

## GOD HAD MERCY ON ISRAEL

*God forgave Israel's sin.*



THE STORY: EXODUS 33:1-11

MONDAY

### God told Israel He would no longer go with them

God told Israel He would no longer go with them – The Lord spared Israel from the destruction they deserved for making the golden calf, but he declared He would no longer go with them. The people were very sad and obeyed God's command to take off their ornaments. Though they disobeyed God they realized their foolishness and they repented of their sin.

Moses had been meeting with God in the tent of meeting (the tabernacle) and God would speak to him there. The people could see the presence of the Lord for the pillar of cloud would descend on the entrance of the tent. Because of their sin God told them He would no longer travel with them.

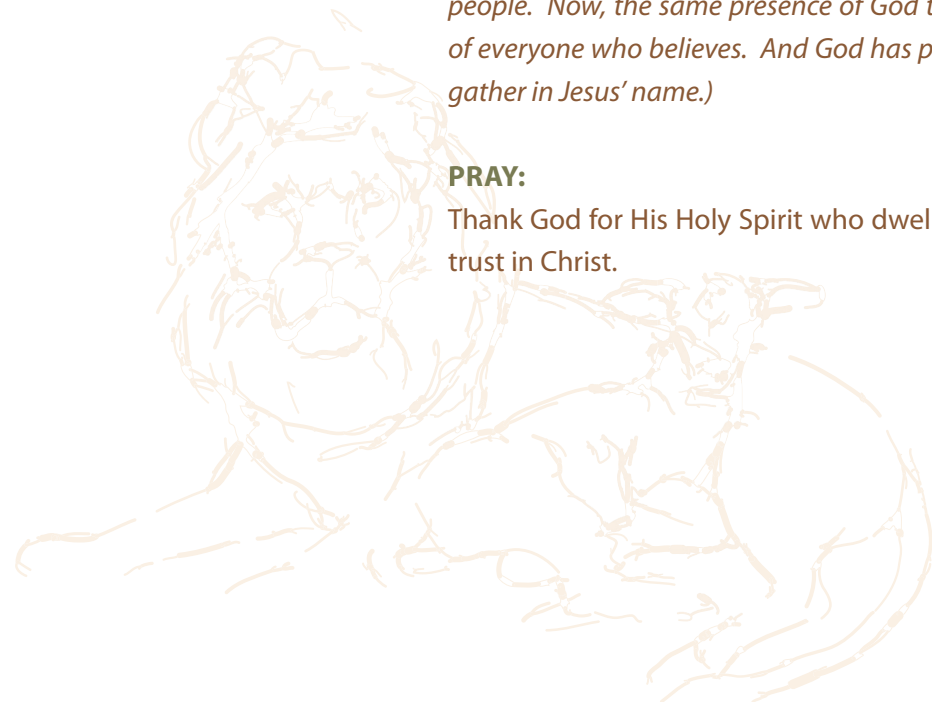
#### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why were the people so sad? *(They were going to lose the living presence of God, the one thing that distinguished them from all the other peoples of the earth. All the other nations had gods but the God of Israel was the only true God. From the time of their deliverance from Egypt, God lived among them.)*

Does God live among us today? *(Yes, Jesus is called Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus' ministry made it possible for God to live in our hearts individually and in our midst as a people. Now, the same presence of God that would meet with Moses enters the heart of everyone who believes. And God has promised to be with us whenever two or three gather in Jesus' name.)*

#### PRAY:

Thank God for His Holy Spirit who dwells among all those who put their hope and trust in Christ.





## Moses appealed to God

Moses appealed to God – Once again we read that Moses appealed to God on behalf of Israel. Moses mediated between God and the people, reminding God of His promise. Moses said that he would rather not go if God will not go with them. He suggested that it is the very presence of God which makes Israel different from every other nation. In response to Moses, God agrees. Amazingly, God extended mercy and forgiveness.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

On what basis does God agree to come with Moses? *(God said he would do what Moses asked because he found favor with Moses and He knows Moses. The only favor God could possibly have toward a sinner is made possible through the sacrifice of Christ. God looked forward to Christ and was stirred by Moses' mediation which was a shadow of the Mediator to come. Moved by Moses' appeal, God overlooked the sin of Israel.)*

Why couldn't Moses see the face of God? *(Moses was a sinner. The holy presence of God would consume [kill] any sinful man.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins so that one day we will be able to stand in the presence of God in heaven and live.



## Where is Jesus?

Moses once again mediated between God and Israel. As a result of Moses speaking on behalf of the people, God agreed to continue with them and have His presence go with them. Moses however was not sinless. As a sinner, his role was limited. He could not take away the sins of Israel; he could only stay God's judgment for a while. If it were not for Jesus, the better mediator of the New Covenant, God's eternal judgment would eventually fall upon every person who has sinned, with no way of escape.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What reason did Moses give to God to spare Israel? *(As a mediator, Moses appealed to God's claim in making this sinful people His own. How could a sinful people belong to God? This is only possible through Jesus who would pay the penalty for their sin and reconcile them to the Father.)*

Why is it more serious for us to reject our mediator? *(Moses was a mere man, a sinner like the rest. Our mediator came from heaven, lived a sinless life, and was God. If we reject Christ, there can be no forgiveness for us at all.)*

**PRAY:**

Pray for mercy to be poured out on your family that every person would be given the grace to place their trust in Christ.



THE STORY: EXODUS 34:1-16

THURSDAY

## God makes a covenant with Moses

God makes a covenant with Moses – In a dramatic reversal God not only agrees to go with Israel, but to do great wonders never before done in any nation of the world. God promises to drive out the pagan peoples before them if they obey. God warns Moses however, against making a treaty with the peoples of those nations. He commands Moses to break down the pagan altars and to not worship any other God.

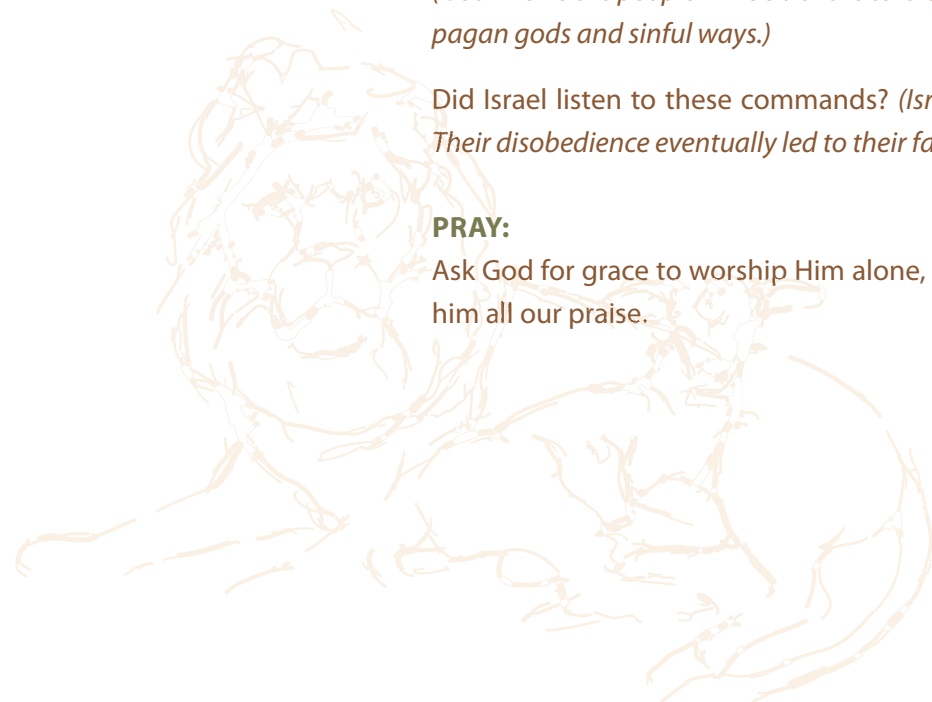
**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why did God not want Israel to make treaties with the peoples of other nations? *(God knows the people will be a snare to Israel. He knew they would be tempted by their pagan gods and sinful ways.)*

Did Israel listen to these commands? *(Israel disobeyed these commands repeatedly. Their disobedience eventually led to their fall into captivity.)*

**PRAY:**

Ask God for grace to worship Him alone, turn from the idols of our hearts and give him all our praise.





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## On the road to Emmaus.

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This passage is mentioned twice in the book of Acts as a reference to the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:25-31; Acts 13:35-36). Jesus is the Holy One who did not see decay and who was not abandoned to the grave (Psalm 16:10).

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How do these verses relate to Christ? *(These verses speak of someone God would preserve and not allow to see decay, or death. Jesus was not abandoned to the grave and He did not see decay.)* The book of Acts quotes this as a direct reference to the resurrection of Jesus. Have the children look up the passages in Acts and read them.

### PRAY:

Thank Jesus for His resurrection without which we could not be saved from death. We will one day rise again to new life because Jesus defeated death!

