

LESSON 41

Moses Disobeys God

NUMBERS 20:2-13



BIBLE TRUTH

OUR ANGER AGAINST OTHERS IS ALSO A SIN AGAINST GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Copy paper (three sheets)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 41)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 41

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Trusting Even When Your Eyes Are Closed

SUPPLIES: a variety of things that feel strange to the touch, e.g., a rubber alligator or other rubber animals, a furry stuffed toy animal or actual animal skin, a pinecone, a spiky shell, etc.; a bag large enough to hold all the items

The Sponge Illustration

SUPPLIES: large carwash-size sponge; bucket of water

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how even Moses disobeyed God and was a sinner. Just like us, Moses needed a Savior.

Prior to class take three sheets of paper and do the following:

- Sheet 1: Crumple this page into a tight ball and then open it five times. Then make two one-inch tears in the page and crumple it into a tight ball and open it five more times. Finally unfold it and mostly, but not completely, flatten it back out.
- Sheet 2: Start to crumple this page once about halfway, and then try your best to flatten it out again.
- Sheet 3: Make sure that this page is perfect without any wrinkles.

In class, show the children the crumpled, torn piece of paper. Ask them to describe it.

Next, show them the slightly crumpled paper. Ask them to describe it. Compared to the first page the second one should look pretty good, but if you were going to write a letter, you would not use it unless it was the last sheet of paper. Tell the children that the wrinkles in the paper are like their sins. Some people sin a little and some people sin a lot. Whatever the case, no one is perfect.

Finally take out the perfect sheet of paper. Ask them to describe it.

Tell the class how Jesus is like the perfect sheet of paper. He never sinned. Share how Jesus who had no sin died on the cross and took the punishment we deserved for the sins we committed.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 41, “Moses Disobeys God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- How did Moses disobey God?
(Moses disobeyed God by striking the rock twice with the staff instead of speaking to it.)
- What was the consequence for Moses' disobedience?
(God would not allow Moses to go into the Promised Land.)
- How did God show his mercy?
(God miraculously provided water from a rock. God did not allow Moses' disobedience to stand in the way of God giving the needed water to Israel.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What are you tempted to complain about today?
(Accept answers such as: the weather, wearing certain clothes to church, being hungry, having to work when tired, etc.)
- What do you sound like when you ask for food or drink with a complaining, whining heart?
(Allow someone to demonstrate.)
- How could the Israelites have asked for a drink without complaining?
(Allow someone to demonstrate.)
- What words do we use and in what tone of voice do we speak when we ask without complaining?
(We use "please" and "thank you" and speak in an even tone of voice.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Hebrews 4:15

Instead of speaking to the rock to draw forth the water, Moses strikes the rock in his anger. Here we see the fallibility of Israel's redeemer. Up until this point Moses did what God told him to do. But Moses was a fallen mediator, unable to stand sinless in the gap for the people. Jesus is the perfect mediator.

Unlike Moses, the imperfect mediator, Jesus, though he was tempted like us, did not sin. He intercedes for us yet today. His blood covers all our sins and he continually stands before God the Father testifying to our redemption.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 41—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How did God make water come out of a rock?
(We don't know how God did it. It was a miracle.)
- Can you think of some of God's other amazing miracles?
(Accept any legitimate answer: Moses parting the Red Sea, Joshua parting the Jordan, making Balaam's donkey talk, Jesus or Peter walking on water, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, etc.)
- Why did Moses disobey God's command?
(He became angry when the people did not obey. Moses then took things into his own hands.)

Trusting Even When Your Eyes Are Closed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a variety of things that feel strange to the touch, e.g., a rubber alligator or other rubber animals, a furry stuffed toy animal or actual animal skin, a pinecone, a spiky shell, etc.
- ✓ a bag large enough to hold all the items

First, explain to the class that trust means acting on someone else's words even when you are not sure about what they are saying. Ask the class to trust you.

Tell the class that you have some strange and wonderful things in your bag. Tell them they won't get hurt but they need faith and trust in your words to reach into the bag or box and discover these surprises.

Have a volunteer reach in and touch one thing. Before bringing it out of the container, have the volunteer handle it and describe what it is they are touching. Ask the class to guess what it is. Ask them if anyone is afraid based on what they are hearing described.

Explain again that trust means acting on someone else's words even when you aren't sure. This is particularly true when it is God's Word or our parents' words.

The Sponge Illustration

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large carwash-size sponge
- ✓ bucket of water

Explain to the children that the water in the bucket represents those things that we want when we come to Sunday school, e.g., a snack, coloring time, a video, no clean-up, time with friends.

For each item you list, dip the sponge into the bucket and have it fill up with a little more water. When the sponge is full, explain that the sponge, like our heart, is full of desires (water) and expectations and demands. So our hearts are full of "what I want to do at Sunday school today." Each of us, including the teachers, arrived at church today with hearts full of things we want to do, things we want to have happen or feel and enjoy. Our hearts, like the sponge, are full.

Announce that as the teacher you have decided that today you will do the following:

- No snack time for children; only the teachers will get a snack
- No coloring time; instead, we will practice writing our ABCs
- No talking to friends; instead we will be silent for the entire class
- No singing; instead, we will stand and listen to a teacher sing songs
- You make up a few ...

With each example you give, squeeze the sponge a little: water should pour out. The children should be saying: “no,” or “not that,” or “boo-hiss.” In other words, simulate a complaining attitude.

Ask the following questions:

- **What is happening to this heart/sponge with each disappointing announcement?**
(My heart is complaining—water is being squeezed out.)
- **Why?**
(because I am not getting what I want)
- **What am I really saying about my teachers and God when I complain?**
(You're not nice. You're not fair. I don't like you because you won't do what I want.)
- **What should be our response when we don't get what we want?**
(We should pray and be thankful. Read Philippians 4:6–7 and/or Hebrews 12:28.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 41 - MOSES DISOBEYS GOD

