

LESSON 37

God Has Mercy On Israel

EXODUS 33–34



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD FORGIVES ISRAEL'S SIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
 Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
 Read Exodus 33:12–22 from the Scriptures or read story 37, “God Has Mercy on Israel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
 You Don’t Need Much Bad to Spoil Good
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ clear pitcher
 ✓ cherry powdered drink mix
 ✓ cups for the entire class
 ✓ chocolate cookie crumbs
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
 A Face Covering
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ a face covering to fit the teacher, such as a small white towel
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
 Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ coloring page 37—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
 God Did the Writing
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ two pieces of slate or two large flat rocks to represent Moses’ stone tablets

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God says he will no longer go with Israel—The Lord has spared Israel from the destruction they deserved for making the golden calf, but he is still displeased with them. He commands that they go into the land of Canaan without his presence.

This makes the people sad and afraid. Seeing the pillar of cloud visit Moses when he goes to the tent (tabernacle) makes it worse because they know that God’s presence will soon leave them. They now realize how foolish they were to worship the golden calf. They repent of their sin and obey God’s command to take off their ornaments.

Moses appeals to God again—Again Moses appeals to God on behalf of Israel, saying, “Consider too that this nation is your people” (Exodus 33:13). Moses says that he would rather not go into Canaan at all if God will not go with them. Amazingly, in response to Moses, God extends mercy and forgiveness to Israel.

This makes Moses willing to ask God for another favor. So he says to God, “Please show me your glory.” But Moses has no understanding of what he is asking for: God’s glory is so great and pure no sinful man could live if he saw it.

God makes a covenant with Moses—Remember what happened when Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments written on stone tablets? The people were worshiping a golden calf, and Moses smashed the stone tablets in anger. Since then, the people have repented of their sin, and God is no longer angry with them.

So, in a way, God starts over again. He prepares to give Moses the Ten Commandments on a new set of stone tablets. He promises to go with the Israelites into the Promised Land. He renews his covenant with Moses and promises to do amazing things among the people. God warns Moses, however, against making a treaty with the peoples living in the Promised Land. He commands Moses to break down the pagan altars and not to worship any other god. He even reminds the Israelites one more time not to make gods of metal.

WHERE IS JESUS?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Exodus 33:12–22 from the Scriptures or read story 37, "God Has Mercy on Israel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

You Don't Need Much Bad to Spoil Good

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ clear pitcher
- ✓ cherry powdered drink mix
- ✓ cups for the entire class
- ✓ chocolate cookie crumbs

Tell the class that you are going to make them a drink. Mix up a batch of powdered drink mix and give it to half the class. Then mix up another batch and just as you are about to finish, remember the secret ingredient, dirt (chocolate cookie crumbs).

Incite the class to object, but say that you only want to put a little dirt into the mix. Ensure them that it won't taste too bad. Put in about a tablespoon of cookie crumbs. Stir up the mixture and then take a taste.

Read to the class Exodus 34:11–16, and then ask the class the following questions:

- Why did God command the Israelites not to make a covenant with the other nations?
(God knew that if Israel did not destroy the other nations they would end up worshiping the idols of other nations.)

- What did God say Israel should do with the other nation's idols?
(Israel should tear down the idols.)

Connect the text to the illustration helping the children to see that just as a little dirt would make something unfit to drink, so a little idolatry is sin against God.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

A Face Covering

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a face covering to fit the teacher, such as a small white towel

The face covering is just an item of interest to draw the children into the story.

Put on the face covering and tell the story as if you were Moses recalling the story of God's mercy toward his people. The reason Moses placed the veil over his face was because the glory would fade. He did not want the people to see the glory of the Lord fading (2 Corinthians 3:7–18).

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What do we learn about God from this passage in Exodus?
(We learn attributes of God from the passage in Exodus 34:6–7.)

- How does Moses remind you of Jesus in this story?
(Moses is the spokesman for God to man and gives the people of Israel God’s word. He also intercedes on their behalf, asking God to forgive their sin. Jesus came to introduce the Father to us, to bring his word, and to die on the cross so that we might be forgiven. Now Jesus intercedes at the right hand of the Father on our behalf.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

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

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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 who felt like it go up to the mountain to see God?
(No, only Moses could go up to the mountain and talk to God.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

God Did the Writing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two pieces of slate or two large flat rocks to represent Moses' stone tablets

Tell how God agreed to go with his people and gave Moses a new set of Ten Commandments. Then show the pieces of slate or rocks to the children and ask them how they relate to the story. They should tell you that they represent the stone tablets. Continue by asking the following questions:

- **Where did the stone tablets come from?**
(Moses cut them out of the rock on the mountain and brought them to God.)
- **How did the Ten Commandments come to be written on the stone?**
(God himself wrote on the tablets [Exodus 34:1].)
- **What commandment did God want to make sure Moses and the people remembered?**
(God told them, "You shall worship no other god" [Exodus 34:14].)
- **What other commandments can you remember?**
(See Exodus 20.)

LESSON 37 - GOD HAS MERCY ON ISRAEL

