

Grow Confidence through God-Given Gifts

Quarter 9 • Lesson 6

Focus on Character Development

1. *Connecting*: Talk about God-given skills and abilities.
2. *Teaching*: Hear about how God helped Moses grow in confidence (Exodus 3—10).
3. *Responding*: Plan how to grow in God-given skills and abilities.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

Optional Supplies:

- Memory Verse Poster
- *The Action Bible*, image of Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh
- Pencils
- Student Pages

Teacher Devotion

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans 12:6

God has given each of us amazing gifts, and He has blessed us abundantly. God made each of us with special care, giving us the skills and abilities He knew we would need. He gives us these gifts so we can use them to honour Him and help others. As we use our gifts, we grow in our skills and abilities—and we also grow in confidence. And as we grow in confidence, we will dare to do more for Him.

Make a list of your God-given skills and abilities. How can you nurture them to make them grow? How will that growth increase your confidence? Decide on 1 thing you can do to begin to grow in your skills and abilities. Pray that God will help you to build your confidence. And pray that He will help you to use your skills and abilities to build up the confidence of the children you teach.

Family Connection: Let your children's families know that this week you are teaching on skills and abilities. If family members are not sure what their own skills and abilities are, encourage them to ask each other. They can take turns telling each family member something he or she is good at.

LESSON TIME

1. Connecting: Talk about God-given skills and abilities.

Welcome your children warmly. Ask them if any of them felt more confident last week because they remembered who God says they are.

Teacher Tip: In this lesson, the children will learn how they can develop confidence in their God-given skills and abilities. The purpose is not to teach them to rely on themselves; it is to help them understand that their skills and talents are gifts from God that they can use to grow in confidence. When they understand that God loves them and has given them special and unique gifts, they will begin to understand that true, lasting confidence comes from God and who He says they are.

In today's lesson we will continue to learn more about growing in confidence.

- **Who remembers what confidence is?**

Call on 1–2 children to share their ideas.

Those were good ideas! Remember that confidence is the assurance or trust we have in who we are, our worth, and our abilities. Confidence affects the way we act and how we treat ourselves and others. True, lasting confidence comes from understanding who God says we are. Today we will talk about our God-given skills and abilities.

God created every person with unique skills and abilities. All of us have these God-given gifts, even if we have not discovered them yet. Some examples are being a good leader, running fast, repairing broken things, listening well to others, and doing well in school.

Today we will learn that we can grow these abilities and share them with others. When we do, we will better understand who God created us to be, and our confidence will grow!

Have the children find partners.

Once you have found a partner, share with him something you can do well. When you have both shared, answer these 2 questions.

- **How do you use your skill or ability?**
- **How do you feel when you use your skill or ability?**

Teacher Tip: If the children are cannot think of something they are good at, offer some suggestions, such as cooking, helping others, playing sports, or teaching younger children.

After 3 minutes, ask 3 students to share what they learned about their partners' skills and abilities.

2. Teaching: Hear about how God helped Moses grow in confidence (Exodus 3—10).

Let's listen to a story from the Bible about a man named Moses. He was born as an Israelite slave in Egypt. When he was a young man, he left Egypt and lived in a foreign country for 40 years, herding sheep.

One day Moses saw a burning bush. It was on fire, but it did not burn up. So he went to see this strange thing.

- **What would you think if you saw a burning bush that did not burn up?**

Allow the children to share their thoughts.

Moses must have been surprised. And he was probably even more surprised about what happened next! Suddenly God began to speak to him from inside the burning bush!

God said that He had heard the Israelites' cry for help. God loved His people and knew that they were suffering as slaves in Egypt. God said that He would bring the Israelites out of Egypt and into a wonderful land where all of their needs would be met.

Then God said something that probably surprised Moses even more! God said, "Moses, go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and bring my people out Egypt."

- What would you say if God asked you to go to the leader of a powerful country and take away his country's slaves?

Allow 2 children to share what they would say.

Moses said, "Who am I to bring this people out of Egypt?" Maybe Moses was afraid to do the job God had given him to do. Maybe he did not think that he could do it. Maybe Moses did not have confidence in his ability to do such an important task.

Moses made many excuses as to why he could not do what God asked him to do. God was patient and responded to each of Moses' excuses. Finally, Moses told God that he was not a good public speaker and said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." Let's read from the Bible how God responded.

Optional: If possible, share the image from The Action Bible.

*Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said,
"What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well.
He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you.
You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you
speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you."*

Exodus 4:14–16

- What did God promise to do for Moses?

He promised to give Moses a helper, Aaron, and to teach Moses what to say and do.

- Do you think God's promise made Moses feel more confident?

Allow 2 children to share their thoughts.

Moses believed what God had said. So Moses and his brother, Aaron, went to the Israelite leaders to tell them what God was going to do for His people. Let's read from Exodus 4:

*Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites,
and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses.
He also performed the signs before the people.*

Exodus 4:29–30

- Who spoke to the Israelite leaders and performed the signs?

Aaron

- Why do you think Moses did not speak to the leaders?

He was not confident.

Now let's read what happened when Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"

Exodus 5:1

- **Who spoke to Pharaoh this time?**

Both Moses and Aaron

- **What do you think Pharaoh said?**

Allow 2 children to share their thoughts.

Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go. He was angry and ordered that the Israelites be given even more work. But Moses and Aaron did not give up. Let's read what God told Moses to do next.

"When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake." So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake.

Exodus 7:9–10

- **What did God tell Moses to do?**

To tell Aaron what to do when they spoke to Pharaoh.

- **What do you think Pharaoh did when he saw the miracle? Do you think he let the Israelites go?**

Allow 2 children to share their thoughts.

Again Pharaoh would not let the Israelites leave Egypt. So God sent terrible plagues on the Egyptians. God told Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh before each plague. And each time, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave. At first, Aaron spoke to Pharaoh and performed the miracles. But that began to change.

One of the plagues caused Egypt to be filled with frogs! There were frogs in the canals, in the ponds, and even in people's houses!

- **What do you think Pharaoh did when he saw all of the frogs?**

Allow 2 children to share their thoughts.

Let's read what Moses said about the frogs:

Moses said to Pharaoh, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

Exodus 8:9

- **Who was speaking to Pharaoh this time?**

Moses

- **Why do you think Moses was able to speak to Pharaoh?**

He was growing in confidence.

Moses' confidence was growing. He saw that God was doing what He said He would do. Though Aaron was still performing the miracles, Moses was now able to speak to Pharaoh.

- **Do you think Pharaoh let the Israelites go this time?**

Allow 2 children to share their thoughts.

Again, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go. So God sent more plagues on the Egyptians. Let's read about the ninth plague.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days....

Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD.

Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind." But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God.

Exodus 10:21–22, 24–25

- **Who performed the miracle and spoke to Pharaoh this time?**

Moses

- **Why do you think Moses was able to do these things?**

His confidence was growing. He trusted in God and began to use the skills and abilities God had given him.

Did you notice what happened? As Moses began to use the skills and abilities that God had given him, he honoured God and helped others and his confidence grew. As he used these skills and abilities, he became a better leader and his confidence grew. Moses no longer needed Aaron's help. He had learned to trust in God and to be confident in the gifts God had given to him.

God can do the same thing for you! God gave you many wonderful skills and abilities. He wants you to use them to honour Him and help others. When you use the skills and abilities God has given you, your confidence will increase. If you trust Him, He can help you to use your skills and abilities to help others.

If you are using the Memory Verse Poster, show it to the students.

Here are some tips for growing in confidence:

First, think about the skills and abilities that God has given you. Thank Him for giving you these wonderful gifts!

Second, practice using those skills and abilities, and find ways to grow in your gifts. God can help you to learn to use your gifts well.

Third, remember that not everyone can do everything. Do not let your confidence be shaken by what you cannot do. Remember that your confidence comes from God and doing what He has gifted you to do.

When you know who God created you to be, you can have confidence in who you are. You can be confident that you were created with valuable skills and abilities that you can use to serve God and help others. And you can be confident that God will help you.

3. Responding: Plan how to grow in God-given skills and abilities.

Turn to your partner from the beginning of our lesson to talk about these questions.

Pause for about 1 minute after each question for children to discuss with their partners.

- **Think about a skill or ability God has given to you. How can you use it to honour God? To help others? To help yourself?**

Share examples such as these: If you have the ability to make friends easily, you can honour God by being friendly to children who are bullied by others. If you are good at sports, you can encourage your teammates and your opponents.

- **What is something you can do this week to grow that skill or ability?**

Share examples such as this: If you have an ability in leadership, you can teach younger children how to play a game.

Teacher Tip: If possible, share a personal story about how you developed a skill or ability and how God has used it.

Optional: If you are using the Student Pages, the children draw a picture of themselves using one of their skills.

Close class by speaking this blessing over the children.

Blessing: May God help you to recognize the wonderful gifts He has given you. May you grow in confidence as your skills and abilities grow, and may you learn more of who God created you to be.

Lead the children in singing this quarter's song, if possible.

"Agnus Dei" by Michael W Smith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVFzxazTQNM>