

PARENTS: *Thank you for checking out this lesson! It's adapted from the regular lesson your preschooler, kindergartener, 1st or 2nd grader would be getting in their New Hope Kids class, and I hope you enjoy the activities with your child. The Bible Point of "God Wants Us to Know Him" is such an important component of our faith, and how we view God! He literally draws us closer to Him... in the activity below, you can use a magnet to illustrate this point with your child. (Kids love magnets!!) I encourage you to spend time in getting to know God a little better this week, and to lead your children in doing the same.*

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns, or if there is any way in which I can support you.

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Bold text is spoken text.

Bible Point

God wants us to know him.

Bible Verse

"Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

You'll

- discover God wants to get to know you,
- discover how God made himself known to Moses, and
- discover ways to know and serve other family members.

Adult Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God speaks to Moses.

God spoke to Moses and promised him that Israel would be his treasured possession, his holy people—if they would obey him. After Moses told the people what God had said, they responded gratefully: "We will do everything the Lord has commanded." God responded by telling Moses that he would come down himself and speak with the Israelites from a cloud.

Why was God so concerned about people coming up the mountain to "see" him? Because he wanted them to realize the extent of his holiness and of their unrighteousness. Only Moses and Aaron were allowed to approach God, and then only as the people's representatives, not on the basis of their own holiness.

The law God gave spelled out how the Israelites were to honor him through their obedience. The Ten Commandments contained the essence of that law. The first four commandments, having to do with our relationship with God, spell out the position of priority and honor that he is to hold in our lives. The last six, dealing with our relationships with others (Exodus 20:12-17), give us lots of guidance on how to respect others.

Game

■ What Do You Do?

SUPPLIES: index cards or paper, pen

Write easily identifiable job titles on index cards or paper. Make enough cards for every family member to have a different one. For example, you could write these job titles on six different cards: firefighter, police officer, bus driver, nurse, teacher, and cook. (Be sure not to indicate gender on the cards; for example, use “firefighter” rather than “fireman.”) (Children’s Ministry Directors: Since you can’t distribute the cards, just cue one person at a time to look at the screen while everyone else looks away, and then hold up the card for them to read.)

Take turns drawing a card and acting out the job on the card—without speaking.

When everyone has had a turn, ask:

- Was it easy to guess who everyone was pretending to be? Why or why not?
- Do you think you get to know people best by watching what they do or listening to what they say? Why?
- How do you feel when someone wants to get to know you?

Say: **It can be fun getting to know people and making friends. And there’s someone who wants you to know him so you can be best friends. That’s God! God wants us to know him. Let’s look in the Bible to see one example of how God helped people know him.**

Bible Story & Application

■ Moses on the Mountain

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape or twine, blankets, chair

Families need a chair to the middle of the room. Everyone will gather around the chair and sit on the floor as you read aloud Exodus 19:3–20:21.

Say: **This story takes place near a mountain, so let’s turn this chair into a mountain using blankets.**

Let family members use their imaginations and blankets to turn the chair into a mountain and then ask them to stand next to the mountain.

Say: **Moses went to the mountain to talk to God. God called to him and said, “Tell all the Israelites to remember how I took care of them and released them from being slaves in Egypt. Tell them that if they will obey me and keep our agreement, they will be my people.”**

So Moses went down the mountain, called the people together, and told them what God said. All the people agreed to follow God.

When Moses told God that the people wanted to obey him, God said, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you.”

Then God told Moses to tell all the Israelites to spend three days preparing themselves. They washed their clothes and got ready to meet with God. Let’s pretend to wash our clothes and ourselves to get ready to meet with God. Ask everyone to act out washing their clothes.

God said the people must not come too close to the mountain because it was a holy place. Let’s use our tape or twine to create a line around the mountain that we won’t cross. Allow time.

When the people were clean and ready to meet God, they gathered near the line. Ask everyone to stand next to the line, but to be careful to not cross it.

There was thunder! Ask everyone to stomp their feet.

There was lightning! One person will turn on and off a light.

A thick cloud appeared and a thick cloud. All the people knew that God was there. They shook all over because they knew that God is great and mighty. Have everyone shake with awe and fear.

God called to Moses and told him to come up the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain to meet with God. Have everyone make climbing motions.

God gave Moses rules to tell the people below. The rules explained how God wanted them to live. Here's the first thing God said: "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves. You must not have any other god but me."

God wanted the people to know that he is the only real God. He wanted the people to know that he was the one who had rescued them from a terrible life in Egypt.

Then God explained that the people shouldn't worship idols—they should worship only God. He asked them not to use the name of God thoughtlessly. He said one day a week would be set aside for the people to worship; they shouldn't work on that day. Then he told Moses to tell the people to obey their parents, to not kill people, to make marriage a special promise, to not take anything that didn't belong to them, to tell the truth all the time, and to be happy with the things they had.

Moses went back down the mountain. Have everyone make climbing moves in reverse.

Moses told the people all the rules God wanted them to follow. When the people saw lightning and smoke rising from the mountain, they were scared. They heard thunder, and then they shook because they were so afraid. Have everyone shake again.

The people said, "Moses, you must speak to us yourself. We'll listen to you. But please don't let God speak directly, or we will die!"

But Moses said, "Don't be afraid. God wants you to respect him and obey his rules and do right. God doesn't want you to be scared of him."

Ask: • What do you think the people learned about God?

• If God doesn't want us to fear him, how do you think he wants us to feel? Why do you answer as you do?

Say: God wanted the people to understand him and realize that it's important to follow him. The Israelites learned a lot about God. They learned that there is only one God and he is very special. And they learned that God has important rules for them to follow.

God gave us commandments so we could learn about him. God wants us to know him.

■ Magnetic Attraction

Supplies: *Bible, refrigerator magnets, metal item such as refrigerator or cookie sheet*

Have everyone experiment with holding different magnets near a metal item and seeing how close they have to get to pull together.

Say: When we praise God, we are growing closer to him. We pull closer to God, and he pulls closer to us.

Ask: • What did the magnets do when they got close to the metal?

• What do you think God wants us to do?

Say: God wants us to know him! The more we know God, the closer we get to him. Listen to what our Bible Verse for today says about getting to know God. This comes from Psalm 34:8a: "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Ask: • What do you think God is like?

• How can we get to know God by finding out what he is like?

Say: Just as the magnets drew close to the metal when we moved them near each other, we draw closer to God when we find out what he is like. We can always learn more and more about God.

Close with prayer, asking God to help you know him more.