

Camp Follow-Up Series

Lesson 2—Mount Sinai

OVERVIEW

Bible Passages: Exodus 33:17-34:14

Key Verses: Exodus 34:29-35

BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- Consider “mountain top” experiences you’ve had in your life.
- Consider what it means “to come down from the mountain” with Christ.
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed Sunday School.
- Be sure to contact guests who visit your class to let them know that they are always welcome.
- Pray for each student by name.

CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

The first time a student is absent, give them a call. Following the second absence, send them a postcard. The third week they are absent, pay them a visit.

Think about it: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.”

Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Getting Started

Ask those who went to camp what difference it has made to them in the past week. Have they spent time with God? Have they changed certain actions or habits? Have they shared their faith with someone else? Other? (*Take a little time for this. This lesson is actually shorter than most so that you'll have more time for this type of important "What is God doing in your life?" discussion.*)

Discussion

- *How would you describe your walk with Christ right now? (NOTE: We asked you this question last week, but has your opinion changed?)*
 - a. *"I'm closer to God today than I've ever been before."*
 - b. *"I'm growing steadily day by day."*
 - c. *"I'm on a mountaintop 'spiritual high' following camp."*
 - d. *"My walk with Christ is lacking."*
 - e. *Other?*

- *When else in your life have you had powerful experiences with God?*

- *What do you think needs to begin or continue in a person's life to continue walking with Jesus after times such as these?*

BIBLE LESSON

SAY: Today we're going to look at something that happened to Moses and how it paints of picture of a "mountaintop" experience and what needs to follow afterwards.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Exodus 33:17-23

- *Why do you think Moses wanted to see God's glory? (Moses had an incredibly close relationship with God. Earlier in Exodus 33, the Bible says, that "The Lord spoke with Moses...just as a man speaks with his friend" [33:11]. But Moses wanted to know God in a deeper, more personal way. He wanted to see more of God)*

- *Do you have a desire to know God better? Have you or how have you acted on these desires?*

- *Have you "fed" these desires? (Remember what you don't feed, eventually dies.)*

- *How can you "feed" the right desires? (Spend time with God everyday—pray and read the Bible; find someone who can disciple and teach you; find someone to keep you accountable; etc.)*

- *Why do you think some people have no desire to know God better? (People who don't know Jesus have very little desire to know Him better and Christians who are not walking with Christ don't want to know Him better because the better they know Him, the more they feel convicted for holding onto sin or complacency.)*

- *Does anything impress you about God's answer to Moses? (That God's glory is so awesome and powerful that if a man were to fully look upon Him, he physically couldn't handle it and would die.)*

SAY: Someday, though, you will stand before God and see His fullness. Both the lost and the saved will stand before His throne.

- *What do you think it will be like to stand before God someday and see Him face to face? Is there anything you would like to change about your life before that time comes?*

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Exodus 34:1-8

- *When God passed before Moses, how did He reveal His glory? (He proclaimed His covenant name and gave a description of Himself.)*
- *If you are a Christian, how does it make you feel that God's glory is connected with His name and that He has shared His name (Christ-ian) with you?*
- *What kind of responsibility comes with this name?*
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how well has your lifestyle honored His name? Has your lifestyle given others a true description of who God is?*

BIBLE LESSON Continued...

SAY: At camp and at other times in your life, you might have “caught of glimpse” of God's glory, but think about what happened in the weeks that followed. Many people come off “the mountain” and it all comes to an end, but God told Moses what needed to happen after he came down from the mountain. Listen to what He said:

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Exodus 34:10-14

SAY: God's instructions began with a promise: “I will perform wonders in the presence of all your people...All the people you live among will see the Lord's work, for what I am doing with you is awe-inspiring.”

- *How would you like it if God promised this to you? What would you be willing to give up for this promise?*

SAY: But this promise was conditional—The condition was the people's obedience. In other words, “If you obey, then this is what I will do...” This is how God ends this section of blessing and conditions: “...for I have made a covenant with you and with Israel based on these words [His commands]” (Exodus 34:27).

SAY: Listen to the things God required of Moses and people and see how they also apply to your life today:

- *“Observe what I command you...”(34:11)*
The depth of your love for Christ will always be reflected in your obedience to Him. . Jesus said, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...” (John 14:23)*. To walk in God’s blessing, you must obey His commands.
- *“Be careful not to make a treaty with the inhabitants of the land...”(34:12)*
Don’t compromise with the world. Stand and live for what you know God wants.
- *“Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, and chop down their Asherah poles...”(34:13)*
Get rid of anything in your life that could tempt you to walk away from Jesus—this includes friends, a computer in your bedroom, certain movies or CDs, etc.
- *“Never bow down to another god...”(34:14)*
Do not waver in your commitment to Christ. Keep Him number one.
- *“Do not make a treaty with the inhabitants of the land...”(34:15)*
This is a warning against unholy alliances. Be careful with whom you hang out. The crowd you run with will always rub off on you. The Bible says, *“Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals’” (1 Corinthians 15:33)*.
- *“Do not make cast images of gods for yourselves...”(34:17)*
In Exodus 32, Moses came down from the mountain and found that the people had made a golden calf and were worshipping it. Concerning your life, learn this: Don’t keep repeating the mistakes of the past. Don’t keep going back to the way you used to be or to the previous sin that once entangled you.
- *“Observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread...”(34:18)*
During the Exodus (escape from) from Egypt, the Israelites had eaten unleavened bread because of their hasty departure. Leaven is a substance that would make dough rise. In other words, there was no time to sit around and wait for the bread to rise. This tradition of making unleavened bread became a part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread where at the beginning of the Passover season (which commemorated the passing-over of the death angel on all the houses upon which the blood of a sacrificial lamb had been smeared on the doorpost), all leaven was removed from the house as a way of remembering how God had delivered their ancestors from the Egyptians. For you, remember the deliverance given to you by Christ on the cross. Keep it continually in your mind and live in such a way that you honor that sacrifice.
- *“Observe the Festival of Weeks...”(34:22)*
This feast occurred 50 days after the offering of a barley sheaf at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and is more commonly known by Christians as Pentecost. It was during this festival that the Christian believers had gathered together in the upper room after Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, when they first

experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For you, remember that you are not alone. God has given you His Spirit as a comforter, guide, and companion for strength. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit—Live in such a way as to honor that privilege and responsibility.

- *“Do not present the blood of My sacrifice with anything leavened...”(34:25)*
In Bible times leaven was usually a piece of fermented dough retained from a previous baking that was placed in the new dough to cause it to rise. Leaven is metaphorically used many times in the Bible of an influence (i.e., impurity) that can permeate and contaminates whatever it touches. In other words, for your life, don’t taint the blood of the sacrifice with anything impure.
- *“Bring the best firstfruits...”(34:26)*
Give your best to God and don’t hold back.

Timeout Illustration

SAY: Last week we said that some students want to live on the “mountaintop” but the mountaintop is not where real life happens. God wants you to be ready to come down from the mountain and to live daily with Him.

- *Do you think mountaintop experiences last forever? (What is real about a mountaintop experience is as real on the mountain as it is in the valley. Although the “emotions” may lessen, the commitments can last forever. Whether or not they do, however, depends on what you do after coming down from the mountain—Do you stay firm to your commitments? Do you spend daily time with God? Do you involve yourself in the things of God or the things of the world? Etc.)*

KEY VERSE

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Exodus 34:29-35

SAY: When Moses came down from the mountain, his face was shining because he had been with God. When you’ve been with God, people will notice a difference too, although some people may not like it or might not understand it. At first even the Israelites were afraid to go near Moses. Likewise, when a person is changed by God, sometimes when he/she returns home, other people don’t understand what has changed and is sometimes even scared or threatened by this change.

- *What does verse 34 indicate? (Moses didn’t just spend time with God on the mountain. He continued talking and walking with God when he came down from the mountain.)*
- *How have you continued walking and talking with God since you came home from camp?*
- *How do you plan to do this in the future?*

WRAP IT UP

SAY: Finally, listen to a verse that we didn't talk about. The last part of Exodus 34:20 says, "No one is to appear before Me empty-handed." The same is true in your life. Don't waste your life living for things that don't matter. Make your life count so that when you die, you won't stand before God empty-handed.

Pray today specifically that your students will continue to follow Christ, that they will brag about all the good things God has done and that their commitments at camp will remain true and real.

Prayer Time

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*