

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

*The Wilderness*

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## MOSES MEETS WITH GOD

Exodus 33-34

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Three

[0285]

AIM: to use the story of Moses seeing God on Mount Sinai to teach my students that they can get to know God by faith

OBJECTS TO HAVE: Pictures to represent the five senses  
A bag containing food items to connect with some or all of the five senses  
A picture of a mountain (Mt Sinai, if possible)  
A picture of a large rock or cave  
A picture of a bride's veil  
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: God has given each of us **five senses**. Can anyone tell me what those **five senses** are? Very good! **Sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.**

In this bag I have five kinds of food. I want you to tell me what each of these food items is. First, what is this? That's right, it's an orange. You knew it was an orange as soon as you **saw** it with your eyes. Okay, now close your eyes, and listen carefully (take a bite of an apple). Can anybody tell me what kind of food this is? That's right, it's an apple. Even without seeing it, you recognized the **sound** of the bite of an apple. Okay, now keep your eyes closed. Reach out your hand and tell me what kind of food THIS is. That's right, it's a potato chip. You know that because you used your sense of **touch** to feel it. Keep your eyes closed, and take a whiff of this. What kind of food is this? That's right, it's a banana. You know it's a banana because you can **smell** it. Last of all, keep your eyes closed, and I'm going to hand you a cookie. Take a bite of that cookie, and tell me what kind it is. That's right it's a chocolate chip cookie. You knew what kind it was because you used your sense of **taste** to taste it. You just used all **five** of your **senses** to tell me what kind of food I had in this bag.

Our **five senses** are very important. Without our **five senses**, we could never live our lives. We wouldn't be able to see where we are going. We wouldn't be able to hear people talking to us, or dogs barking, or a car horn honking. We wouldn't be able to feel hot and cold, or wet and dry. We wouldn't be able to smell cookies baking in the oven, or our mom's pretty perfume. We wouldn't be able to taste popcorn, or ice cream, or a candy bar.

Our **five senses** show us what is real, what is safe, what is fun, what is dangerous, and what is scary. **Our five senses** are very important tools that God gave each of us.

But did you know that God has given every person a **sixth** sense? The sixth sense that God has given every person is just as real as your other five senses. Your sixth sense is how you know that God is real. Many people never use their sixth sense, because they don't think that their sixth sense is important. Your sixth sense is called **faith**. Faith tells you that God is God, just like your sight told you that this orange is an orange. Faith tells you that God's words are true, just like your sense of taste told you that the cookie was a chocolate chip. Every one of us has faith, but it is up to us whether we will choose to use it.

Let me tell you about someone whose faith caused him to know God better.

STORY: Last week I told you how the people of Israel built a golden calf to worship while Moses was up on the mountain getting the Ten Commandments from God. I told you how Moses was very angry when he came down from the mountain and saw the golden calf. I told you how Moses got mad and smashed the Ten Commandments on the ground, and then broke that wicked golden calf into little pieces. God judged all of the people who would not turn their hearts back to him, because they had made an agreement, a covenant with God, and now they were refusing to live by that covenant.

So what happened when this whole thing was over? God had just given Moses His laws on a tablet of stone, and now the tablet of stone was on the ground, smashed into many small pieces. What were they going to do now? Well, Moses had to go back up on the mountain, and start all over again with God.

Moses got to the top of the mountain with God, but before God began to give Moses the Ten Commandments again, Moses asked God a very important question. Moses said, “Lord, I believe you, and I will follow you no matter what. But could I ask you please to show me your glory.” Moses was asking God to let him see God’s greatness with his own eyes. Moses wanted to be strengthened, to be encouraged, he wanted God to confirm for Moses that He was pleased with him, and that he was leading God’s people properly. So Moses made this big request of God: “God please, let me see your glory.”

God’s answer to Moses gives us a great deal of understanding. God said, “Moses, I will show you my glory; but understand, you cannot see my face. No human being can see my face.” Now, why is that true? What can’t we see God’s face? That answer is, because of our sin. We have sinned against God, our human bodies are cursed by our own sin, and so because of sin, we can never see the face of God as long as we live on this earth. Some day, when we go to Heaven, we will be able to see Him, because we will have brand new bodies, with brand new eyes that have not been cursed by sin. But with these eyes, we cannot be allowed to see God.

So God said, “Moses, I cannot allow you to see my face. But I WILL allow you to see me from the back, just for a moment.”

God took Moses, and he put him behind a large rock. Then God covered Moses and the rock with His hand. When God took His hand away, He was looking at God from the back. [Turn your back to the class to demonstrate.] Why did he only let Moses see his back? Because no human being is permitted to see God’s face. Why? Because our human bodies have been cursed by our sin.

This moment changed Moses’ life. He was encouraged and strengthened to serve God with all of his heart like never before. Moses had lived 80 years, and he had believed God and trusted God and obeyed God.

Moses hadn’t asked God if he could see His glory with his eyes because Moses didn’t believe God; Moses had asked to see God’s glory so that Moses could know God better. Moses had already known God through faith; and because Moses knew and obeyed God by faith, God allowed Moses to get to know Him even better.

God has given each of us the ability to know Him by faith. It is up to us whether we choose to use our faith to get to know God. The Bible says in Romans 12:3, “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Every human being has the ability to get to know God by faith. If you do not get to know God by faith, it will not be because you weren’t ABLE to, it will be because you CHOSE not to.

How do we choose to get to know God by faith? The Bible gives us several simple ways.

1. Hear God’s Word. Romans 10:17.
2. Diligently seek God in prayer. Hebrews 11:6.
3. Obey God’s Word. James 1:22.

When you get to know God by faith, God will show you things about Himself that you’ll never know any other way, just like God revealed His glory to Moses.

Now let me tell you what happened to Moses because Moses saw God’s glory.

First, he had the strength to take another copy of God’s laws to the people. Receiving God’s laws was not an easy job. It took 40 days of listening, thinking and writing all day long. It was hard work. But Moses had the strength to do that hard work because he had seen God’s glory.

Because Moses had seen God’s glory, he had the strength to lead the people through the wilderness. It took 40 years before the people of Israel were ready to enter the Promised Land. That’s a LONG TIME! But Moses had the strength to endure those 40 years because Moses had seen God’s glory.

And let me tell you about one more thing. After Moses saw God’s glory, it changed the look of his face. Moses’ face was glowing, it was shining! But Moses didn’t realize that his face was shining until he went back down to where the people were. Moses’ face was shining so brightly that people couldn’t even look at him, it hurt their eyes, it was like looking at the sun. Moses had to put a veil over his face so that the glow wouldn’t hurt the people’s eyes, and so that they could look at him again. When you really get to know God by faith, other people will know that something is very different, just by looking at you. They will see the difference on your face!

Let’s learn our memory verse. **Micah 6:8** – *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

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## MOSES MEETS WITH GOD

Exodus 33-34

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Three

[0285]

*Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.*

- I. **FAITH IS OUR GOD-GIVEN SIXTH SENSE, AVAILABLE TO EVERY HUMAN BEING.** Romans 12:3. Just as sight is the ability to see and hearing is the ability to hear, faith is the ability to believe God. God has given every human being the ability to believe Him. Whether or not we choose to use the faith that God has given us is up to each of us. Moses was given a wonderful opportunity to see God's glory, but he had spent 80 years learning to know God by faith.
- II. **THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW GOD IS TO KNOW HIM BY FAITH.** Hebrews 11:6. Do not make the mistake of glancing at this story quickly and concluding, "Yeah see, Moses got to SEE God, no wonder he was such a great leader." No, Moses saw God's glory AFTER he had already become a great leader, and he saw God's glory AFTER he had already come to know God by faith. Every person who has ever known God has know Him by faith, that is, by believing what He says about Himself in the Bible. God requires EVERY person to approach Him and know Him by faith, there are no shortcuts for anyone.
- III. **WHEN WE GET TO KNOW GOD BY FAITH, GOD WILL SHOW US THINGS ABOUT HIMSELF.** Moses' view of God's glory was not a shortcut around faith, it was a reward for His existing faith. As you choose to take God at His Word and to live accordingly, God rewards your faith by giving you greater and clearer glimpses of His glory. But God never reveals His glory to anyone who is not already following Him by faith, and who is not hungry for His glory.
- IV. **GOD WANTS TO SHOW EVERYONE HIS GLORY ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.** Obviously, you are not going to have an experience identical to Moses' experience. For starters, you won't be on top of Mount Sinai any time soon, nor will you be receiving the Ten Commandments directly from God. But God does have ways of showing His glory to His people, and He is ready and willing to reveal Himself to you throughout the course of your life. Hunger to know God, and you will see God's glory.
- V. **THE MORE YOU GET TO KNOW GOD, THE MORE IT WILL SHOW IN YOUR COUNTENANCE.** Ecclesiastes 8:1 says that when God gives a man wisdom, you can see it on that man's face. There is a difference between your physical **looks** (a big nose, strong cheek bones, blue eyes, etc.), and your **countenance**. Your countenance tells people what is going on in your heart. It is the look that is sustained on your face because of the emotions that are overflowing from your heart. When a person has known the glory of God, it will be evident in his countenance. The world is starving to see some people who obviously know God.

# Moses Meets With God

## Exodus 33-34

[0285]

### *God Shows Moses His Glory*

#### I. EXODUS 33 MOSES SEEKS THE LORD AGAIN

1-6 The LORD tells Moses that the people have forfeited God's presence

7-11 Moses prepares a place for the people to seek the Lord

12-23 God grants Moses request to see His glory

#### II. EXODUS 34 GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT

1-4 God instructs Moses to make two new stone tablets

5-9 Moses asks God to pardon the people's sin

10-17 God makes a worship covenant with Israel

18-27 God gives details of how His people are to obey Him

28-35 Moses' face shines with God's glory

#### **Micah 6:8**

*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

# Moses Meets With God

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[0285]

Circle the letter next to the correct answer to each question from the Scripture passage and from today's Bible story.

1. The name of the mountain where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments was:  
a. Mount Everest                      b. Mount Kisco                      c. Mount Sinai
2. Moses was angry with the people because they had made what?  
a. a golden calf                      b. a silver snake                      c. a diamond fish
3. When Moses got angry, what did he smash?  
a. a bottle    b. the tablets containing the 10 Commandments    c. his cell phone
4. Where did Moses go to get another copy of the 10 Commandments?  
a. back up the mountain    b. Wal-Mart                      c. ebay
5. What request did Moses make to God?  
a. "Get me away from these people"    b. "Give me a vacation"    c. "Show me thy glory"
6. God told Moses, "No man can see WHAT and live"?  
a. "heaven"                      b. "my face"                      c. "an angel"
7. Why can no human being see the face of God and live?  
a. our eyes aren't strong enough    b. God is hiding    c. because of our sin
8. God couldn't allow Moses to see His face, but He let Moses see what?  
a. His hands                      b. His back                      c. His feet
9. Where did God have Moses stand as He passed by?  
a. behind a tree                      b. behind a large rock    c. behind some bushes
10. What was different about Moses when he came down from the mountain?  
a. His face was shining    b. His hair had changed colors    c. He had a bad sunburn

*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

**MICAH 6:8**

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*The answers to today's puzzle*

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