

## LESSON 8: MOSES SEES GOD'S HOLINESS

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Exodus 33–34

10/20/2019

### Teachers Dig In

#### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Exodus 33–34
- In This Passage: Moses experiences God in various ways. He meets with him in a tent, and God speaks with him face to face, like a friend. God's presence passes by as Moses hides in a mountain crevice. God meets with Moses in a cloud on a mountain. Moses' face becomes radiant, reflecting that he has spent time with God. God is special.
- Bible Point: God is special...
- Application: ...and he has the ability to change us.
- Summary Verse: "The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love" (Psalm 103:8).

#### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is special.* This passage focuses on God's holiness. We're using a more kid-friendly term for holiness: *special*. Help kids know that God is so special, Moses' face glowed just because he spent time with God! And that same special God can meet with and change us.
- Think About: When have you had an encounter with God? How did it change you?

#### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that your kids will experience God's special presence and that he'll change them as a result.

#### Quick Tip

- One thing you'll notice about Dig In lessons: Everyone's involved! Just as Moses got to experience God, we want to create an environment where kids can experience God, too. When just a few kids demonstrate something for everyone else, that makes most of the kids passive observers. Instead, we make sure everyone gets to actively experience God's presence and his Word.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### OBJECT LESSON

Kids change glow sticks' brightness with ice and warm water.

#### Supplies

- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child)
- large bowls or cups (1 per child)
- ice
- warm or hot water
- thermos (optional)



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids experience God in a variety of ways.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- bedsheets or disposable tablecloths (1 per child, ideally)
- fan (optional)
- glow-stick necklaces (1 per child)
- soft music (optional)
- music player (optional)



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Red Light, Green Light.

#### Supplies

- paper plate



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a regular game of ring toss and then repeat with a glowing game in the dark.

#### Supplies

- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child, plus a few extra in case any don't work)
- plastic water bottles (1 for every 5 kids)—these don't have to be empty water bottles
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray using their favorite experience from Core Bible Discovery.

#### Supplies

- bedsheets or disposable tablecloths\* (1 per child, ideally)
- fan\* (optional)
- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child)



## CRAFT

**Kids make cloud door hangers to use when they're spending time with God.**

### Supplies

- "Cloud Door Hanger" handout, printed on white card stock (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- double-sided tape
- markers
- cotton balls

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give an elbow-five to five friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids do jumping jacks as many times as the birthday child is old. With each jumping jack, they'll say "happy birthday!"
- Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God is special, and he has the ability to change us. We're going to dig in to a Bible story about what happened to Moses. God is so special, Moses couldn't look right at him.**

### Share

- Tell kids about a time *you* had to cover your eyes, such as watching a scary movie or shielding your eyes from the sun.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about a time *they* had to cover their eyes.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

### Summarize

Open a Bible to Exodus 33, and say: **Some things are just too much to look at directly. And that's how special God is! In fact, when Moses spent time with God, his face glowed just from being around our special, special God. Let's find out more in the Bible. The Bible isn't an ordinary book; it's God's book for us, full of stories that show how God is special. As we explore his Word today, we'll experience how special he is. Let's start by talking to God.**

Pray, praising God for being special.



## OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

### Dull or Bright

---

#### Supplies

- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child)
- large bowls or cups (1 per child)
- ice
- warm or hot water
- thermos (optional)

#### Tips

- We used warm tap water, and it worked great! But if you want glow sticks to glow brighter more quickly, consider using hot water from a thermos.
- You can reuse glow-stick necklaces from the Core Bible Discovery and Low-Energy Game or provide new glow sticks. Just make sure they fit inside the cups or bowls you provide. If you're reusing the same glow-stick necklaces, be sure to do Core Bible Discovery first.

#### Set Up

- Have kids get out their glow-stick necklaces from Core Bible Discovery, or crack new ones.
- Form pairs, and give each child a cup or bowl.

#### Put Glow Sticks in Ice or Water

Say: **Each pair has two containers. We'll put ice in one and warm water in the other, and then you'll put one glow-stick necklace in each bowl.**

Ask: • **What do you think will happen?**

- Have partners talk together about what they think will happen to each glow-stick necklace.
- As kids discuss, have adult or teen helpers distribute ice and water to all the pairs. They should fill the containers half full, with one container of warm water and one container of ice per pair.
- Have pairs put one glow stick in the ice and the other in the warm water and observe changes for two to three minutes. (The light in the ice will become dull, but the light in warm water will brighten.)

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What happened to the glow-stick necklaces in ice? in warm water?**

Say: **The warm water acted as a catalyst, speeding up the chemical reaction inside the glow-stick necklaces and made them get even brighter. But cold ice slowed the reaction and made those glow-stick necklaces dim.**

Ask: • **Which reaction is more like what happens when you spend time with God? Explain.**

• **What things can be like the ice and make our lights dim?** Share examples from your own life to begin. You might mention hanging out with friends who are disrespectful, or watching TV shows or movies that fill our minds with bad things. You could also mention forgetting to spend regular time with God or his other friends.

Say: **God is special, and he can change our lives so we reflect his light in our world. When we feel like our lights are going dim, we can always go to him, and he'll recharge us with his light and love.** Have kids move glow sticks from the ice to the warm water and watch them get brighter again. Invite kids to play and experiment with the glow sticks until it's time to move on to the next activity.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- bedsheets or disposable tablecloths (1 per child, ideally)
- fan (optional)
- glow-stick necklaces (1 per child)
- soft music (optional)
- music player (optional)

**Tip**

- This Core Bible Discovery session is more somber than usual. Set the tone by dimming the lights, playing soft music, and speaking in a quiet whisper.

**Set Up**

Say: **In today's Bible story, we'll see how God showed just how special he is. One word used in the Bible to describe God is *holy*. *Holy* means something is really, really special. Another way to describe something as holy is to say it is "set apart." We're going to see how a man named Moses saw just how special and holy God is.**

**Moses got to experience God...and he was even able to see God! We'll look at four ways God showed Moses how special he is, and then we'll talk with God in some of those ways. As we do, we'll have times of silence for prayer. Try to treat that time as special, because God is special. Look for ways you can see or feel God with us.**

**Pray Under Tablecloths**

Ask: • **Tell a partner a prayer request you have—something you'd like to ask God to do for you.** Allow time for kids to share in pairs, and then ask a few willing kids to share with the whole group.

Have kids sit under bedsheets or tablecloths. Ideally, each child will have his or her own cloth to sit under; if not, have kids sit facing away from one another.

Say: **In the Bible, Moses spent some time in a special tent where he talked with God.**

Read Exodus 33:7-11.

Say: **God is special, and he made a special way for us to talk to him. We call that prayer. In the Bible, God had a special, holy place where he talked to Moses, because God is special and set apart. Moses was able to go to that place and talk to God like a friend.**

**We can talk to God like he's our friend, too! Let's do that now. Imagine you're in the Tent of Meeting. Spend time talking silently to God. Don't worry about using fancy words; just talk to him like you'd talk to a friend. Tell him what's on your heart and what you'd like from him. Since the Tent of Meeting was a place for Moses to pray about other people, you can also talk to God about what your partner shared as a prayer request.**

Allow about two minutes. If you have soft music playing, turn it up and encourage kids to whisper their prayers instead of praying silently. Then have kids come out of their "tents."

Say: **The Israelites had to go to the Tent of Meeting to talk to God. But now, we can talk to God *anywhere*. And when we do, God changes us.**

**Pretend to Be in a Crevice**

Say: **In the Bible, Moses led the Israelites across the desert. He was worried that God wouldn't go with the Israelites as they traveled. When he talked to God about it, God promised to be with them. Then Moses had a special request.**

Read Exodus 33:18-23.

Say: **Wow! Can you imagine what it would feel like to have God's hand cover you? Let's try to imagine it.**

Have kids crouch, covering their faces with their arms.

Say: **Moses wanted to see God's glorious presence. But God is so special, he couldn't even let Moses see him from the front! As you stay in your crouched position, silently tell God what you think is special, wonderful, or amazing about him.**

Allow about a minute.

Say: **God is special, and he has the ability to change us. When Moses saw God pass by, it changed him!**

### **Be Surrounded**

Say: **Before today's story, God gave Moses 10 rules, called the Ten Commandments, carved on two big pieces of stone. But Moses smashed them when he saw the Israelites breaking some of the rules. So God wanted Moses to go climb a mountain where God would meet with him and make a new set of the Ten Commandments.**

**While Moses was up on the mountain, God met with him in a new way.**

Read Exodus 34:5-6.

Ask: • **Why do you think God said his own name when he stood with Moses in the cloud?**

Say: **After God came down in the cloud, Moses threw himself on the ground and told God he was sorry for the things he'd done wrong. Take your tablecloth or bedsheet from earlier. Since Moses was wrapped in a cloud of God's presence, wrap the tablecloth around you as if you're in that cloud. Spend this time talking silently to God about what *you've* done wrong.**

If you brought a fan, turn it on to simulate wind in the cloud. Allow about a minute.

### **Glow**

Say: **God is special, and he has the ability to change us. When Moses came down from the mountain, something looked...different...about him. As you listen, see if you can discover what was different about Moses.**

Read Exodus 34:29-30.

Ask: • **What would you do if you saw someone with a glowing face?**

Read Exodus 34:31-35.

Ask: • **Why do you think being with God changed Moses' face?**

Say: **We don't know exactly what Moses' radiant, glowing face looked like, but we know it was different enough to scare the Israelites! Moses looked different just from spending time with God. That's because God is special, and he can change us! God doesn't necessarily give you a glowing face, but he changes you on the inside.**

Ask: • **In what ways might we be different after spending time with God?**

**Let's spend more time with God. This time, just spend a few moments listening to him. Try not to think about anything besides God. Just sit still and listen to what God has to say to you. God may give you a picture or even one word.**

**Before you start, I'll give you a glow stick. I'll tell you when to make your glow stick shine. After our prayer time, we'll all crack our glow sticks and put the circles around our faces to show that we've been with God.**

Distribute glow-stick necklaces, and then allow about two minutes for prayer. Afterward, ask kids to crack their glow sticks, shape them into necklaces, and put them around their faces.

Say: **God is so special that his glory is too much to understand. We might wish we could see him and feel him the way Moses did, but even Moses had limits in what he could experience about God.**

**Being with God changed Moses from the inside out. People could see how God changed Moses, because Moses' face glowed!**

**Spending time with God changes us today, too. It might not make our faces glow, but God is special, just as he was then.**

Ask: • **Tell something God has changed about you that sets you apart. Share your own example first. Maybe you used to be more selfish, but as you spent time praying about it, God helped you put others first.**

Say: **Earlier we learned that *special, holy, and set apart* all mean the same thing. God is with people who believe in him today. And his presence among us sets us apart. It makes us different. God is so special that being around him changes us. It changed Moses' face, but it also changed his heart.**

When we're friends with God, it changes our hearts. Being friends with God helps us reflect him to other people.

God is special, and he can change us. It's important to spend time getting to know him and letting him change us.





### Supplies

- paper plate

### Play a Version of Red Light, Green Light

Say: **In our Bible story today we read about when Moses spent time with God on a mountain. All that time spent close to God made Moses' face glow, and other people were afraid to get near Moses. So Moses wore a veil over his face when he was around people to keep them from being afraid.**

**I've got a fun game for us to play where I'll pretend to be Moses and you'll all be Israelites.**

- Hold up the paper plate and explain that it's your "veil."
- Kids will gather in a large circle around you, about 15 feet from you.
- When you hold the paper plate in front of your face, kids can run toward you to try to tag you before you pull the plate away to reveal your face.
- When you pull the plate away from your face, everyone must freeze in place. Anyone caught moving can be sent back to the starting place.
- Continue to move the plate in front of and away from your face until someone tags you. Keep things moving quickly to keep the game high energy.
- The person who tags you will get to become the new "Moses."
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

### Talk About It

Say: **When people saw Moses' face, they kind of froze like we did in the game. Moses' face was probably shocking, but it also showed everyone that God is special.**

Ask: • **Tell about why God is special to you.** Share an example of your own to help kids get started.

Say: **God is special. Spending time with our special God changes us in good ways, just as Moses changed when he spent time with God.**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Glow or No Glow

---

#### Supplies

- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child, plus a few extra in case any don't work)
- plastic water bottles (1 for every 5 kids)—these don't have to be empty water bottles
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).
- If you're using the same glow-stick necklaces from the Core Bible Discovery block, be sure to do Core Bible Discovery first.

#### Play Ring Toss

Say: **The Bible is full of amazing, special things God has done. In Moses' life alone, God showed his presence in a way that changed the lives of Moses and his people.**

**Let's play a game to celebrate how God can change us, too!**

- Form teams of about five, and give each team a water bottle.
- Have teams spread out a little in the room and each place their water bottle on the floor and stand in a circle around it.
- Have kids get out their glow-stick necklaces from Core Bible Discovery.
- Have kids use the necklaces to play ring toss with the lights on.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- Turn off or dim the lights.
- Have kids play another round in the dark with their glowing rings.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **Which round seemed more special? Why?**

• **What's something special you'd like to do with God?**

Say: **We don't normally play glow-in-the-dark games here, so it was special to do something different. When Moses spent time with God, it was special and made him look different. God is special, and when we spend time with him, he makes *us* different!**



### Supplies

- bedsheets or disposable tablecloths\* (1 per child, ideally)
- fan\* (optional)
- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child)

### Spend Time With God

- Let kids choose which of the prayer experiences from Core Bible Discovery they liked best.
- Kids will spend time praying as they did in their favorite experience. Here are the options:
  - Sit under a bedsheet or tablecloth, and imagine you're in the Tent of Meeting.
  - Crouch as if you're in a crevice, and cover your face with your arms.
  - Wrap a bedsheet or tablecloth around yourself like a cloud. If one is available, sit in front of a fan.
  - Hold a glow-stick necklace in front of your face.
- Kids can talk to God about why they think he's special, having a conversation as if talking to a friend.

### Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you are special and that you change us. Thank you that you showed Moses just how special you are and that you'll do the same for us. Change us as we spend time with you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



## CRAFT

### Cloud Door Hangers

[20 min]

#### Supplies

- “Cloud Door Hanger” handout, printed on white card stock (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- double-sided tape
- markers
- cotton balls

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



#### Make Cloud Door Hangers

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a “Cloud Door Hanger” handout. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these instructions to make door hangers.

- Cut out the door hanger shape.
- Write “I’m with God” in the middle of the cloud. You can also add other fun decorations in that area.
- Cover the door hanger with double-sided tape except over the words you wrote.
- Arrange cotton balls on the double-sided tape. As you arrange them, stretch the cotton balls to make your cloud look more like one big piece.
- If time allows, cover the back in cotton balls, too!

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **Where do you like to spend time praying or reading your Bible?**

• **When do you like to spend time praying or reading your Bible?**

Say: **When Moses met with God, he talked with God face to face, like talking to a friend. We can talk with God the same way! God is special, and he deserves special time with us. When we spend time with God, he changes us!**

**When Moses spent time with God in the Tent of Meeting, everyone knew he was with God because a cloud covered the entrance to the tent. You can let your family know when you’re spending special time with God by hanging the cloud you made on your door.**

Have kids take their door hangers home and use them to communicate to their families that they’re spending time with God.

