

TEN COMMANDMENTS GIVEN AGAIN

Exodus 33, 34

Lesson Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:12 “**For the word of God is quick, and powerful,** and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Grades 1-2 memorize bold part.)

Lesson Aim: To encourage the children to be a friend of God by loving His Word, reading it each day and praying.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY - HE - SEE - WE - BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Ask some questions of your class members along this line: Who is your very best friend and why is he or she your best friend? (Call on several to answer this question.) Do you and your friend like to talk to each other? What do you talk about? Has your best friend ever told you about something that you did wrong? He told you because he is your best friend. He wanted to help you so you would not get into serious trouble. Maybe your friend told you in a kind way that he saw you cheating in school or heard you say something unkind to your mother. Did you like to hear your friend tell you that you were sinning? Maybe not, but your friend did not tell you to hurt you, but to help you so would not get into worse trouble.

God is our very best Friend. He speaks to us in the Bible. He sometimes says things that make us feel bad, but we should know that He says it for our good. We should listen to Him and do what He tells us. Our memory verse for today will tell us what His Word is able to do.

HE (for Authority): Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the Word of God is quick.” “Quick” means “alive.” God’s Word is alive.

The Word of God is also “powerful.” Can you tell me the most powerful thing you know? (After they answer, tell them that God’s Word is more powerful than that.)

God’s Word is “sharper than any two-edged sword.” A soldier had both edges of his sword sharpened so it would pierce into his enemy more easily when he jabbed him with it. God’s Word is still sharper than that kind of sword.

God’s Word is pictured as “piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow.” It is not actually used to cut someone up, but God’s Word gets into the inner parts of our being and shows us where and how we need to change our lives.

God’s Word “is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” It tells us whether our thoughts are right or wrong. Yes, God is interested in what you think as much as in what you do. He is our Friend, and He tells us what we need to know. Therefore, we should love His Word.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In our story today, God talked with Moses as a good friend, and through Moses, He talked with Israel so He could tell them what they needed to know.

Broken Friendship with God (33:1-6)

Israel’s sin of the golden calf (Ex 32) had broken their close friendship with God. They were not as close to God as Moses was. Their sins were keeping them from being close to God.

God said He could not be in their camp anymore. If He did, He would kill them for their sin, because He is holy and cannot allow sin in His presence (33:3). Therefore, He was going to leave them and send an angel to lead them to the Promised Land (33:2).

The people were sad when they heard God was leaving them (33:4-6). God told them to take off their jewelry. They obeyed and took off all the jewelry that they wore. Earlier they had used their jewelry to make the golden calf, but now they wanted to show God they were truly sorry for their sin.

WE: We need to be very sad and even weep over our sins if we are truly sorry for our sins against God. When God tells us to stop some sin, we should stop right away if we want to be friends with God.

II. Blessed Friendship with God (33:7-23)

Moses set up a special tent outside of the camp so that he and God could meet together (33:7-11). God could not meet with Israel, but He could meet with Moses. When he went into the tent, the cloudy pillar in which God dwelt came down and stood at the tent's entrance. There God and Moses talked face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

WE: If we are true Christians, we can be close friends with God as Moses was. When we pray, we are talking to God. That is what we do with a close friend. What is happening when we read the Bible? (God is talking to us.) That is what a close friend does with us. Close friends talk with each other as much as they can. Are you a close friend with God?

Moses asked two things of God for the nation of Israel: (1) that he would be shown God's way, so he could lead these people to the right place (33:13) and (2) that he would have the presence of God with him and with the people (33:15). If Moses did not have the presence of God, he did not want to go anywhere.

WE: If we are friends with God, we will want to be close to Him. We will want Him to go with us, and we will want to go with Him. We will not want to be separated from God. He promises to go with us, but He will not seem very close if we allow sin to stay in our lives. We must confess our sins quickly so He will seem close to us each day.

Moses asked God to show His glory to him (33:18). Moses wanted to see God's face (33:20). He had talked with God in the mount. He had talked with God in the valley. He had seen the cloudy pillar. He had heard His voice many times. But now Moses wanted to see God's face. God's face is so bright that no one can see God's face and live, so God let Moses see His back (33:21-23). Even this was a great privilege for Moses.

WE: We cannot see God now, but when we receive our new bodies, we will see Jesus and be like Him (1 Jn 3:2). That will be an exciting day for all Christians. If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, you must do it right away, so you can see His face. If you are not saved by Jesus, you will not want to see Him, but His face will be against you, and you will be in great trouble.

III. Bright Friendship with God (34:1-35)

God told Moses to come to the top of the mountain in the morning (34:1,2). He was to take two tables of stone (flat stones) on which God would write the Ten Commandments again. Moses obeyed God (34:4). God came down to Moses and passed by him so he could see His back as He had promised (34:5,6). God always keeps His promises. When Moses saw God's glory and heard His voice, he was amazed. Quickly, he bowed his head to the earth and worshipped the Lord (34:8). Moses and God talked for forty days. It was so exciting for Moses that he did not eat or drink anything during this whole time (34:28).

After Moses saw God's glory, something unusual happened to him. The people noticed it right away. When Moses came back from the mountain with the Ten Commandments, something happened to the face of Moses. In his long talk with God, his face had taken on the glory of God, but he did not know it. Now his face glowed with the brightness of God's glory (34:29).

WE: We should count it a special privilege to meet with God at home, in church or anywhere that we may be. We can meet with God as we read the Bible or pray. Our friendship with God will make our faces brighten. It probably will not shine like Moses' face did, but there will be a pure look on your face and a sparkle in your eyes that will show the love you have for God and for the people Jesus came to save.

BE (for Action): Do you know what breaks your friendship with God? (Sin) Do you know what makes you a good friend with God? (Receive Jesus as your Savior to remove all your sins. Then you need to read God's Word and obey it.) If you want to be a good friend with God, let me talk to you about it after class. (When you talk with them, be sure that they have given their sins to Jesus and received Him as their Savior. If they have done that, then find out if there is any sin that they have not confessed to the Lord. If so, urge them to do it right away. Then tell them that they need to read the Bible every day and obey what it says. To start, give them a memory verse to read each day that is easy to understand.)