**1. Motivate**

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_lt7ep21j>. If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/ycxya43c>

Who is someone famous you have met?

* a high-ranking government official
* Billy Graham, Franklin Graham
* a sports hero
* an accomplished musician you admire
* maybe one of your grandparents were someone famous
* an official of a large company
* a renowned doctor to whom you went
* a famous general or admiral

**2. Transition**

A face-to-face meeting with powerful, influential, or famous people can be intimidating.

* Moses got to meet God Himself in a personal experience
* Today we look at specific character traits God shared with Moses
* We learn that God will never do something outside of His character

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Is Holy

Listen for a personal meet and greet.

Exodus 34:1-5 (NIV) The LORD said to Moses, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2 Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. 3 No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain." 4 So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. 5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

What instruction did the Lord give to Moses?

* chisel two stone tablets
* just like the previous two
* bring them up the mountain
* “present yourself to me”
* everyone and all livestock stay away from the mountain

Who did God declare Himself to be and what is the significance of His calling out His name?

* The LORD
* Jehovah, Yahweh
* The God WHO IS (in contrast to them who ain’t)

What would be both positive and negative feelings by Moses returning for a second set of tablets?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Positive Feelings | Negative Feelings |
| * wow, we get a second chance * God didn’t have to do that, he could have zapped the whole bunch of us * I’m glad we can salvage our relationship with God * I trust we’ve learned a lesson here | * what a pain * I bashed my knuckles several times messing with this stone * what a long climb up the mountain again * and they are heavy * I could cheerfully choke Aaron for that golden calf episode |

We must navigate the tension between intimacy and reverence in our relationship with God.

* Be in awe of who God is
* Remember He is Creator, Sustainer, Savior
* Seek to discover what He has communicated in His Word
* Submit to His authority
* Declare your faith and dependence on Him
* Worship, declare His worth (“worth-ship”)
* Tell Him your feelings, your problems, your joys, your thanks

When have you experienced God’s presence in a meaningful way?

* hearing a particular Truth that spoke specifically to me – in a sermon or Bible study
* reading a verse or passage that seemed to jump out and grab my attention
* trusting Him in a difficult season of life and knowing His peace
* being reminded repeatedly of His provision
* while involved in a particular outreach ministry and seeing God work
* during a prayer session with fellow Christians and experiencing almost a physical feeling of God sweeping over the group

Moses was often dealing with the sinful rebellion of the people. How can you talk to God about the same problem over and over, without nagging or complaining?

* avoid asking “Why don’t you answer???”
* approach God with the attitude, “I’m still trusting You”
* declare your trust in God’s timing, God’s method of answering
* you can go through some of the attributes or names of God,
* remind yourself of Who God is and what He is like

3.2 God’s Character: Perfect and Unchanging

Listen for the revelation of God’s character.

Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV) And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

What traits are given to describe His character?

* compassion
* grace
* slow to anger
* abounding in love Note the similarities with the Fruit of the Spirit
* faithful (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
* forgiving gentleness, faithfulness, self-control)
* righteous/just

Consider how God exercises these traits in practical terms.

* Jesus came to earth as the God-Man – wholly God and wholly man
* Accomplished forgiveness for our sinful condition by taking upon Himself our sin and the judgment of death
* Indwells believers in the person of the Holy Spirit and produces those same qualities in our lives as we submit to His authority

What words or phrases imply the vastness of God’s mercy (not giving us the punishment we deserve)?

* forgiving wickedness
* forgiving rebellion and sin
* slow to anger

Note the warning of the last part of verse 7. What is a danger of our sin, at least in respect to those who follow us?

* if we live a life of continual rebellion
* if we repeatedly reject God’s rule in our lives
* it affects our children and grandchildren
* a lifestyle of willful unbelief and rebellion against God negatively affects succeeding generations

Why doesn’t God ever tire of our repentance and dependence on Him for forgiveness?

* God is Love
* repentance and confession demonstrate our inability to please God in our own strength
* confession is agreeing with God that I am a sinner
* repentance shows that I am sorry enough for sinning that I will change
* we receive God’s forgiveness by faith
* God is pleased by our dependence on Him, by our belief in what He promises to do

3.3 Respond to God’s Holiness

Listen for Moses’ response.

Exodus 34:8-9 (NIV) Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. 9 "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

How did Moses respond to what God made known about Himself?

* bowed himself to the ground
* worshiped the Lord
* declared the worth of God
* confessed their sin – agreed with God that they had sinned terribly

What were the three requests he made?

* go with us
* forgive our wickedness and sin
* take us as your inheritance

On what basis did Moses make his requests to God?

* worshiped Jehovah God
* if I have found favor in your eyes
* confessed their sin – agreed with God that they had sinned terribly

Recall an event, an example or a place that confronts you with the grandeur and holiness of God and caused you to stand in awe that you were in a covenant relationship with Him as His child.

* beauty of nature – mountains, ocean, sunsets, colorful flowers
* the awesomeness of the universe – it’s size, how it holds together
* the God who created that universe wants to have a personal relationship with me!
* the design of our bodies – structural engineering, chemical, electrical, energy supply, …
* we are created in His image – creativity, spiritual beings, much more than just a collection of cells

How can we maintain an attitude of awe and reverence toward God?

* study God’s characteristics and attributes
* study the names of God which describe these attributes
* read and meditate on the Psalms where David and others modeled awe and reverence

How does understanding God’s character help us discern His voice?

* just like you recognize the voice of someone you know on the phone
* we will recognize that it is God
* we can tell that what is being told to us matches up with what we know about His character
* God will never act or speak in contradiction to His character

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

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Worship.

* Reflect on the character of God noted in this passage and respond to God with a prayer of praise.
* Thank Him for each one of these attributes and for how you have experienced these attributes in your walk with Him.

Evaluate.

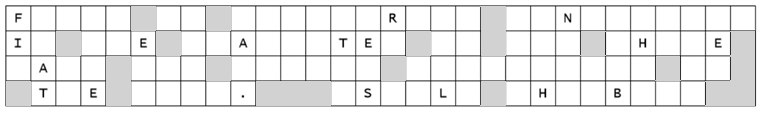
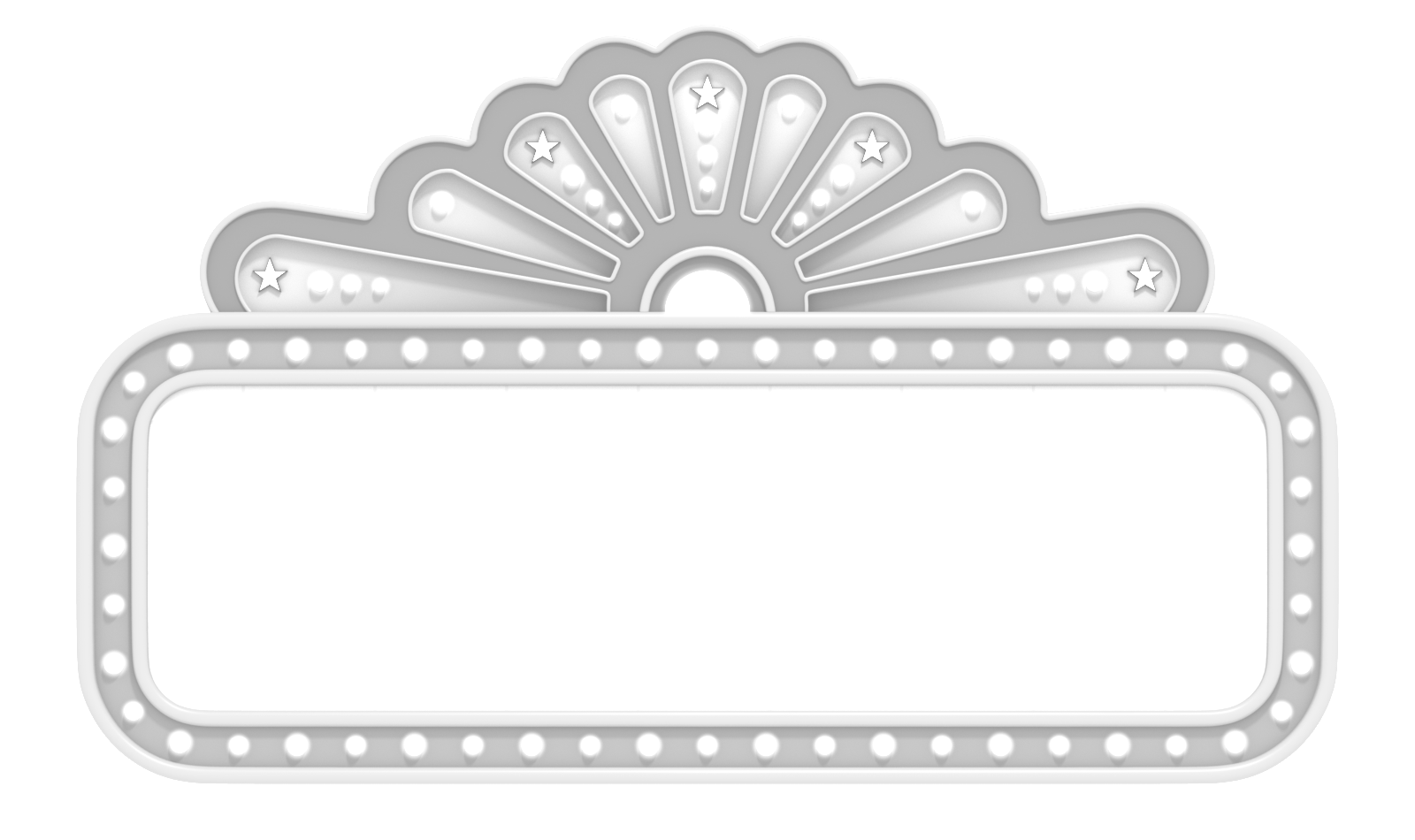
* Consider some of the messages you’ve heard from religious leaders who claim to speak for God.
* Evaluate how their messages contrast with the character of God seen in this passage

Obey.

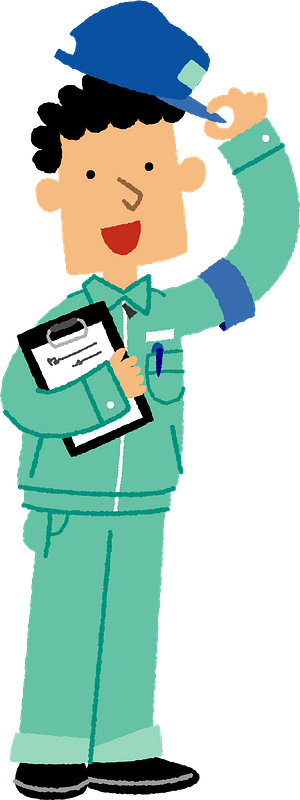
* Is there something specific God is wanting you to do in service to Him or in the life of another person?
* Consider how that task reflects the character of God.
* Calendar

  Description automatically generatedA picture containing seat, automaton

  Description automatically generatedObey Him and let the loving, gracious character of the One you serve be seen in you.



Fallen Phrases Puzzle



It was an earthquake ! It shook the letters off the marquee, and they landed straight below their columns. If you find columns with one or two letters, it’s easy. Then look for short words and see what letters make sense. The lecture on this topic is tonight, so we need your help to get the letters back up into place. Technical assistance and *more* Fun Family Activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/ycxya43c>