

I Can't Read It

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · Philippians 4:13 and Exodus 4:12

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · paper strips or index cards · markers or crayons · a simple picture book · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 11, I Can't Read It (3:29) · youtu.be/M4_0Y-Jz9Gk
MEMORY VERSE	"I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you shall speak." Exodus 4:12
BIBLE STORY	God calls Moses, Exodus 4:10–12
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	When something feels too hard, we don't give up. We keep going one small step at a time, and God gives us strength, just as He helped Moses.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Ask: "What is something that was hard for you at first, but you can do now?" Let a few children answer.
2–6	Watch	Show Ep 11, I Can't Read It (3:29).
6–10	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–13	Bible	Tell how God called Moses in Exodus 4.
13–18	Activity	Build a "one step at a time" word tower (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. What felt too hard for LJ? What feels hard for you right now?

Affirm every answer. Listen for honest struggles, and remind them that everyone finds something hard.

2. How did Mom, Dad and Ms Grace help LJ keep going?

Mom read one word at a time and prayed, Dad shared his story, Ms Grace taught a trick. Point out that LJ still did the reading himself.

3. Moses said, "I can't." What did God promise him? How can God help you?

God promised to be with Moses and teach him what to say. Listen for prayer, practice and asking for help.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 (WEB)

How to tell it

Set the scene: Moses is caring for sheep in the desert when he sees a bush on fire that doesn't burn up. Read Exodus 4:10, where Moses says he isn't good with words. Pause and ask: have you ever felt like that? Then read verses 11–12: God made our mouths, and He promises to be with Moses and teach him what to say. Finish: Moses went, with Aaron beside him, and spoke to the king.

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read Exodus 3:11–12 and 4:10–17 together. List Moses' excuses and God's answers. Talk about Philippians 4:13: does "all things" mean anything we want, or what God gives us to do?

Activity: One step at a time word tower (4 minutes)

- Give each child a few paper strips. On each, help them write one word of Philippians 4:13.
- Stack or tape the strips into a tower, saying one word aloud as each piece is added.
- Practice the "cover it up" trick from the episode: cover half of a long word in a picture book and sound out each piece.
- Read the whole verse together from the finished tower.

A WORD OF CARE

Some children find reading genuinely hard, and some have learning differences. Never put a child on the spot to read aloud. Celebrate effort, not speed, and let children choose whether to read.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, thank You for helping me when things feel hard. Give me strength to keep going one little step at a time, and help me remember that I can do all things through Christ. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Skip the writing. Say the verse together with one hand motion per word.

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Have them list Moses' excuses and God's answers.

Large group

Build word towers in small groups with a leader in each. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch from Mom's bedtime scene (2), one question (2), tell Exodus 4 (3), say the verse (2), pray (1).

A note for teachers

The heart of this lesson is perseverance with God's help, not perfection. Children should leave knowing that hard things are normal, and that God is with them one step at a time.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.