Name of God

Using card paper, the child makes a "Medal of the Name of God" which he will be able to hang wherever he wants (on his pencil-case, his bag, on his door...).

This medal will remind him that God is always with him, wherever he is.



Session 10

Moses (B)

THE BURNING BUSH

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GOD THE FATHER

You fulfil your plan of love throughout
the history of salvation,
You desire to gather together in unity
all your scattered children.

You call Abraham and you bless him.

***You make a covenant
with your people Israel.***

You reveal yourself to Moses.

I welcome the gift of your name.

I place myself at the service of my brothers.

THE WORD OF GOD (Ex 2:1-10)

Now Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush. He looked – and the bush was ablaze with fire, but it was not being consumed! So Moses thought, “I will turn aside to see this amazing sight. Why does the bush not burn up?” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him from within the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” God said, “Do not approach any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” He added, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and spacious. So now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and tell them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ – what should I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am that I am.”

CCC References

God reveals his Name (203-221; 446)

The Name of the Lord (2142-2167; 2666; 2807-2815)

Moses’ prayer (2574-2575; 2777)

Theme of the Session

God reveals his mysterious Name to Moses. He is still present and active in the midst of his people. God makes himself known and tells Moses the mission he gives him to accomplish. He asks Moses to deliver his people in His Name.

Do you want to know the Name of God? Like Moses, we are going to prepare ourselves to welcome the “revelation” of God’s Name.

PRAYER TIME

By focussing on Moses’ disposition of prayer and respect, the catechist helps the children to understand the importance of the body in prayer.

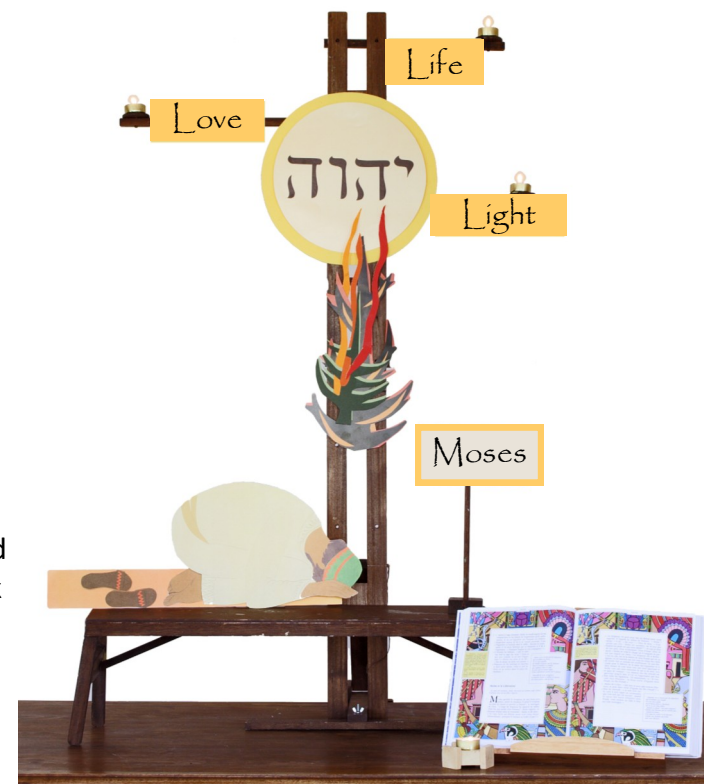
Play soft background music and place the name of God in Hebrew over the word ‘Lord’ at the centre of the bush, without explanation. Let the children react in front of this mysterious name.

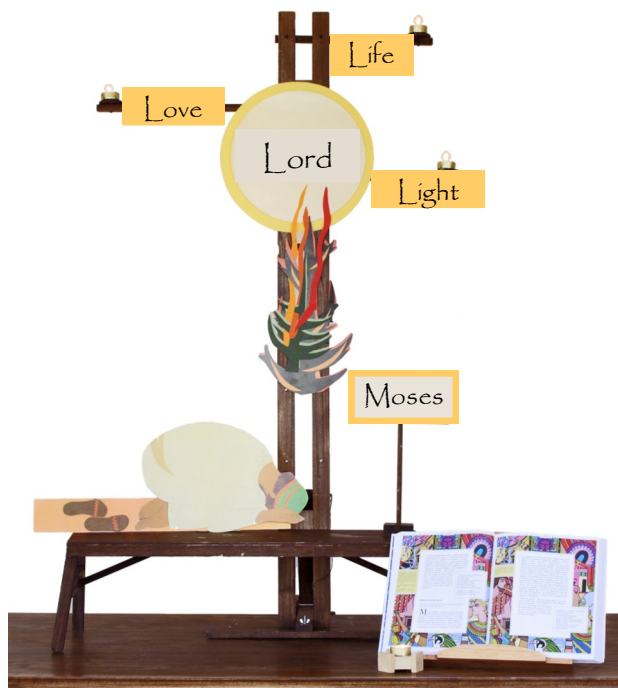
God gives his Name. We find ourselves in front of his mystery. By giving us his Name, God tells us who he is and by which Name we must call him. This Name means:

‘I am that I am.’...I am always with you...

This Name tells us something about God: God is close to us, he is with us, and yet he is so much greater than anything we can say, greater than anything we can understand.

Moses has understood that God is truly with his people. He trusts God. He will be able to fulfil his mission. With the power of God, he will go and see Pharaoh to ask him to let God’s people leave Egypt.





Moses is attracted by God, but he feels really small before him. He does not know how to behave properly in God's presence. He prepares himself to hear and to receive God's word.

What does God tell him?

"I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. I have come

down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and spacious. So now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

God reveals the secret of his plan of love to Moses. He has heard the cry of the Hebrews, and he has chosen Moses to deliver his people from their slavery.

How will Moses answer God?

Moses is afraid. He feels weak and incapable of doing this. He remembers that when he was a prince in Egypt, no one listened to him. So Moses explains this to the Lord and tries to resist God's call.

"If I go to the Israelites and tell them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' – what should I say to them?"

Now, for the first time, God is going to reveal his Name to men. He is going to give his Name to Moses.

With Moses, I learn how to behave before God. I feel very small before his mysterious presence. Yet at the same time he is the loving God who draws very close to me, and is always present at my side. He sends me to my brothers and sisters, asking me to love them.

RECALLING THE LAST SESSION

God has a plan of love for his people. He saves Moses from death. Later, this baby will be called to lead God's people out of the country of Egypt where they are enslaved.

THE SESSION

Moses has become a little boy. His mother takes him back to the daughter of Pharaoh, as she had promised. Pharaoh's daughter brings him up as her own son, "as a prince of Egypt".

Yet Moses remains in his heart a child of the Hebrew people. He still belongs to the "chosen people of God." Once an adult, as a prince of Egypt, he discovers that his brothers, the Hebrews, are suffering under Pharaoh. He tries to defend them, but no one understands him: neither the Egyptians, nor his own people.

Rejected by everyone, he must flee from the country. He starts living as a shepherd in the desert. God however does not forget his plan of love: he still watches over Moses and over his people. God is going to reveal himself to Moses.

Let us prepare our hearts. Let us listen to the Word of God.

Moment of silent prayer.

Now Moses was shepherding the flock and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to the mountain of God.

The Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush. He looked – and the bush was ablaze with fire, but it was not being consumed!

So Moses thought, "I will turn aside to see this amazing sight. Why does the bush not burn up?"



What sign of his presence does God give to Moses?

Let the children answer

God appears in the middle of a fire which comes out of a bush. The fire is bright, so Moses understands that God is light. The bush burns without being destroyed, so Moses understands that God is the God of life, and that his love is eternal.

As the catechist explains this, the signs "life", and "light" are placed around the name of God.

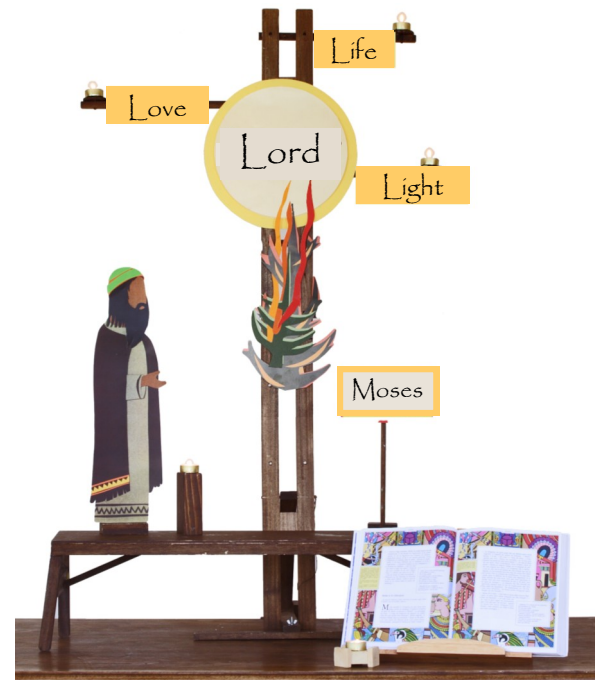
When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him from within the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

God calls Moses by name: he knows him personally. Moses understands that he is loved by God.

Place the sign "love" on the visual display

What will Moses do? Touched by the love of God, Moses immediately answers with three words: "Here I am".

Place the words "Here I am" on the visual display.



God calls Moses by name: he knows him personally. Moses understands that he is loved by God.

Place the sign "love" on the visual display

What will Moses do?
Touched by the love of God, Moses immediately answers with three words: "Here I am".

Place the words "Here I am" on the visual display.

God continues his conversation with Moses. He teaches him how to behave in his presence.

God said, "Do not approach any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." He added, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Moses covers his face, because he is afraid to look at God. Moses takes off his sandals and hides his face.

What does this mean?