

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Last Sunday after Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18

The Book of Exodus – The second book in the Bible continues the story of when the Israelites escaped from Egypt. The Exodus begins with God calling Moses to lead them out of slavery, made a covenant with them and gave them the Commandments. Moses later leads them back to the Promised Land.

A Notation for this Week’s Scripture

In the story of Moses coming to God and receiving the Ten Commandments, we are brought right back to the issue of how we live our lives in Grace with God. There are guidelines that help us identify the boundaries that give us the ability to have a unique relationship not only with God *but* with each other. Here we are witness to the mystery of God speaking to Moses and the promise of an ancient tradition of laws and prophets helping us to feel secure about the fact that God will always be with us showing us the way. The blessing is always that Light which is given to each of us to follow always leading us to the Creator.

Theme: Following God

Before: You will need cotton balls, construction paper, and art supplies for the Activity time.

Beginning: Open your time together with singing. Choose one to use each session of this unit. It could give structure to sing the same song before the story as a cue to the children it is circle time. Suggested songs:

- This Little Light of Mine
- He’s Got The Whole World in His Hands
- The Hymnal 1982, #490 - I want to walk as child of the light
- Wonder Love and Praise, #787 – We are marching in the light of God

Opening Prayer: Loving God, may we hear your words today as though we were hearing them for the first time. Help us to know you more by exploring your words and story. Amen.

The Story

Moses came before the prophets. He loved God and wanted the people to be close to God. God wanted the people to have the best life they could have so the Lord gave Moses the Ten Commandments, ten rules to live a good life in harmony with God and others.

Today we are going to hear about just before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Hear the words from scripture: (Exodus 24:12-13, 16-18) “The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God... Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the

seventh day he called Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.”

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Questions:

- When Moses went up the mountain, he waited for God. What do you think he was expecting? What was he thinking about while he was waiting for God? What is it like to wait for something special to happen? (Keep them focused on the concept of waiting.)
- The glory of the LORD is described as cloud and fire. How are they alike? (They both provide protection.) How are they different? (Keep the children focused on God’s attributes.)
- Moses stayed on the mountain for 40 days and nights. That is a long time. What do you think he was doing up there? If he was talking with God, what do you think they were discussing? (May want to prompt them on what God expected of the Israelites: taking care of poor, feeding the hungry, treating each other with kindness and mercy, etc.)
- We talked about Moses a few weeks ago and how God gave Moses rules or guidelines called the Commandments. These are to help us make good choices. What kind of rules help us live a more wholesome life? Do you remember any of them? (Don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t take what isn’t yours, don’t kill, keep Sunday holy, be holy because God is holy, etc.)

Activities

Collage of Clouds and Fire

Have strips of white and red paper, scissors and glue sticks. Children are capable of cutting strips into smaller squares. The youngest may need direction with scissors. Background construction paper can be brown or green for represent the mountain. Have children glue squares on background and make a collage. Discussion can be related to Moses and God together on the mountain.

Finding God

In our story today, we hear that Moses encountered God while he was on a mountain and a cloud came all around him. Today we are going to “find God” by finding bits of cloud hidden. Play hide and seek with a cotton ball. “It” hides the cotton ball. Whoever finds it gets to hide it next.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they created.

Closing Prayer: God of Love, we thank you for sharing your rules with us so that we can better live in community and better serve you each day. Amen.

Bibliography:

*Doubleday Pocket Bible Guide, Revised Edition, by Linda L. Grenz, 1989, p.32.

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