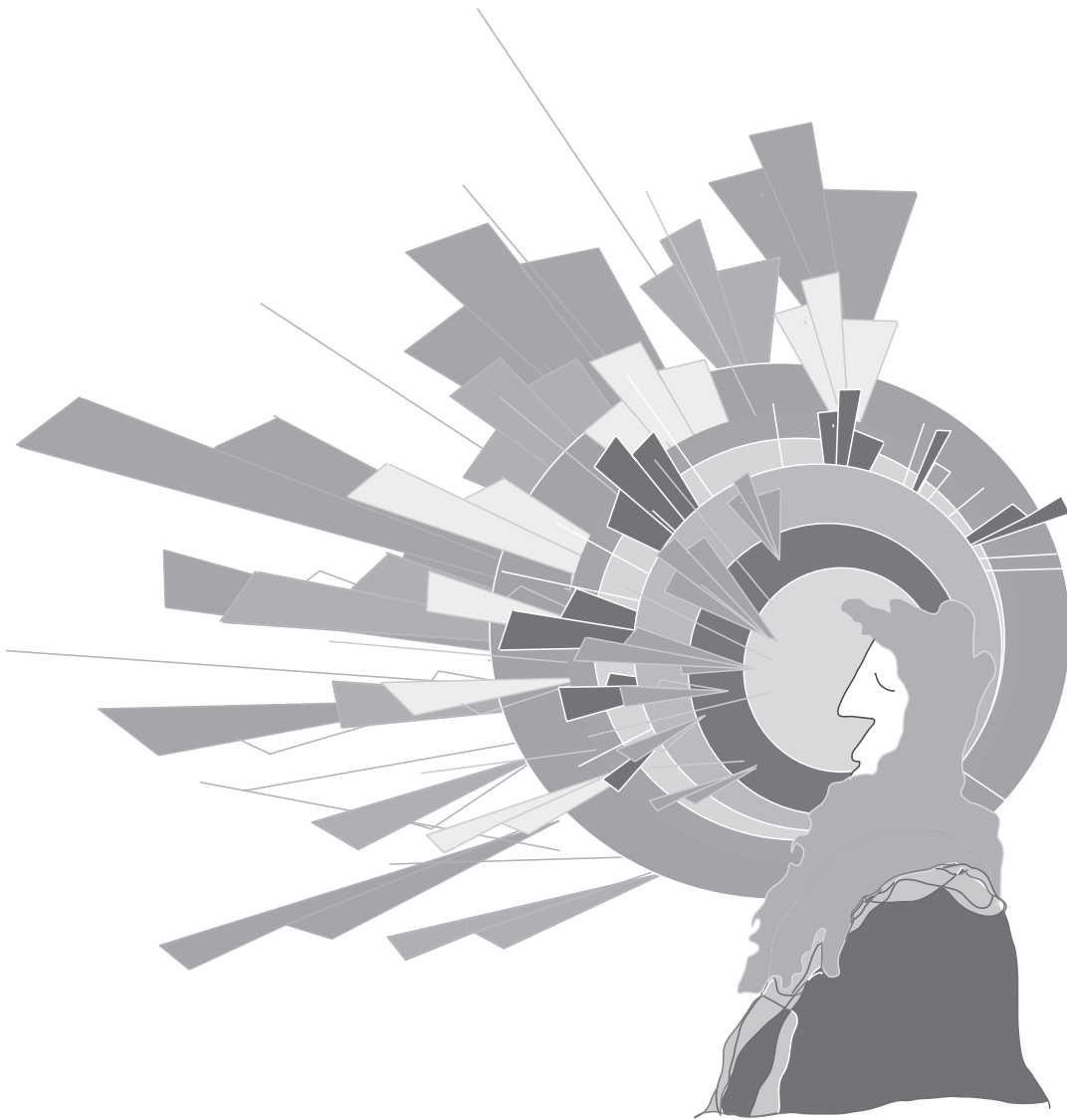


LESSON 37

God Has Mercy on Israel

EXODUS 33–34



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD FORGIVES ISRAEL'S SIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 37)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 37

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Idols of the Heart

Flannelgraph Covenants

SUPPLIES: person praying; altar with lamb sacrifice; Jesus on cross

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will hear how Moses appealed on behalf of God’s people as a mediator.

Pick an adult helper (or a mature student) as your mediator. Tell the class that this person will be the mediator for them. Have the mediator stand between you and the class. Tell the mediator to pass the instructions to the game on to the class. Tell him the game is called, “Do what the teacher says.” But you can’t do what the teacher says until the mediator brings the message to them. If a child does the move before the mediator gives them the instruction, they are out of the game.

Here is a list of the orders.

- Teacher says, “Stand on one foot.”—Mediator gives the order.
- Teacher says, “Jump up and down.”—Mediator gives the order.
- Teacher says, “Stop!”—Mediator gives the order.
- Teacher says, “March in place.”—Mediator gives the order.
- Teacher says, “March faster.”—Mediator gives the order.
- Teacher says, “Stop!”—Mediator gives the order.
- Teacher says, “Touch the ceiling.”—Mediator objects saying the children are not tall enough to reach the ceiling. So the teacher changes the order.
- Teacher says, “Clap your hands a thousand times.”—Mediator objects saying the children don’t know how to count to one thousand.
- Teacher says, “Take your seats.”—Mediator gives the order.

Tell the children that the helper was being a mediator: someone who spoke for the teacher.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 37, “God Has Mercy on Israel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What happened in this story?
(Instead of judging the Israelites, God forgave the people for their sin and did not abandon them.)
- What did God tell the people to do if they sin from now on?
(They should sacrifice an animal as an offering to God for their sin.)
- What was Moses concerned about?
(He did not want God to take his presence away from his people.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Why did God have the people sacrifice animals to take away their sin?
(God was preparing them to understand Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus would die to take away all of our sins.)
- Why did the animal have to be killed?
(The animal was taking the punishment that the sinner deserved.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Hebrews 12:18–25

This passage begins by talking about the mountain that Moses went up on to receive the Ten Commandments. It reminds us how the people had to stay far away from God. Moses was a good mediator for the Israelites, but the perfect mediator is Jesus. Now we do not need to be afraid to come to God. Our mediator, Jesus, has made peace with God for us.

The only reason God accepted Moses as a mediator was because God knew that one day the promised Savior would come and be a perfect mediator.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 37—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What does the mountain have to do with our story?
(The mountain is where God’s presence lived and where God met with Moses.)
- What did God give Moses when he met with him on the mountain?
(God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.)
- Could anyone go up to the mountain to see God?
(No, only Moses could go up to the mountain and talk to God.)

Idols of the Heart

Remind the children of the lesson on idols from the previous week. Explain to the children that idols can be anything we love or worship instead of God. Some people make idols out of gold or stone. They worship these instead of God. Other people have idols in their hearts. Idols in our hearts are things we love more than God. Children, like adults, often have things that they want more than God: a new bicycle, the newest toy, or sometimes things like a television show, a movie, or a computer game can be more important to us than God.

Read the following short stories (or come up with illustrations of your own), and then see if the children can tell you what the idol is.

- Mary’s friend asked her to come out and play. Mary wanted to go play with her friend very much. She asked her mom if she could go out and play. When her mom said no, Mary became very angry with her mother. What is Mary’s idol?
(Mary wanted to play with her friend more than she wanted to obey God, who says “honor your father and mother.” Mary chose her friend over God.)

- John loves football. He loves to watch the game on Sunday with his dad. He jumps up and shouts and raises his hands when his team scores a touchdown. When he is at church on Sunday he can't wait to get home to watch the game. When football season is over, John is sad. John does not like to worship. He doesn't think he sings very well, so he doesn't like to sing. He would rather watch football than worship God. What is John's idol?

(There is nothing wrong with sports, but John likes football more than he likes to worship the Lord. He doesn't complain about raising his hands to cheer during the game but he does complain about worshipping the Lord. Football is John's idol.)

Flannelgraph Covenants

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ flannelgraph figures: person praying; altar with lamb sacrifice; Jesus on cross

On the left half of a flannelgraph show a man kneeling in repentance and a lamb sacrificed on an altar. On the right half of the flannelgraph, illustrate Jesus on the cross and another man kneeling in repentance. Explain to the children that God used the animal sacrifices in Old Testament times to point to a day when he would send his Son, Jesus, to die to take the punishment for our sin.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 37 - GOD HAS MERCY ON ISRAEL

