

## LESSON 8: MOSES SEES GOD'S HOLINESS

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 Exodus 33–34

10/13/2019

### 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



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids pray, pretend to be in a crevice, get wrapped in a tablecloth, and make their faces glow.

#### Supplies

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



### CRAFT

Kids make night lights.

#### Supplies

- translucent (not clear) plastic cups (1 per child)
- colored paper napkins or approximately 6x6-inch pieces of fabric or felt (1 per child)
- rubber bands (1 per child)
- googly eyes (2 per child)
- cotton balls (about 3 per child)
- glue sticks or Glue Dots
- red permanent marker
- flicker lights (1 for every 3 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a ring toss game.

#### Supplies

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

- music player (optional)



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids follow a shining light.

### Supplies

- flashlights (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- chairs (optional)



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids 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 kids give an elbow-five to five friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids do jumping jacks for 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'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 small groups, have kids 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 a few kids 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 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 God changes us.**

Pray, thanking God for being special.



## OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

### Dull or Bright

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#### Supplies

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

#### 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 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 kids talk 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.

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?**

Say: **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.** 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. 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.





## CRAFT

### Moses Night Light

[20 min]

#### Supplies

- translucent (not clear) plastic cups (1 per child)
- colored paper napkins or approximately 6x6-inch pieces of fabric or felt (1 per child)
- rubber bands (1 per child)
- googly eyes (2 per child)
- cotton balls (about 3 per child)
- glue sticks or Glue Dots
- red permanent marker
- flicker lights (1 for every 3 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



#### Decorate Night Lights

Say: **God is special**. Spending time with God changes us. Moses spent so much time with God that his face glowed! Show kids the sample craft. **Let's make this glowing Moses craft to remember our Bible story.**

- Give each child a cup, napkin, and rubber band.
- Have kids turn the cups over and spread glue on the bottom of the cups (this will help keep the napkins in place in the next step).
- Have each child place a napkin over his or her cup and secure it with a rubber band to create a head covering for "Moses."
- Have kids decorate their cups to look like Moses' face by adding googly eyes, gluing on cotton balls for a beard, and drawing a smile with the red marker.
- After kids finish, let them take turns placing a flicker light under the cups to see them glow.
- Turn the lights off in the room to make the glow from the flicker lights more visible.

#### Talk About It

Say: **When we spend time with God, we change because God is so special**. God changes our hearts to be more like him. He makes us loving and kind and brave. God changes our hearts and brings us joy and happiness! And that joy shows on our faces and in our smiles for everybody to see. **God is special**.

Suggest that kids can place a small flashlight under their crafts at home to make them glow.



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Glow or No Glow

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#### Supplies

- glow-stick necklaces\* (1 per child, plus a few extra in case any don't work)
- full plastic water bottles (1 for every 5 kids)
- 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!**



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

### Follow the Light

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[10 min]

### Supplies

- flashlights (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- chairs (optional)

### Tip

- To make it easier to shine the lights onto the floor from across the room, have adult or teen helpers stand on chairs.

### Run After the Light

Dim the lights. Have kids sit in leader-led small groups. Say: **In our Bible story, Moses' face shone brightly when he spent time with God. That's because God is special, and God changes us. Just being around God made Moses' face shine! Let's play a game; we'll look for something glowy and special.**

- Give each adult or teen helper a flashlight.
- Have small groups stand on one side of the room, across from an adult or teen leader on the other side of the room. Allow plenty of space between each group.
- On "go," the adult or teen helpers will each shine their flashlight onto the floor in front of their group and use the light to guide all the kids in their group toward them. Helpers can make the light zigzag, go in circles, or speed up and slow down.
- All the kids in the group will move together and follow the light toward their helper. When they arrive, the adult or teen helper will use the light to lead kids back to the other side of the room.
- Repeat as time allows. Encourage helpers to be silly and have kids running and giggling as they follow their group's light.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to follow the light?** Kids might mention that it moved fast or it did silly things.

Say: **In our game, the special light made us change where we went. God is so special, and he changes us, too. God may not change how we walk or run, but he can change our hearts and how we act and talk. We can follow God like we followed the flashlight, and he'll change us because God is 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.