

Elementary Small Groups | January 16, 2022

Hesed: Exodus 34 – New Tablets are made, and the Covenant is renewed.

Bible Passage: Exodus 34

WELCOME

Greet each kids as they arrive. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

Big Idea/Large Group Teaching

Read Exodus 34

After the initial receiving of the 10 Commandments, Moses saw how quickly the Israelites returned to idol worship. Moses in anger threw down the tablets and destroyed them. You will see this as a repetitive theme throughout Moses' life; God shows love and mercy, commands are given, people respond, people forget and disobey, judgement happens, people repent, God offers mercy. The theme here is that God is constant when we are not! The idea of a covenant is that it is one sided, God holds up his end of the deal regardless of if we do or not. This shows we cannot change or control God. We can't manipulate Him or make Him love us more or any less.

From this passage we can also learn that being with God will change us! In Moses' case it was both inside and out! The people could see the physical response of him being in the presence of the living God! In large group teaching, one can also touch on Jesus's teaching in Matthew 5 – a city on a hill cannot be hidden, and light is not lit then put under a basket! If we put ourselves in the proximity of Jesus on a regular basis, He will change us!

Small Group Discussion

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1. How does God describe himself? God tells us the very best things about himself and how he shows us love.

- compassionate and gracious
- slow to become angry
- overflowing with lovingkindness
- truth
- forgiveness
- justice

Illustration ideas:

- **If you were to describe yourself to someone else, what would you say about yourself? You would tell them about the very best things about you!**
- **Do you know what a job interview is? What do you want to be when you grow up? If you were to get to interview for your dream job, what would you tell them about you?**

2. How does Moses respond to God? After God tells Moses about his love, Moses worships Him.

3. Remember after the Israelites left Egypt, they began to worship a golden calf (a false god) and that made God very angry--because He loved them so much. God told Moses He would not go with them. What does Moses ask God to do?

4. God cannot be around evil and sin, and that creates separation between us. But God covenants with the Israelites and creates a way to be with them. What is a covenant?

5. God tells the Israelites not to make any covenants with the people or gods in the land and to only have a covenant with Him. Why? So, He could be with them.

6. What would Israel get in return for honoring the covenant? To be with God and they would receive the land.

7. What happened to Moses' face after he spent time with God?

8. How do you reflect God to others? What is one thing you can do this week to reflect God to others?

**Take prayer requests if time allows. End in prayer.*