



LESSON 20

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Repentance leads to seeing and knowing God and His glory.

Bible Character(s): Moses

Scripture Reference: Exodus 32-33



PERSONAL PREPARATION: As you read through Exodus 32-33 in preparation for this weekend, think about how your own sin separates you from God and the life He has for you. What blessings are you missing because you have not repented of sin in your life? Are you holding on to unforgiveness or bitterness? Are you continuing a pattern of sin because of your desire to control your life? Have you forgotten that God is faithful? God desires to shower us with His grace, love, peace, joy, and strength. How much are we missing because we hold on to our sin?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Exodus Review Word Search

Supplies:

Word search worksheet (1 per camper)

Today is our last lesson in Exodus. Give each camper a copy of the word search to do as a review of Exodus. (Campers will use the back of this worksheet in a later activity.)



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will identify the sin of the Israelites (idolatry); identify idolatry in our own lives; see the results of being separated from God; and the results of repenting and turning towards God. God wants us to know Him and experience the amazing life He has for us.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group today? What happened when the staff member got a new video game? (It became an idol; he couldn't stop playing it and neglected his work at Camp Grace; he disobeyed the authority of the Camp Director.) Why did he feel bad? (He was sad that he allowed a video game to become more important than what God wanted him to do – his work, obeying the Camp Director.) What did he do to get right with God? (He prayed to God about his sin; he repented.)

In our lesson last week, Moses went up on Mount Sinai and God gave him the Ten Commandments. He was gone a long time. Let's find out what happened while he was gone.

We'll begin by reading about the Israelites' decision to turn away from God in Exodus 32 [NLT].

Exodus 32:1-4

1 When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. "Come on," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt."

2 So Aaron said, "Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me."

3 All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

The Israelites decided they did not want to wait for Moses to come down from the mountain. They forgot how God had protected them and brought them out of Egypt. They decided to make and worship a golden calf even though God had told them not to worship any other gods. They made an idol (the calf) and decided to make it the most important thing in their lives, even though it could do nothing for them. Could a gold statue save them from slavery? No way!

Let's see how God responded when the Israelites turned away from Him.

Exodus 32:7-10

7 The LORD told Moses, "Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. 8 How quickly they have turned away from the way I

commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

9 Then the LORD said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. 10 Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation."

Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that is wrong. Sin separates us from God because God is perfect; He cannot be around sin. The Israelites sinned by worshiping something other than God. They turned away from the God who loved them and saved them from slavery.

No Other Gods



The purpose is to define the Israelites' sin and reveal sin in the campers' lives.

Supplies:

Jewelry cutouts (1 per camper)

Golden calf cutout (1 per session)

"Israelites' Sin and My Sin" poster (1 per session)

Glue

Have campers write or draw a picture of at least one thing they worship, something they have made more important than God, on their jewelry cutout. Glue the golden calf cutout on the poster under the "Israelites' Sin" and glue all of the jewelry cutouts from the campers under the "My Sin" section. Talk about how we are no different than the Israelites.

Tie It Together



What was the Israelites' sin? (Allow responses.) They worshiped an idol, the golden calf, instead of trusting and worshiping God. Do we ever sin like this? What are some of the things you put on your jewelry cutouts? (Allow responses.) We might not make a golden calf and worship it, but we do make things more important than anything else. We might not share something with our brothers and sisters because we love it so much, even though we know God wants us to share and be kind to our brothers and sisters. We are making that thing more important than obeying God. We might play a video game all the time (like the staff member from skit), and not do our homework or chores. We are making the video game more important than doing the things that God has called us to do. We are making idols of these things. They have become more important to us than obeying and trusting God.

The Wall of Sin



The purpose is to see the consequences of sin.

Supplies:

Sin wall (1 per bin)

Person cutout (1 per bin)
"God" (1 per bin)
Blessings (1 set per bin)
White board
Masking Tape

Have the campers stick (use masking tape) each cutout on the white board as you talk through the implications of sin below.

** Teachers, please clip these cutouts back together at the end of the activity or class to help with the next session and storage.

Tie It Together



The Israelites' sin separated them from God. Our sin separates us from God. (Place person cutout on left side of board and the "sin" brick wall to the right of the person, in the center of the board.) **When we are separated from God, we cannot really know Him.** (Place "God" on the right side of the board) **We do not get the things He wants to give us. Here are some of the things He has for us.** (Place each blessing around "God" on the board.) **When we sin, we turn away from God. We cannot receive these things that God wants to give us. The Israelites could not know God because they turned away from Him by sinning. Our sin prevents us from knowing and seeing God. We miss what He has for us when we do not confess our sin. I John 1:9 says, "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."**

Let's continue reading to see what happened to the Israelites...

Exodus 32:30

30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a terrible sin, but I will go back up to the LORD on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for your sin."

Moses prayed that God would have mercy and forgive the Israelites. God wants us to pray for other people. Because of Moses' prayers, God did not destroy the people. God told them to keep going to the Promised Land, but He also said that He would no longer travel with them in the cloud.

How do you think the Israelites felt when they heard this? (Allow responses.)

Exodus 33:4-6

4 When the people heard these stern words, they went into mourning and stopped wearing their jewelry and fine clothes. 5 For the LORD had told Moses to tell them, "You are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I were to travel with you for even a moment, I would destroy you. Remove your jewelry and fine clothes while I decide what to do with you." 6 So from the time they left Mount Sinai, the Israelites wore no more jewelry or fine clothes.

The Israelites responded with repentance.

Repentance



The purpose is to define repentance.

Supplies:

Worksheet – definition of repentance side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the back of the Exodus Review Wordsearch worksheet. Help campers figure out what the word is by matching the number to the correct letter, and writing that letter in the space.

Tie It Together



Now that we have figured out what this word is, let's explain what this word means. Repentance is turning away from sin and towards God. This is what the Israelites did after Moses prayed for them. They stopped worshiping the idol and followed God's instructions. God wants us to repent as well. He wants us to turn away from our sin and turn to God. He wants us to worship Him and make Him the most important thing in our lives.

Moses continued to pray for the Israelites. Let's read how he did this and how God responded.

Exodus 33:15-20

15 Then Moses said [to God], "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. 16 How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."

17 The LORD replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."

18 Moses responded, "Then show me your glorious presence."

19 The LORD replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. 20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live."

God forgave the Israelites! He forgave them because they repented or turned away from their sin. Moses actually got to see God's glory! When we repent from our sin, we are forgiven. We get to receive the good things God has for us, like mercy, grace, joy, etc. Repentance leads to seeing and knowing God. Unless we repent, we cannot be near Him.

When we truly repent of something, it means that we really mean we are sorry and do not do it again. We turn away from it. We are all sinners and God wants us to recognize our sin so we can repent of it. When we repent of our sin, God knows if we are showing true repentance or not. If we apologize, but then go back to that sin, it means we have not really repented of it. Only when we turn away from that sin, ask God's forgiveness, and choose to not allow that sin to be in our lives anymore, then we are showing true repentance. God knows our hearts, and He knows when we truly repent and turn to

Him. We need to trust in Him to change our hearts so we can be near Him.

Wrapping Up

Moses prayed for the Israelites and God had mercy on them. God forgave their sins, and He allowed Moses to see His glory. Who prays for us? We are sinners just like the Israelites. Jesus Christ prayed for us! Jesus died so that our sins can be forgiven. God has mercy on us and forgives our sins, when we repent. Jesus died and took the punishment we deserve. We can know God and receive blessings from Him because Jesus died for us.

Next week, we will learn more about Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. Let's confess and pray about sins now.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you recognize the sin and idols in your life so you can repent and turn to Him.



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