MONDAY MORNING: Awareness of Environment
(15 minutes total)

INTRODUCTION

• Today, we will see the work environment that we’ll be helping out with, we’ll meet the people we’ll be working with and maybe even meet the families. In other words, we’re headed into a new environment where a lot of new things will greet us.
• In today’s scripture story, Moses experiences something new in his environment as well.
• Let’s see what happens.

READ Exodus 3:1-5

1 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

ASK (answers in parenthesis)

• Verse 1 – where was Moses? (“beyond the wilderness” – in other words: The middle of nowhere)
• Verse 2 – what does Moses see? (a burning bush that was not consumed)
• Verse 3 – What does Moses tell himself? (That he needs to investigate)
• Verse 5 – Because Moses chose to pay attention (i.e. turn aside), what does Moses then hear about where he is? (Moses hears that he is on holy ground).

TELL

• The Hebrew word that we translate into English as “Holy” means “to be set apart.”
• It’s easy to think that the burning bush is what makes the ground holy in the story that we just read.
• But there’s something else, too, that makes the ground holy: Moses shifts his attention – he has to actually tell himself to go pay attention to this phenomenon of a burning bush.
• And it is because Moses is paying attention that he is then able to see/hear God.
• By seeing/hearing God, he learns that he is on holy land.
• The land that we are going to today has been set apart from all other land – meaning: it has been designated for us to go to it.
• Our challenge for the day is to be like Moses, to keep looking at our environment, to tell ourselves to inspect things, and to listen carefully. In so doing, we might even gain insight as to how God is present with us.
• Unlike Moses, though, YOU WILL KEEP YOUR SHOES ON! 😊

CLOSING PRAYER

Recommended format: Adult Leader asks for prayer requests and then leads the prayer (start to finish) in a pretty succinct matter that mentions the named prayer requests, maybe mentions something from the scripture story and then asks/invites God’s help and guidance and blessing into the work day. Amen.
MONDAY EVENING: Awareness of Environment
(45 minutes total)

DECOMPRESS

- We’re going to go around the circle, now, and share with each other one thing that you did today that you keep thinking about, that surprised you or that made you uncomfortable.
- When it’s your turn, start by saying your name.
- RECOMMENDED FORMAT: Adult leader starts. And then you proceed around the circle. Everyone is expected to share. If someone can’t think of something, pass them by and then come back after everyone else has shared (“we’ll let you think about it some more and then come back to you, ok?”).

REFLECT

- This morning, we read and briefly discussed the story of Moses and the burning bush.
- Because Moses was paying attention to his environment and then told himself to inspect unusual elements of the environment, he became aware of God’s presence in the land.
- Our challenge for the day was to be like Moses, to keep looking at our environment, to tell ourselves to inspect things, and to listen carefully. In so doing, we might even gain insight as to how God is present with us:
  - So what things did you notice?
  - What things did you tell yourself to inspect?
  - And, were there any emerging thoughts/insights to how God was present with you/us this day?
  - RECOMMENDED FORMAT: This is meant to be more of an open discussion format. No need to go around the circle. And people might respond to what is shared. Other questions/topics might be raised. As the leader, there might be experiences that you’ll want to raise and ask for responses about.

TELL

- We did it!
- We have seen our worksite, we have met our co-workers for this week, and we have completed our first full day. But we didn’t just go through it blindly or in a daze, either. We kept our eyes and ears open.
- And, just like Elijah and Moses were aware of and made time to seek God in the midst of storms and new environments, so have we.
- Well done!
- Let’s close with (song and) prayer.

MUSIC/SINGING (optional)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recommended format: Adult leader will start the prayer, and then say something along the lines of, “At this time, God, we lift to you our joys and concerns both out loud and silently.” This then provides opportunity for everyone in the group to pray. When if feels like enough time has passed, Adult leader then closes the prayer. NOTE: The introductory part of the prayer by the Adult leader can be pretty succinct – some naming of joys and thanksgiving. The closing part of the prayer can be a place where the Adult leader can lift up the concerns of the group that were raised in the sharing time. The closing part of the prayer can also be a good place to give thanks to God for the individuals in the group.