

TREASURES FROM THE TENT--DAY ONE
“A Holy God Wants to Dwell With Sinful People”
Grades 4-6

Exodus 19:5-20:17; 24:3; 25:1; 32:1-14;
33:1-3, 12-17; 34:9-10; 40:33

Materials Needed:
Story pictures

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my student

To Know: God wanted the Israelites to be His treasured possession if they would obey Him and the Israelites agreed when they heard His Commandments. While God was preparing to live with them, the Israelites broke God’s law by making a golden calf, nevertheless, God agreed to live in a tent with curtains to remind the people that He was a holy God.

Basic Teaching: Although God is holy and man is sinful, God has a driving desire to be WITH sinful man.

To Respond: by wanting God to be with them, because of their awe of His wanting to be with them in spite of their sin.

Tabernacle Time:

Exodus 19:5-6

- I. God and Israel Make an Agreement
 - A. God wants Israelites to be His special treasure
 - 1. If they would obey
 - 2. They would be chosen out of all the earth
 - 3. A kingdom of priests
 - 4. A holy nation

Exodus 19:7-8

- B. The people respond: “All that the Lord has spoken, we will do!”
- C. The people get ready
 - 1. Wash themselves
 - 2. Avoid mountain or die
- D. God speaks
 - 1. In smoke, fire, quaking, trumpet and thunder.
 - 2. I am the Lord who

This whole point I. will be covered in the opening Tabernacle Time. It is included here only for your reference.

brought you out of Egypt--
1-No other gods before Me.
2-No idols or likeness.
3-You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain.
4-Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.
5-Honor your father and your
mother.
6-You shall not murder.
7-You shall not commit
adultery.
8-You shall not steal.
9-You shall not bear false
witness.
10-You shall not covet.

Exodus 24:3

E. The people respond: "All
that the Lord has spoken we
will do!"

Approach: (Use at the beginning of the classroom time)

Ask: What do you think it would have really been like to have been on that mountain that day and had lightning and smoke and fire and heard a deep thunder that you could understand what the words were? (Let several students share ideas and feelings.) Why do you think a God like that would want us to be His treasured possession? (A couple respond.) The Israelites wanted to be God's treasured possession. Remember what they shouted? "All that the Lord has spoken, we will do!" Then you know what happened?...

Exodus 24:17-18

II. While God Prepares to Live
With His People, They Break
Their Agreement

A. Moses goes up the
mountain to get the stone
tablets

1. Fire on the mountain
2. Moses enters the cloud

Storytell something like this: Imagine that we were standing there. And we saw the top of the mountain smoking with fire and a thick cloud. And we knew that's where God was. And then we saw Moses start walking up the side of the mountain. And he got smaller and smaller as he went further away. Finally he disappeared from our view as he went into that thick, fiery cloud. And we knew--Moses was going to talk with GOD.

Exodus 25:1-9

B. God tells Moses to Raise a

God was going to tell Moses what we

contribution and build a Sanctuary--to dwell among them.

C. The People Build a Golden Calf

1. Moses delays

2. They want a god who will go before them (be with them).

3. Aaron takes their jewelry and makes the calf.

III. God Agrees to Live With His People in a Tent with Curtains

Exodus 32:7-10.

A. God ready to destroy the people

1. They broke the agreement

2. He would make Moses great

vs. 11,14

B. Moses Intercedes and God changes His mind

needed to be His special treasure and what He would need in order to live with us and be with us.

And then we wait a week. Moses doesn't come back. And we wait another week, and another. We wait a month. No Moses anywhere. We can still see fire and smoke and cloud on that mountain.

What would you be wondering at this point? (What's happened to Moses?!)

The people decided that something had happened to Moses. So they went to Aaron, Moses' brother. And they wanted him to make a god for them that they could see and that would go with them.

What was the very first command of God? (No other gods)

Oh no! Remember what God had said? You will be my special treasure IF you do what? (Obey my commands.) They were breaking their agreement with God!

They built the golden calf. (Show picture of golden calf.)

They've broken the agreement. What do you think God is going to do? (Let children answer.) When you discuss this part, you might have responses like, "Forgive them." "Still love them." These answers reveal that they have skipped God's holiness and the seriousness of sin. The end of the lesson reveals God's compassionate love, but at this point don't give that away. Stay on the issue of God's holiness.

Moses begs God to not destroy them and because he prays, God listens to Moses and says, "I won't destroy

Exodus 33:1-3

C. God tells Moses He will not go with them

1. Moses is to lead them
2. An angel will go with them
3. The people are stubborn
4. God's holiness would destroy them

Exodus 33:12-17

D. Moses Intercedes

1. If your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.

Exodus 34:9

2. "I will."

3. Let the Lord go along in our midst even though the people are so obstinate; and pardon our iniquity and our sin. And take us as Your own possession.

Exodus 34:10;
Exodus 40:33.

E. God Lives in a Tent with Curtains

everyone. BUT...

I'm not going to live with you. I'll send an angel to lead you to the land."

Because God was so holy and the people were so sinful, He would destroy them. (Use this to illustrate) What if someone wanted to get right next to the sun? What would happen? Why? (Not made for it.) But what if the person had a special sun-suit on? The Israelites didn't have a special God-suit that would protect them from God's holiness.

Moses still wanted God to live with them though. He didn't want an angel to go with them. He wanted GOD to be with them.

"God," said Moses. "If your presence doesn't go with us, don't lead us up from here. Please pardon our sin and take us your special treasure."

And then God did something amazing. Instead of people having special suits on to protect them from God's holiness, God said that He would live in a special place so that He could be with sinful people. So they could still be His treasured possession.

What were the people living in? God was going to live in a tent too. It was called a Tabernacle. (Show picture.) Everything the people went through, God was going to be in His tent going through it with them. But His tent was going to have a big, tall curtain all the way around, like a big wall.

Why do you think God would put that up? (Let students give answers.) God

If they are struggling with coming up with the idea of holiness, ask, "What would happen if a

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person who had
sinned got close
to a holy God?--
die.

was holy, so He put a curtain around
His tent; His Tabernacle.

Conclusion:

If you had been one of those Israelites, I think you would be wondering, WHY was the God who created the whole universe, going to live in a tent, in a desert, with you and your people who couldn't even keep His commandments? God still wanted you to be His special treasure. He wanted to be with you, going through everything you went through. And God wants people today to be His special treasure too. He still wants to be WITH people.

Do you want God to be with you? Do you want to be His special treasure? Then tell Him. Thank Him that even though He is holy, He still wants to be WITH you. (Close in a prayer.)

Note: This conclusion leads naturally into the memory verse time--
Years after the Tabernacle, God didn't come to live in a tent. He came and lived in a Body, as a person. That was Jesus. Jesus had another name. Before He was born, the angel came to Mary and told them what he would be called. (Emmanuel) What does that mean? (God with us.) Why was Jesus going to live in a body? (To go through everything you and I go through.)