

# 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 type 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!

In today's lesson we find Moses and the Israelites traveling through the wilderness, seeking the land God had promised them. God was faithful to speak to His people through Moses, but most of the time the people wouldn't listen and would do whatever they wanted to do. Like so many of us today, God's people were disobedient and stubborn in Moses' day as well.

### 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 close relationship with the Lord. He was the leader of the Israelites, so God would speak to him often to instruct him. 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.

God spoke to Moses directly, just like you and I talk to a friend. Today God still wants to talk to each of us as a friend. He may not speak to us out loud in a voice we hear with our ears, but He speaks to us in other ways. Some of those ways are when we read the Bible, when we pray, through other people, and through our conscience. God wants to be our friend. If we respect and obey God, we can be in close fellowship with Him and experience all of His blessings. **God desires to have a personal relationship with us.**

How do we begin that relationship? The Bible says that we have all sinned and are separated from God. The result of our sin is death and eternal separation from God. But God still loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. So He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for us so we could enter back into relationship with God. So when we believe that Jesus died and rose again for our sins then we will have eternal life and we will begin a wonderful relationship with the Lord.

### 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. Moses did not want to move without God. We should have the same attitude. We should always pray to know God's will so we can be sure He is with us and will bless our actions and protect us from harm.

Moses also knew that it was important that other people see a difference in the Israelites because they were God's people. If the Israelites obeyed God, He would bless them and give them His promises and other nations would see God's miracles. If we do not allow God to work in us, we cannot bring others to God because they will see no difference in us.

**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, but God would put Moses behind a rock and allow him to see His glory after He passed by him. **God desires to have a personal relationship with us.**

The rock is a picture of Jesus. In our sinful state we cannot behold the glory of God, but if our life is hidden in Jesus then we can be in God's presence. Jesus has given us a way to have a relationship with God. Jesus never sinned and because He can freely enter into God's presence we can too when we go to Him through Jesus. God doesn't want us to be afraid of Him. We can approach Him anytime as long as we do it the right way, through His Son Jesus.

**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. So 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."

God proclaimed His name to Moses and through this told Moses His nature (what He is like). Sometimes we think that God is different in the Old Testament than He is in the New Testament, but God is the same throughout the entire Bible. Here we see Him declare to Moses some of His traits that later are fully demonstrated in the Life of Jesus (who is God come in the flesh).

We learn here that God is completely merciful and gracious, patient, full of goodness and truth. God forgives sin but does not let the guilty go unpunished. If you have ever wondered what God is like, here you have a description. Moses then asked for God's forgiveness for Israel's disobedience.

The Bible says that God never changes; He is always the same. Here we see what God is like. Sometimes we might think of God as mad at us or upset because we have done something wrong. Here we see just the opposite. He is kind, loving and willing to put up with us for a long time. He is always willing to forgive us when we ask Him. We desire to serve Him because of the love that He has shown us. **God desires to have a personal relationship with us.**

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."

Here God gave His commandments to Israel; they were to stay separate from the other nations. They were not supposed to have as part of their practices, worship, or idolatry. God's commandments are always for the sake of His people. By worshipping only God and not worshipping idols this would set apart Israel from all of the other nations that did worship idols.

As Christians, we should live a life that is noticeably different than non-Christians. And we should worship nothing but God. We should have no idols, such as TV, money, popularity, etc. Is there something in your life that is more important than God? If there is then other people won't be able to see the true and the living God 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 told 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.

The Israelites were also 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.

So Moses was on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights and God wrote the Ten Commandments again. Why do you suppose it was important for God to write down 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. Then Moses gave the people the Law as God had instructed.

Moses had to wear a veil so that his face would not shine but he took it off when he spoke to God. Just like Moses, our lives should shine because of God's presence in our hearts. People should know that there is something different about us because of our relationship with Jesus.

We need to remember that God is our friend and we can be close to Him by praying, reading the Bible, and obeying Him. God will speak to us and bless us just as He did Moses. **God desires to have a personal relationship with us.**

We also need to live a separated life by obedience to God, then God can work in us and bring glory to Himself so that others will believe.

## **Cream of the Crop**

Teacher brings 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.

Teacher whips 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, but it is always to bring out something wonderful in our lives.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that we can have a close relationship to the Lord just like Moses had. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.