

LESSON 8: MOSES SEES GOD'S HOLINESS

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers act out the story and talk about the Bible point.

Supplies

- Bible
- dress-up clothes
- costume jewelry
- single sticky notes, folded in half (1 per child)
- pencils
- tent or bedsheets
- large white cloth
- flashlights (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- mesh (one 12-inch square for every 5 or 6 kids)

Easy Prep

- Use the tent or set up bedsheets to create a special area for God's meeting place.
- Ensure you have enough dress-up clothing and costume jewelry so each child can put on at least 1 thing, but the more the better!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers pray with a flashlight and receive an affirmation.

Supplies

- flashlight*

**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 preschoolers link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by saying “happy birthday” with an extra “happy” as many times as the child is old. If the child is turning 5, they’d say, “Happy, happy, happy, happy, happy birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out God is special! We’ll hear about how one of God’s friends, Moses, spent time with God. And when Moses came back from spending time with God, his face was glowing because God is so special!**

Share

- Share about a few things *you’ve* seen light up or glow.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about things *they’ve* seen light up or glow. They might share about their night lights, shoes that light up when they take steps, glowing stars on their bedroom ceilings, or glow sticks at a carnival.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **It’s fun to see things light up or glow! When God’s friends saw Moses’ face light up, it really surprised them. But Moses’ face was glowing just from being around our special, special God. The Bible tells us so many stories about how God is special and how God uses his special love to change us. Let’s read in the Bible about how our friendship with our special God changes us.**

Pray, thanking God for being special.



Supplies

- Bible
- dress-up clothes
- costume jewelry
- single sticky notes, folded in half (1 per child)
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- mesh (one 12-inch square for every 5 or 6 kids)

Easy Prep

- Use the tent or set up bedsheets to create a special area for God's meeting place.
- Ensure you have enough dress-up clothing and costume jewelry so each child can put on at least 1 thing, but the more the better!

Dress Up

Say: **Today we'll find out that God is special, and he can change us in amazing ways.** Show the Bible. **The Bible tells us about some people God took care of a long time ago. They were called *Israelites*, and they were God's good friends. God took care of them really well. Let's dress up so we can act out what happened with the Israelites.**

Invite the children to dress up in the clothes and costume jewelry. After kids are ready, allow them to show off their outfits to the rest of the kids.

Say: **We can be sure that God gave his friends *everything* they needed. God even had a plan to take his friends to a very special place where they could live.**

Let's pretend we're traveling to the special land. Lead children to travel for about a minute. End your travels away from the tent you prepared ahead of time. Explain to kids they're not quite at the special land yet.

Say: **Even though God took really good care of his friends, they started acting kind of ugly and disobedient. They were behaving so badly that God didn't want to be around them. Thankfully, because of Jesus, God always wants to be with us. Jesus made it so we can be best friends with God no matter what.** Lead kids in a short prayer, thanking Jesus for helping us be best friends with God.

Say: **Let's look in the Bible to see what God did next.** Look in an open Bible, and then say: **God told his special friends to take off the fancy clothes and jewelry he'd given them to show they were sad and sorry. They did what he said.** Lead children to take off their costumes and set them aside.

Enter the Tent

Say: **God's friends kept traveling, but without the fancy clothes or jewelry.** Lead kids to travel so they end up near the tent. Explain to kids that they're still not quite to the special land yet.

Say: **God's friend Moses built a special room for God on their travels. He called it the Tent of Meeting, and it was a little bit away from where God's other friends were staying.** Point to the tent. **Whenever anyone wanted to talk to God, they could go to the Tent of Meeting. Let's go there now.**

Lead the children into the tent. Say: **Moses went into the tent a lot and talked to God there. God talked to him, too. They were good friends. When Moses went into the tent each time, a cloud would cover the doorway.**

Have an adult or teen helper hold the white cloth in front of the entrance of the tent. **One day Moses asked God to go with the Israelites into the special land that God had planned for them. And God said he would go with them!**

Hide in a Crevice

Lead the children out of the tent. Say: **God said they couldn't look at his face when he was near them. God is special, and his face is so bright and beautiful that it could hurt the people to look directly at it. It might be a little like when we try to look at the sun.**

Moses hid in a crack in a big rock. Lead children to crouch and cover their heads like they're hiding in the crevice of a rock.

Say: **God said he'd put his big hand over Moses to protect Moses from God's bright, bright face.** Have adult or teen helpers gently touch each child's head as kids pretend to hide in the crevice.

Invite kids to sit up. Say: **Think about how bright the sun is and how we can't look right at it. Looking at God's face is kind of like that. God is so special!**

Climb a Mountain

Say: **Next God told Moses to get something to write on. Back then people didn't have paper, and sometimes they wrote on stone. For our journey we'll take notepads.** Give each child a sticky note folded in half. Kids will pretend these are their notepads.

Say: **God told Moses to climb up a mountain called Sinai all by himself. So early in the morning, Moses climbed up the mountain.** Lead the children to pretend to climb, reminding them to bring their notepads.

Say: **On the mountain, God came to Moses in a cloud and told Moses, "I love you and all people. I am forgiving." Moses fell to the ground and worshipped God.** Lead the children to lie on their bellies.

Say: **Moses asked God to forgive him and his friends for the wrong things they'd done. And God gave Moses some directions for all of them to follow. Moses wrote the directions on his stone. We call those directions *commandments*.** Give each child a pencil, and invite kids to pretend to write notes on their notepads. After about 20 seconds, collect all the children's notepads and set them aside.

Wear a Veil

Say: **When Moses brought the commandments back down to the rest of God's friends, his face was shining brightly! God is so special and his face shines so brightly that it made Moses' face glow, too!** Dim the lights, and let each child take a turn using a flashlight to make his or her face glow.

Ask: • **What would you do if you came to class and saw my face glowing like this—without a flashlight?** Shine a flashlight on your face.

Say: **Moses didn't know his face was glowing. It made the people afraid of him, so he put a piece of cloth over his face when he spent time with others.** Let each child take a turn placing a mesh square in front of his or her face to see what it's like to look through it.

Say: **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 be better friends. It helps us be more kind and loving. It helps us be special, too. God makes us special because *he's* so special!**



Supplies

- flashlight*

Thank God for Being Special

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **The Bible tells us that God is special. Shine the flashlight into the center of the circle. God brings light into our lives. We heard how just being with God made Moses' face light up! Let's tell God that we know he's special.**

Lead the children in a prayer, telling God that you know he's special.

Ask God to Change Us

Shine the flashlight all around the group of kids so they can see the light shining on themselves. Avoid shining it in their eyes. Say: **Since God is so special, when we're with him, he changes us. In the Bible, God didn't just change Moses' face; God also changed Moses' heart. That change helped Moses love others more like God loves them.**

Shine the flashlight all around the group of kids once more. Say: **Let's ask God to change us so we can be great friends to others.** Lead the children in a prayer, asking God to help change you and the kids.

Receive an Affirmation

Say: **God loves each one of you so much! God is super special, and he wants to be with each of you.** Shine the flashlight on each individual child, and as you do, say, "[Child's name], God loves you."

Say: **It's pretty amazing to know that such a special God wants to be with us all the time! Let's all thank God once more for being our friend.** Lead the children in saying "thank you, God" all together.

Thank kids for joining you at church, and ask them to come back next week