



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for September 17, 2006
Released on September 13, 2006**

"The People Promised to Obey God" Exodus 19:1-6; 24:3-8

GOLDEN TEXT: - "The people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do" (Exodus 24:3)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

EXOD. 1 In the third month, when the children of Is'ra-el were gone forth out of the land of E'gypt. the same day came they into the wilderness of Si'nai.

2 For they were departed from Reph'i-dim, and were come to the desert of Si'nai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Is' ra-el camped before the mount.

3 And Mo'ses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Ja'cob. and tell the children of Is'ra-el:

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the E-gyp'tians, and now I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Is' ra-el.

24:3 And Mo'ses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments; and all the people answered with one voice, and said. All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

4 And Mo'ses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Is'ra-el.

5 And he sent young men of the children of Is'ra-el. which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord.

6 And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said. All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

8 And Mo'ses took the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said. Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

NOTES ON THE LESSON:

The book of Exodus records God's covenant given on Mount Sinai to the nation of Israel. Moses was the messenger of God's covenant (cf. Exod. 34:4, 10,27.28,32).

The covenant was God's promise to care for Israel and give them victory over their enemies (Exod. 23:20). The people promised to obey God. They said, "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do" (24:3). However, the good intentions of the people soon were forgotten.

The covenant included God's laws and guidelines for right living (Exod. 34:4, 28, 32). It promised blessings for obedience and fearful consequences for disobedience.

The Israelites were to be a unique people of God. As a nation, they sinned and broke the covenant with their God. But God made a new covenant. His law would be written on the heart, not on stone, as had been the Ten Commandments (Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:7).

God wanted a nation to teach His Word and present salvation to the world. God promised Abraham that all nations on earth would be blessed through his descendants (Gen. 18:18). People would come to the Lord through Israel. Through the nation of Israel Jesus was born.

To understand God's covenant, we must understand the Bible's view of sin and forgiveness. God is the sovereign Judge. As the holy Judge, He condemns sin. Those who sin are worthy of death.

In the Old Testament God accepted animal sacrifice as a substitute for the sinner. The shed blood of an animal showed that one life was being given for another. The death of the animal brought forgiveness in the Old Testament, an illustration looking forward to the death of Jesus Christ (cf. Heb.9:9-14).

Half of the animal's blood was sprinkled on the altar, showing that the sinner could approach God because something had died in his place. The other half of the blood was sprinkled on the people, removing the penalty. The sin was paid for, and they were reunited with God.

The sacrificial system symbolically pointed to the future sacrificial death (atonement) of Jesus.

The information above is a foundation for the teacher and should not be presented to children at this time. Follow the theme of God's promise, emphasizing obedience.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand that some of God's promises are conditioned on our obedience.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. The children must understand the importance of obeying God.
2. The Bible tells us how to live.
3. We must decide to obey God in daily life.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For **Telling the Lesson**, print "Moses" at the top of a sheet of paper. Under it print "Exodus." "Leviticus," "Numbers." and "Deuteronomy." Write these words on the chalkboard before class: "Covenant—Promise." Under these words write "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do" (Exod. 24:3). Also provide Bibles for each child.

For **Helping to Remember**, bring paper and crayons. You need to know the song "The B-I-B-L-E."

For **Beginning the Lesson**, Gather the children around the chalkboard. Write the names Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph using the time line in your Bible as your cross reference. Also show the time Jesus lived, and then end time line at their approximate time of birth (e.g. 2000/you!). Read the names together.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

God made promises to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. (Point to the names as you say them.) These people are in the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. There were many other people living during this time, but these names appear often in the Bible.

Can you guess the name of the next person to whom God made a promise? (Allow time for guessing, but do not reveal the name.)

TELLING THE LESSON:

(Gather the children around a table. Make sure everyone has a Bible.)

Let us find out who guessed the right name. It can be found in the book of Exodus. Genesis is the first book of the Bible; Exodus is the second book. (Help children find Exodus.) This person's name is in chapter 19. (Let them find Moses name in verse 3). Who guessed this name? (Acknowledge).

Spell the name "Moses" together.

READ TO CHILDREN (as you point out specific verses in their Bibles):

God called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. He promised them a country of their own.

The people walked for many days. Finally they came to a high mountain. (Look up.) It was called Mount Sinai. They set up their tents around the mountain.

God told Moses to go up the mountain. God talked to Moses on the top of the mountain.

God said He had a covenant to make with the "house of Jacob" and the "children of Israel" (vs. 3). God called them the "house of Jacob" because they were related to Jacob. He also called them "children of Israel." that is. The people of Israel. They were called Israelites because they were descendants of Jacob, who had his name changed to "Israel."

God made a promise to the people. He promised to bless them if they obeyed Him. This promise is called a covenant. Find the word "covenant" in verse 5. (Help the children find the verse; then read it together.) God promised that they would be a treasure to Him. They would be very special to Him. God made these promises because He loved them.

God reminded the Israelites how He had made a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. This way God protected them from the Egyptians. The soldiers could not see them, and they could not go through the fire.

God wanted the Israelites to be His messengers in the world. They were to tell others about Him. They were to be different from other people. They were to obey Him.

God reminded them that He cared for them the way an eagle cares for its babies. He took them through danger.

Moses went down the mountain He told the people God's covenant. (Point to the verse on the chalkboard.) All the people said. "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do" (Exod. 24:3). (Repeat the words together.) Find these words in the Bible. (Read the words in the last part of the verse together.)

Moses was the messenger between God and Israel. Moses came down from the mountain. He told the people what the Lord had told him. Moses explained that the covenant was a promise between God and His people. God would keep His promise; He expected the people to obey Him. (Point to the verse on the chalkboard and recite it together.)

Moses wrote down what the Lord said and read the words to the people. The people said (point to the verse and repeat it together).

Moses made an altar. An animal was killed as a sacrifice. This was to show the importance of the covenant. This was included in the rules God gave. The sacrifice was made on an altar so that God could bless them. Moses also set up twelve stones, one for each of the twelve tribes of the people of Israel.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

What does God's promise to Israel mean to us today? (Allow time for answers.)

Moses wrote God's words so that we can read them today. God wants us to read His Word and say (point to and recite the verse).

Does everyone in your family read the Bible? Do you have a regular, set aside time for family Bible reading? (Discuss.)

God wants us to read His Word He wants us to obey it. Obedience is very important in the believer's life. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Why is it important to learn what is in the Bible? (Allow time for answers.) In the Bible we learn what God wants us to do. Our obedience shows our love for Jesus. It is like saying, "Thank You, God, for Your promises."

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT: - "The people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do" (Exodus 24:3).

Moses told the people what God said. God promised to help them. He promised to take care of them.

Moses was very careful to make the people understand. The covenant had two sides. God made a promise, and the people made a promise. God would keep His promise.

The people promised to obey God. If they did not obey, God had declared certain things would happen.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Moses read God's words to the people. He wrote them so that everyone could see them. God's words that Moses wrote are in our Bible.

God's Word, the Bible, tells us about God's promises. The Bible is a special book. We can read God's words. We can read what God will do for us. We can read what God wants us to do for Him. (Sing "The B-I-B-L-E" while distributing paper and crayons.)

Have the children draw a big, open book in the center of their paper. Write "God's Promises" on the chalkboard for the children to write across their book. They can then decorate the edges of the paper.

Lesson Activity:

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting." EXODUS 33:7

TRUE OR FALSE

2. "And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses." EXODUS 33:9

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

3. "All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and (**CRIED, WORSHIPED**), each man in his tent door." EXODUS 33:10

4. "So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his (**FRIEND, ENEMY**)." EXODUS 33:11

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

5. Moses asked of the LORD, "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found _____ in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find _____ in Your sight." EXODUS 33:13

TRUE OR FALSE:

6. "And He said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' " EXODUS 33:14

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

7. "The LORD said to Moses, 'Cut two tablets of (**WOOD, STONE**) like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.' " EXODUS 34:1

8. So Moses "was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And (**HE, MOSES**) wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments." EXODUS 34:28

TRUE OR FALSE:

9. Now "when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him." EXODUS 34:30

TRUE OR FALSE

10. Afterward all the children of Israel came near, but Moses would not give them as commandments all that the ORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. EXODUS 34:32

TRUE OR FALSE

The People Promised to Obey God

P U L N P C L O U D A V N P K
I S W O X O G N M W T F V O Q
H A J H P T T R L O O V O L M
S E C A F S K B A L S F H D L
R M F P X E Z I K C U H O L T
O L H T T R G U V B E T N P G
W W Y Y Q D U K M C Q U M V V
C E I K N V W O B T B A B K G
S G O E V C S E R V N O Y K R
W P I S C E E C Z X G E T S S
S R P T S O F I W Y Z U T P S
F C J O H K X O W I C Z T M W
R E Y N K L Z J U Q M Z Y C K
L X I E P M I Z K Z E O S L X
G A L Q K V L P S I Z C A F Y

CLOUD
GRACE
STONE

FACE
MOSES
TENT

FRIEND
REST
WORSHIP

The People Promised to Obey God Solution

P + + + + C L O U D + + + + +
I + + + + + G + + + + + + + + +
H + + + + T + R + + + + + + + +
S E C A F S + + A + + + + + + +
R + + + + E + + + C + + + + + +
O + + + + R + + + + E + + + + +
W + + + + D + + M + + + + + + +
+ + + + N + + O + T + + + + + +
+ + + E + + S + + + N + + + + +
+ + I S + E + + + + + E + + + +
+ R + T S + + + + + + + T + + +
F + + O + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + N + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + E + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

CLOUD (6, 1, E)

FACE (5, 4, W)

FRIEND (1, 12, NE)

GRACE (7, 2, SE)

MOSES (9, 7, SW)

REST (6, 6, N)

STONE (4, 10, S)

TENT (13, 11, NW)

WORSHIP (1, 7, N)

Lesson Summarized by

Rev. Michael D'Andria mike@jesusisall.com