

Lesson 6: Israelites Prepare to Leave and Moses Friend

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 33 and discover that God wanted the Israelites to leave Mount Sinai
- 2) Understand God was Moses' Friend and God can be our Friend too, thanks to His Son Jesus.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Moses' Friend Break the Code Sheet – one per student
- People Prepare to Leave Color Page – one per student
- Match the Verse to the Picture Sheet – one per student

Optional:

Snack:

- Apple Slices in Round Shape with core cut 3 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child



Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Once children are seated say:

Does anyone remember what we studied last week? We studied that while Moses was with God for 40 days and nights, the Israelites decided to make a false idol – a golden calf – to worship. This made God and Moses angry. God sent a plague on those who caused the sin, and Moses broke the stone tablets God had given the Israelites with the laws inscribed on them, since the Israelites had broken the law anyway.

This week we will continue to study the Israelites.

2) God Commands the Israelites to Prepare to Leave

15-20 minutes

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 33. Ask for a volunteer to read from **Exodus 33:1-6** or read yourself. After you have finished the reading, ask:

How did God describe the land the Israelites were to go to? A land flowing with milk and honey.

What do you think that means? A metaphor meaning all good things, a rich fertile area able to sustain the Israelites and provide for all their needs thanks to God.

Why did God say He would not go with them? Because they were stiff-necked and He might destroy them on the way.

What were the Israelites to do before going? Take off all their ornaments or jewelry.

What did they use their gold jewelry for earlier? To make a golden calf to worship, so God may have wanted them not to have ornaments that would remind Him or them of what they had done and use the ornaments to do it again.

The Israelites had to rid themselves of their ornaments. What are things in our lives, we may have to give up or get rid of in order to not be tempted to disobey God? Things that turn us from worshipping God – maybe sports, friends, toys, games....anything that turns us from God to sin – we need to get out of our lives. Better to remove something out of your life, than cause major issues by rejecting God and suffering because of it.

Read **Exodus 33:7-11**

Where did Moses pitch the tent he used to meet with God? Outside the camp

What was the tent's name? Tent of Meeting

What would the people do when Moses went to the tent? Stand outside their tents and when the cloud (God) came down to the tent, the Israelites would worship God once.

What would come down when Moses went to the tent? A pillar of cloud while God spoke with Moses.

How would God and Moses speak? Face to face as friends.

Where would Joshua stay? In the tent, he would not leave it.

Would you like God to be your friend? Let students answer.

Let's go to the New Testament to see what Jesus says about friendship.

Turn to **John 15:12-14** and read it aloud.

John 15:12-14

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

Does Jesus say He will be our friends? Yes!

How? If we do what He and God command.

How did Jesus show He is our friend? He died or laid down His own life on earth for us so we might have forgiveness of sins if we obey His commands and be baptized according to the Scriptures.

How can we show friendship to God and Jesus today and every day? Let students answer, maybe – go to church, study the Bible, tell others about Jesus, talk to God and Jesus in prayer, etc.

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) Moses' Friend Break the Code Sheet

5-10 minutes

Hand out one Break the Code Sheet to each child. Read the directions aloud and help especially younger students match the coded letter to the right spot on the page to reveal the verse that is being discussed.

Answer: Exodus 33:11

When finished if time, allow the students to draw in the missing elements of the picture at the bottom, then clean up and move on to the next activity.

4) Match the Picture to the Verse Exodus 33 Activity Sheet

5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child, for younger students find the verse in the Bible and read the verses on the sheet aloud and then ask them what picture it talks about, for older students, have them look up the verse, read it and then match it to the right picture on their own.

Answers: Ornaments/Jewelry – Exodus 33: 5

Tent/Cloud – Exodus 33:9

Milk/Honey – Exodus 33:3

5) People Prepare to Leave Color Page**15 minutes**

Hand out one page to each child along with markers or pencil crayons. Allow the children to color the page, talk about how the Israelites would feel knowing that God was very angry with them and that He was not going to go with them.

Talk also about Moses and God's relationship – and discuss how the students can have a relationship with God like that today through following His commands and praying to God regularly. We won't see God face to face, but we can talk to Him anytime, anywhere, and He will listen and help us.

6) Optional – Songs**5 minutes****There's Not a Friend like the Lowly Jesus**

1. There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus:
No, not one! No, not one!
None else could heal all our souls' diseases:
No, not one! No, not one!

Chorus: Jesus knows all about our struggles;
He will guide 'til the day is done:
There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus:
No, not one! No, not one!

2. No friend like Him is so high and holy,
No, not one! No, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly,
No, not one! No, not one!
Chorus

3. There's not an hour that He is not near us,
No, not one! No, not one!
No night so dark, but His love can cheer us,
No, not one! No, not one!
Chorus

My Best Friend – Jesus

My best friend, Jesus is my best friend
Jesus is my best friend.
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My Comforter, Jesus is my Comforter.
Jesus is my Comforter.
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My best friend, Jesus is my best friend
Jesus is my best friend.
I am not alone.

My Comforter, Jesus is my Comforter
Jesus is my best Comforter.
I am not alone.

My Rock, Jesus is my Rock.
Jesus is my Rock.
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My best friend, Jesus is my best friend
Jesus is my best friend.
I am not alone, I am not alone.

My Rock, Jesus is my Rock
Jesus is my best Rock.
I am not alone.

My best friend, Jesus is my best friend
Jesus is my best friend.
I am not alone.

7) Optional – Snack: 3 Apple Slices in the shape of Rings or Ornaments 5 minutes

Hand out 3 Apple Slices to look like rings or earrings in a circle shape to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Talk about how these apple slices represent the ornaments the Israelites were to get rid of, after they had made the golden calf and disobeyed God. Talk about how we might in our lives, have to get rid of things that might make us stumble or turn from God. (Example: sports, movies, games, toys, friends, etc.)

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank God that He teaches us how to make Him happy and in turn make our lives happy as well by following Jesus and God's good commandments. We pray that we will only worship God and choose to be friends with Jesus by following His and God's commands. In Jesus precious and holy name, Amen.