



# For Such a Time as This



"There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush" (Exodus 3:2a).

- How does God get your attention—especially in your classroom?
- Do you think God has ever "spoken" to you while you were teaching? What happened?



## ▼ Training Session

God's probably never spoken to you in a burning bush, but maybe he *has* used a moment in your classroom to get your attention and get you thinking. It's important to be ready for "God moments" in your classroom. You must not be so focused on your lesson that you miss the ways God's speaking to you and the opportunities he's giving you to more deeply connect with the children in your class. Listen to this true story of a missed God moment:

Several young girls sat in a classroom cutting and gluing as they worked on a craft. The girls and their teacher were talking about the lesson when one of the girls mentioned that a family member had died just that week. The other girls whispered their apologies and offered their sympathies.

A few moments later, another girl told the class that she, too, had recently suffered the death of someone close to her. The classroom became hushed and quiet as the girls continued to work. The teacher then told the girls that a good friend of hers passed away a couple years ago.

And then, just as quickly, the teacher turned away from the girls to prepare for the next activity. And told the girls to hurry up and finish their crafts.

God was speaking in that classroom—and he was ignored. Imagine the opportunities missed in that moment—opportunities for the teacher to grow closer to the girls, and for the girls to grow closer to each other. Opportunities for all of them to talk about how God is a comforter and companion in troubled times, and to pray together as a community of faith.

As teachers, we need to be aware of moments in our classrooms when God speaks to us, trying to help us grow closer to the kids we serve—and trying to help kids grow closer to him. Of course, God moments don't always look like the one described above. Sometimes they come in the form of a child asking a silly question, an everyday interruption, a child coming to class crying about a lost pet, or a strange comment.

These are all moments when we can help connect God's love, care, comfort, and presence to kids' everyday lives and problems. These are opportunities to help kids understand that God is for *all* times, not just for Sundays.

Don't miss God moments when they arise in your classroom! Imagine if Moses had ignored the burning bush: Israel might still be in bondage!

And who knows but that God has put you in kids' lives for such times as these?



## Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- Were there any God moments in your class last week? What were they?
- How did you respond to those moments? How could you have responded better?
- How can you become more sensitive to God moments in your class?

### ▼ Journal

*God, help me to be more aware of God moments in my class by...*

**God has placed you in a unique position of trust and authority in your kids' lives. You have the opportunity to help children see God at work and respond to him during times of joy and trouble. Thank you for helping children recognize God as a presence in their everyday lives!**

## ▼ Application

Write down a list of ten distractions that could happen in your class at any given time. For example, a piece of technology doesn't work, a child is obviously sad or upset, or a storm knocks out your church's electricity.

After you write your list, write down how each can be turned into a God moment. How might God speak through that situation? What can kids learn from it?

Watch for these "distractions" and turn them into God moments in your next lesson.