



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for September 26, 2010
Released on Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

"God's Great Promise"

Lesson Text: Exodus 34:1, 4-10

Background Scripture: Exodus 34:1-10

Memory Verse: "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6).

Exodus 34:1-10

1 And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount.

3 And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

4 And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.

5 And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.

6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful

and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

10 And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Last week's lesson focused on God's hatred of idolatry. This week's lesson focuses on His immense forgiveness, His mercy, and His loving-kindness.

The events of this lesson immediately followed God's confrontation of the people's sin. It was the same God speaking and acting both times. The accounts of these two events focus on different aspects of His character. Both are needed to truly understand who God is. We cannot fully understand or appreciate one aspect without the other.

Common to all our lessons so far this quarter is a repeated emphasis on God's name. By revealing different parts of His name to His people at different times, God was gradually opening up to them a fuller understanding of His unfathomable character.

God hates sin, and He must confront sin. It is a grievous offense to Him. Yet He is loving and kind, desiring to forgive our sins and show us mercy. This is the combined message of these lessons, and together they give us a very good view of who God is.

Some people have the mistaken idea that the God of the Old Testament was angry and vengeful, the God of the New Testament loving and forgiving. This week's lesson shows clearly that God was both angry because of sin and merciful and ready to forgive from the beginning.

He is the same God in the Old Testament and in the New! We understand Him best by appreciating both aspects of His character.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God is merciful and forgiving.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God forgave the people of Israel for their great sin of idolatry.
2. God is merciful and loving in His very nature.
3. God yearns to forgive our sins.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, make a sign that says "God wants to forgive us."

For Helping to Remember, bring construction paper, safety scissors (blunt tip), and markers for each student. Have on hand glue and scraps of different kinds to use as decorations.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Benny's father had punished him for something he had done wrong. Benny knew he had displeased his father. He knew he had done wrong. He was feeling very sorry for what he had done, but he was afraid to talk to Dad about it. Benny was sure that he was very angry. He felt ashamed of what he had done. He did not want to ever do it again.

Still, he was afraid. He was afraid that if he talked to his father about it, he might get angry again.

Benny's mother urged him to tell his father he was sorry. Finally, he agreed. It was the hardest thing he had ever done. When Benny was finished, he stood there shaking. Would Dad be even angrier now?

Dad reached out to him and pulled him tightly to himself. He gave Benny a big hug. "I love you, son," he said. "You are sorry for what you have done, and you have confessed that it was wrong. So I forgive you for everything."

Benny was so relieved! Dad forgave him. He was so glad! The terrible burden of his wrongdoing had felt like a big weight pressing him down. Now it was gone! His father had forgiven him. He was happy once again.

TELLING THE LESSON

When Moses came down from the mountain, he saw the people worshiping the idol. He knew what they had done was against the very first of God's rules. He knew they were

in big trouble. He was so upset that he broke the tablets of God's rules—tablets that were made of stone!

Moses had been upset, and God had been angry too. It was a very wicked thing the people had done. They deserved to be punished. They deserved to no longer be God's people.

All that was true, but Moses had prayed for the people, and God had forgiven their terrible sin. But what about the tablets of rules that had been broken? Without them, the people would not have God's law written down. If they were not written down, it would be too easy for the people to forget them.

Moses went back up the mountain to talk to God again. Had God really forgiven them? Yes! God told Moses to cut two new tablets out of stone. God said He would write His rules on the new tablets. Then the people would have His rules written down once again. This was a sign that God had forgiven them and was giving them a second chance.

Moses did what God said. He cut new tablets of stone. Early in the morning, he went up the mountain again.

God came down in a cloud. He reminded Moses of His name. He reminded Moses what He is really like. He reminded Moses that He was "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" (Exod. 34:6,7).

God reminded Moses that He could not just overlook sin. He had to punish sin. Sin hurts those who do it and even their children and grandchildren. But God is kind and loving and merciful in His very nature. (Teacher, show the sign. If your students can read, ask them to read it. Let some of them try to explain what it means. Forgiveness means He does not stay angry with us. He cleans us up and welcomes us back into His arms.)

When Moses heard this, he bowed his head and worshiped God. He was so glad that God was merciful! Moses asked that since God was merciful, He show mercy to them. He asked that God go with them on their journey and that He not destroy them. He asked God to take them for His own people.

God agreed to do this. It was an amazing thing that God would still forgive them and take them as His people after they had broken His rules so badly. Surely God is kind and loving! He treats us so much better than we deserve! (Let the children read the sign once again: "God wants to forgive us.")

Jesus Himself once said to the city of Jerusalem, "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37). This shows us that God's longing to forgive has not changed with the coming of the New Testament. God still longs to forgive sinners.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

When we sin, God is angry, and God is sad. But He always wants to forgive us. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to suffer the punishment for our sins. Because Jesus came and died and rose again, we can be saved. Jesus already paid the penalty for all our sins. He took all our punishment and made it possible for God to forgive us.

Are you sorry for your sin? Have you asked Jesus to save you and make you God's child? If you have not done that yet but you are ready today to say yes to Jesus, I would love to pray with you during the handwork time. Just whisper to me and let me know.

Even after you have received Jesus as your Saviour, you will still sin sometimes. When you sin, God is waiting for you to be sorry and to change your mind about your sin. Instead of thinking your sin is OK, God wants you to see that sin is as bad as He sees it.

When you know you have done wrong, remember that God is always ready to forgive you. You just need to truly be sorry and to tell God that you are. Is there something you

would like to tell God you are sorry for right now? (Teacher, allow a brief time of prayer in whatever manner suits your class best.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Let the children copy your sign, "God wants to forgive us," and decorate their papers by coloring or arranging and gluing decorative scraps to the paper. Let them tell one another what it means that God wants to forgive us, practicing so that they can use the paper to tell their families and friends about today's lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6).

This verse tells us what our great God is like. He is the Lord. He is the Ruler who is in control of all things. He is God. He is the Creator who has lived forever, who made everything, and who is worthy to be worshiped, obeyed, and loved.

He is "merciful," or full of mercy. He treats us better than we deserve because of our sins. His heart longs to forgive us.

He is "gracious," or full of grace. He gives us forgiveness that we do not deserve. He is "longsuffering." He does not easily get angry with us because of our many sins.

He is "abundant in goodness and truth." He has lots of goodness and lots of truth. He is good to us and always deals truly with us.

God acts kindly and mercifully because that is what He is really like. We deserve punishment because we have chosen ways that do not please God. Yet because God's heart is kind and merciful, He does not want to punish us. He wants to forgive us, and He does forgive us when we trust in His Son. Have you trusted in Jesus? God wants to forgive your sins too.

CONCLUSION

Guide the children to think in terms of how important it is to have God's Word and obey it.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for your mercy, grace, and patience. We pray that we see You no less a light and worship You all the more for it, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "God's Is Majestic." The Creator of the universe is so great and gracious that we wonder why He would care about us. Study Psalm 8:1-9.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"God's Great Promise" (Exodus 34:1, 4-10)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

ABUNDANT
GENERATION
GUILTY
MARVELS
PRAY
SINAI
TERRIBLE

COVENANT
GOODNESS
LONGSUFFERING
MERCIFUL
PROCLAIMED
STONE
TRUTH

FORGIVING
GRACIOUS
LORD
MOSES
SIN
TABLES
WRITE

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

21 words were placed into the puzzle.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

"God's Great Promise" (Exodus 34:1, 4-10)

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

(Over, Down, Direction)

ABUNDANT (9, 2, W)
COVENANT (14, 8, N)
FORGIVING (3, 6, SE)
GENERATION (6, 9, E)
GOODNESS (15, 10, NW)
GRACIOUS (11, 1, SW)
GUILTY (1, 1, S)
LONGSUFFERING (3, 13, N)
LORD (2, 12, E)
MARVELS (8, 10, E)
MERCIFUL (1, 7, S)
MOSES (8, 10, SW)
PRAY (4, 9, SE)
PROCLAIMED (4, 10, NE)
SIN (13, 12, S)
SINAI (14, 10, NW)
STONE (2, 8, N)
TABLES (10, 1, SE)
TERRIBLE (6, 10, NE)
TRUTH (9, 15, NE)
WRITE (9, 14, W)