

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY IN THE CHURCH



LESSON 4 A GREAT LEADER WHO COULD NOT SPEAK WELL

Bible Story	Message that will be taught *
Ex 4:10-12 – Moses could not speak well, but God helped him and used him to be a great leader	God will always help you to do what He wants you to do

* The goal of a Bible lesson is to teach the children a specific Biblical message. Children learn through repetition, and therefore this message should be repeated throughout the lesson.

TEACHING AIDS

Pictures of great leaders, preferably where they are busy talking to people.

Pictures from a children’s Bible story book or the internet on Moses and the burning bush, as well as Moses and the Israelites on their journey through the Red sea and in the desert.

INTRODUCTION

(Show the children pictures of great leaders)

Do you know who these people are? They are great and important leaders!

What do you think is the most important thing for a leader to do? To talk to people so that they know what to do!

Today I am going to tell you about a leader who could not speak well at all!

STORY

The Israelites were suffering and they had to work as slaves for the King of Egypt, also called the Pharaoh. God wanted to lead His people out of Egypt to a land where they would be free again. For this, God needed a great leader, and He decided to ask Moses to do this job. God helped Moses to do it, just as He will always help you to do what He wants you to do.

God spoke to Moses from a burning bush in the desert, and asked Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. But Moses was very scared. He told God that he couldn’t do this

job. Do you know why? Moses couldn't speak well! How was he going to persuade the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go? How was he going to speak to all the Israelites? And they were so many of them!¹

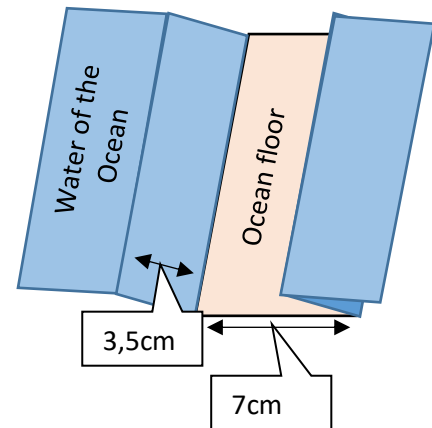
But if God wants you to do something, He will always help you.

At first, God sent Aaron with Moses to help him to speak to the Pharaoh. Moses was able to lead the Israelites from Egypt. When they got to the Red sea, they saw that the Pharaoh was following them. He wanted to take the Israelites back to Egypt, and all the Israelites started to panic. However, Moses was able to speak to them because God helped him. He calmed them down, and told them to trust in God². Just then, God opened the Red sea so that the Israelites could escape from the Egyptian army. Later in the Bible, we read many times that Moses spoke to the Israelites and told them everything that God said.

God helped Moses to speak so that he could do what God wanted him to do. In the same way, God will always help you to do what He wants you to do.

ACTIVITIES

- Sturdy A4 paper, folded in 5 parts, to illustrate the opening of the Red sea and the path that God created for the Israelites (see illustration).
 - A4 sturdy project board
 - Sand and small shells (for the ocean floor). You can also buy sandpaper from a hardware shop, or even sanded paper used for birdcages that you get from a pet shop.
 - Glue
 - Small pieces of coloured paper or foam paper to cut out fishes.
 - Crayons to colour in the water of the ocean. Paste the colourful fishes on the ocean background.



Because this activity is three dimensional, it is a great activity for children with visual impairment.

- Explain to children that some people may find it difficult to talk, such as stuttering. Ask children to keep a marshmallow in their mouth while trying to talk. Explain that it is difficult for a person's mouth to form the words, even though the brain knows what to say, and that it has nothing to do with how clever the person is.
 - Big marshmallows
- Brainstorm ideas on how to help children with speech impairments, i.e. not to rush them, not to interrupt them and not to complete their sentences for them.

¹ You can ask the older children if they know how many Israelites there were. According to Ex 12:37, there were about 600 000 men, not counting the women and children.

² According to Ex 14:13