

Moses Talks With God

Exodus 33:7-34:35

MEMORY VERSE

EXODUS 33:13

“Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A long strip of white or yellow butcher paper, a flashlight and a marker.

Three tongue depressors for each child in your class, rubber bands and markers.

A mixer, a bowl, whipping cream, sugar and spoon, and enough plastic spoons each child in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

God's Way

Have a long strip of yellow or white paper for the floor. Draw a path with footsteps. Write the steps to salvation: 1. Realize you have sinned; 2. Ask for forgiveness; 3. Believe that Jesus died and rose again to take away your sins; 4. Ask Him to come into your heart and commit your whole life to Him.

Turn off the lights (tell the kids ahead of time) and compare the darkness to our dark world. Then explain that God always makes sure we know the way to get to Him (shine flashlight on path and steps of salvation). There are other ways God shows us the way to get to Him (shine light on a Bible and on a child). God works in us to bring glory to Himself.

Explain to the children that there are various ways that God uses to teach us about Himself. He wants us to know Him and to have a close relationship with Him.

LESSON TIME!

Moses and the Israelites were traveling through the wilderness, seeking the land God had promised them. Although, the Israelites often did not listen and obey God's Word, God loved them and was faithful to speak to them through Moses.

EXODUS 33:7-11

Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.

So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.

And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

Moses had a great relationship with the Lord. As leader of the Israelites, God would often speak to him and instruct him. God spoke to Moses directly, “as a friend talks to a friend.” God would meet Moses in his tent where God would give him instruction in leading His people. When God spoke with Moses, a pillar of cloud stood outside the tent door signifying God's presence.

EXODUS 33:12-17

Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'

"Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

"For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

Moses knew the importance of having God's instruction and presence with Him—He did not want to move without God. We should have the same attitude. We should earnestly desire to know God's will, so we can be sure of His presence with us and His blessings and protection as we move forward.

Note also that Moses recognized the importance of the Israelites being a people separated to God. If the Israelites walked in close relationship to God, experiencing His blessing and miracles, the nations that surrounded them would see; and it would glorify God. God desires that we walk closely with Him and allow Him to work in our lives so the people around us will see the difference and be encouraged to seek a relationship with Him.

EXODUS 33:18-23

And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.

"So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.

"Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

Moses wanted to see God in all of His glory. Man cannot see God's face because God is Holy and man is sinful. However, God would put Moses behind a rock and allow him to see His glory after He passed by him.

The rock is a picture of Jesus. In our sinful state, we cannot behold the glory of God (dwell in His presence); however, we as Christians are hidden in Christ. We can now enter boldly into God's presence because our sins are forgiven, and we stand righteous *in* Christ. **God desires a special friendship with you.**

EXODUS 34:1-4

And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.

"So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain.

"And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain."

So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

God had written the Ten Commandments on stone before, but Moses broke them when He saw the Israelites sinning. Moses went up Mt. Sinai again by himself and took the two tablets to bring to the people. These tablets of stone eventually went inside of the Ark of the Covenant.

EXODUS 34:5-9

Then the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

"keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

How awesome an experience it must have been for Moses. God proclaimed His *name* to Moses and His *nature* (what He is like). Some people think that God is different in the Old Testament than He is in the New Testament—not true! God is the same throughout the entire Bible. God's character would be fully demonstrated in Jesus Christ when He came in the flesh.

Consider the character of God! He is merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth. Sometimes we might think of God as mad at us or upset because we have done something wrong. Yet, He is kind, loving and willing to put up with us for a long time. When we ask for forgiveness, He is always willing to forgive. **God desires a special friendship with you.**

EXODUS 34:10-17

And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

"Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

"Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.

"But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images

"(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

"lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,

"and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

"You shall make no molded gods for yourselves."

Again, God gave His commandments to Israel. They were not to worship idols as was the practice of the nations around them. God desired His people to be different and separate.

Again, as Christians, we should live a life that is noticeably different than non-Christians. Can you see a difference in your life? Does the TV you watch, the clothes you wear, or the people you admire reflect a difference in your life?

Cord of Three Strands

You will need tongue depressors (three per child), rubber bands, and markers.

Write "Pray" on one, "Read Bible" on one, and "Obey" on one. Decorate with stickers, markers, rubber stamps, or whatever. Bind together with a couple of rubber bands. These can be taken home as a reminder.

You may want to demonstrate how one stick is easily broken but three bound together (pass around three bound together so they can try to break them) are strong. These three habits instilled in a life will help to keep you strong and help you not to easily fall prey to the enemy.

"The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt.

"All that open the womb *are* Mine, and every male firstborn among your livestock, *whether* ox or sheep.

"But the firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you will not redeem *him*, then you shall break his neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.

"Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

"And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

"Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel.

"For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.

"You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning.

"The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

God also gave Moses the feasts that they were to celebrate. There was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Gathering, and the Feast of the Passover.

Also, the Israelites were supposed to dedicate their firstborn to God, to rest on the Sabbath, to give of the first fruits of the harvest, and not to boil a goat in its mother's milk.

The feasts were kind of like a big Thanksgiving family dinner. Every feast helped the Jews to remember something great that God had done for them. For example, the Feast of Passover would forever remind the people of God's faithfulness in delivering them out of Egypt. What ways can we remember the great things that God has done in our lives?

EXODUS 34:27-28

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Moses was on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights, and God wrote the Ten Commandments again.

EXODUS 34:29-34

Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.

So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them.

Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.

But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded.

When Moses came down from the mountain, His face still shined from God's glory. The Israelites saw Moses' face and were afraid. Moses had to wear a veil so that his face would not shine.

Again, how glorious it is to consider that Moses spoke with God and saw His glory. Yet, through Jesus Christ, God has made a way for us to behold His glory and know His character intimately. Comparing the Christian's present relationship with God to the encounter Moses had with God on Mt. Sinai, Paul writes: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). We need not wear a veil to hide the glory of God; we can come boldly and commune with God, face to face, through Jesus Christ.

Paul continues, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Are you beholding God's glory? God desires to talk to you "a man talks to His friend" just as He spoke to Moses. He may not speak to you out loud in a voice we hear with our ears, but He speaks to us in other ways. God speaks to us when we read the Bible; He communes with us when we pray; He speaks to us through other people--pastors, teachers, etc.; and through the still small voice of Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). *Jesus* has made the way for this special friendship with God. Though our sins separated us from God, Jesus took the penalty for our sins when He died on the cross. Now, our part is to receive God's offer of forgiveness through faith in Jesus and the work He did for us on the cross.

Like Moses, may our lives shine with the presence and knowledge of God in our hearts. May those around know there is something different about us. **God desires a special friendship with you.**

Cream of the Crop

Bring mixer, bowl, whipping cream, sugar, and spoon. Have plastic spoons ready. Explain how cream is really just part of milk, but it rises to the top and becomes separate from the rest of the milk. It is then skimmed off the top of the milk and something very wonderful can be done with it. Whip the cream, adding the sugar at the last part of the whipping. Place a small portion on a spoon so that each child can have a taste. Explain that God desires His people to be separate, because He wants to bring out something wonderful.

PRAYER

Thank the Lord that we can have a special friendship with the Him just like Moses. Give opportunity for those who are not Christians to respond to the Gospel.