

“Please Show Me Your Glory”



SABBATH—SEPTEMBER 13

READ FOR THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Exodus 33:7–11; Exodus 33:12–17; Exodus 33:18–23; Exodus 34:1–28; Exodus 34:29–35.



We will be students always who are forever learning.

MEMORY VERSE: “The Lord passed in front of Moses and said, ‘I am the Lord. The Lord is a God who shows mercy and is kind. The Lord doesn’t become angry quickly. The Lord has great [powerful and deep] love and faithfulness [can be trusted]. The Lord is kind to thousands of people. The Lord forgives people for wrong and sin and turning against him. But the Lord does not forget to punish guilty people. The Lord will punish not only the guilty people. He will also punish their children, their grandchildren, their great-grandchildren and their great-great-grandchildren’ ” (Exodus 34:6, 7, ICB).

WE ALL NEED TO GROW in our walk with God. Without growth, we are dead. Peter says: “Grow in the grace [mercy, forgiveness, and power over sin] and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory [praise and honor] belongs to him both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18, NIV). We need to be willing to grow. We are daily in God’s university. We will never graduate. We will be students always who are forever learning. As you grow, you can be perfect in each part of your life if you allow God to help you become the person that He meant you to be in Jesus.

This week we will study about how Moses knew and followed God’s commands. Because Moses did these things, he grew in his walk with the Lord.

THE MEETING TENT (Exodus 33:7–11)

**Why did God ask Moses to build the Meeting Tent?
Read Exodus 33:7–11.**

We must not confuse the Meeting Tent with the Holy Tent. The Israelites built the Meeting Tent outside their camp. Then they built the Holy Tent in the center of the camp. Another name for the Holy Tent in the desert was the tabernacle. We don't know how often Moses talked with God in the Meeting Tent. We do know one thing for sure: Moses' meetings with God caused a close friendship between them. "The Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks with his friend" (Exodus 33:11, ICB). A friend is someone who can give us good advice. We can discuss most everything with a friend and trust that he won't share our secrets with other people. A friend is a nice thing to have and a nice thing to be.

In Exodus 19–34, the story of Moses teaches us how God changes our lives. How did God build a relationship with Moses, who was an outstanding leader? If we study the life of Moses, we will see how he grew in his knowledge about God's power and love. Spiritual growth is an important part of our relationship with God.

Before Moses arrived at Sinai, God used him in a mighty way. God helped Moses get ready for his special job as Israel's leader. In the land of Midian, Moses took care of sheep. During his time there, God helped Moses to write two books: Job and Genesis. Then, at the burning bush, God told Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses saw God defeat the Egyptian gods and the mighty Egyptian army in the Red Sea. Moses saw for many weeks how God led Israel from Egypt to Sinai. God gave His law to Moses on the mountain. This experience caused Moses' face to shine. Then Moses led Israel for another 39 years to the border of the Promised Land. The Bible tells us that Moses was a loyal servant of God (Deuteronomy 34:5; Joshua 1:1). Moses was God's special messenger who was the same as a light in the dark (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18). Moses encouraged God's people to change for the better, even if the people didn't always obey him. When the people did obey, they enjoyed success.

We may learn much from Moses. His life story shows us what God can do when we let Him change us. What wonderful things happened in your life when you let God change you?



Moses was God's special messenger who was the same as a light in the dark (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18).

SO THAT I MAY KNOW YOU (Exodus 33:12–17)

What did Moses ask the Lord to teach him? Why did Moses want God to lead them in a visible way? Read Exodus 33:12–17 for the answers.



Moses approached the thick, dark cloud that hid God (Exodus 20:21).

Moses' spiritual growth continued. He became close to the Lord and wished to be the same as God in his heart. When Moses talked with God in the Meeting Tent, Moses understood that he didn't know God. So, Moses prayed, " 'If you are pleased with me, teach me more about yourself. Then I can know you' " (Exodus 33:13, NIV). Moses understood his deep need to understand God better. Moses learned that the more he learned about the Lord, the less he really knew Him. Moses saw his need and wished with his whole heart to know the Lord in a new way. God gave Moses what he wanted.

As we look at Moses' spiritual experiences so far, we see how the Lord led Moses into a deeper relationship with Him. This relationship helped Moses grow strong.

First, Moses climbed the mountain and "went up to God" (Exodus 19:3, NKJV). Next, Moses went "to the top of the mountain" (Exodus 19:20, NKJV). Later, Moses approached the thick, dark cloud that hid God (Exodus 20:21).

Another time, "Moses entered the cloud" where God was and stayed with the Lord 40 days and 40 nights (Exodus 24:18, NIV). During these 40 days, God gave Moses two precious gifts. (1) God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. God wrote them on two pieces of stone, which He cut from the mountain Himself (Exodus 24:12). (2) God gave Moses a special building plan to build and furnish the Holy Tent (read Exodus 25–31).

Then Moses spent another 40 days and nights with the Lord. Moses asked God to have mercy on His people, who sinned against Him (Exodus 32:30–32; Deuteronomy 9:18).

Even after all these powerful experiences, Moses wanted to know more about God. So, God soon gave Moses special lessons to understand Him better. Moses wanted more than information about God. Moses wanted a deeper experience and relationship with God.

No wonder Jesus would say later: " 'And this is eternal [everlasting] life: that people can know you, the only true God, and that they can know Jesus Christ, the one you sent' " (John 17:3, ERV). What was the best way for God to help humans know Him better? He became one of us.

PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR GLORY (Exodus 33:18–23)

After Israel worshiped the gold cow, Moses asked God to show mercy to His people. Moses wanted to be sure that the Lord would continue to lead Israel to the Promised Land. Deep down in his heart, Moses wanted to know the Lord better, too.

**How did God answer Moses' wish to see His glory?
Read Exodus 33:18–23 for the answer.**

Moses asked the Lord, “Please show me your Glory [shining might]” (Exodus 33:18, ERV). Yes, God showed Moses His glory. But when God answered, do you see how He also promised to show Moses His “love and mercy” (verse 19, ERV)? So, what does this information tell us? We can safely say that God’s glory is His love and mercy (read Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 576; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pages 414, 415; *Prophets and Kings*, page 313).

“God is praised and honored when His children accept His love and mercy. God wants to see men and women become everything that He plans for them to be.”—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 530, adapted. God is praised and honored when sinners stop doing evil and come back to Him (read *Prophets and Kings*, page 668). God gives sinners everything they need to change for the better. At the same time, we give God glory, honor, and praise when we show His love and mercy in our own lives and to other people.

We must show God’s love and forgiveness in our behavior and actions. Then we will be a blessing to other people. We also will be a shining light to people on other planets who are watching what is happening in the war between God and Satan on this earth. As Paul says, “I think that God has made a show of us missionaries [Christian workers who share with other people the Good News about Jesus]. We are the last and the least among men. We are like [the same as] men waiting to be put to death [killed]. The whole world [everyone on earth], men and angels alike, are watching us” (1 Corinthians 4:9, NLV). Wow! Angels and people on other planets are watching us. This idea gives a powerful meaning to our lives that we can hardly begin to understand!

In Romans 2:4, Paul says that “God is kind. He is trying to get you to be sorry for your sins and turn from [stop doing] them” (NLV). God’s love convinces people that they are sinners who need to be saved.



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to people on other planets
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GOD SHOWS MOSES HIS GLORY (Exodus 34:1–28)

How did God show His glory to Moses? Read Exodus 34:1–28 for the answer.

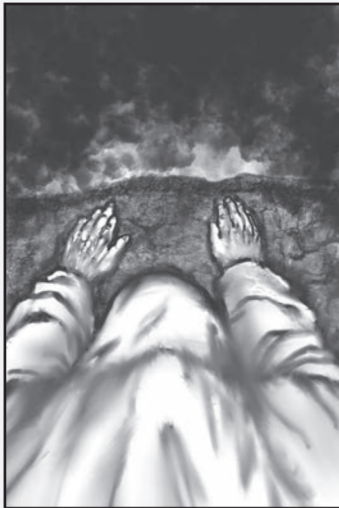
Moses started his climb early in the morning. He needed to take with him two pieces of stone, the same as the first ones, which he broke (Exodus 32:19). Moses went to meet with the Lord on Sinai for the 7th time. Moses climbed the mountain six other times in the past: (1) Exodus 19:3, 7; (2) Exodus 19:8, 14; (3) Exodus 19:20, 25; (4) Exodus 20:21; Exodus 24:3; (5) Exodus 24:9, 12–18; Exodus 32:15; and (6) Exodus 32:30, 31.

Moses was now ready to see the beauty of God's glory. God's beauty is best shown in His amazing announcement of Himself. This announcement is the most important explanation of who God is. We see this same idea all through the Bible (Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 103:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2). The Lord's announcement in Exodus 34:1–28 is the John 3:16 of the Old Testament. The Bible writers often talk about God's glory. This idea helps us have a correct understanding of God's love and forgiveness.

When God gave Moses the explanation of His name, Moses bowed down and worshiped the Lord. When we see God's love, mercy, and forgiveness, we will want to come to Jesus. When we see His love, we start to love Him. This love leads us to serve and obey Him. Because God loves us, we love Him back (1 John 4:19).

In God's announcement of His love, He promises Moses that He will do wonderful things for His people. God will lead them into the Promised Land, too. God makes His Promise with His people again. God also promises that other countries will see His royal beauty and power. "Then the Lord said, 'I am making this agreement with you. I will do miracles in front of all your people. These things have never before been done for any other nation [people group] on earth. The people with you will see my work. I, the Lord, will do wonderful things for you'" (Exodus 34:10, ICB).

But the Israelites needed to obey God and follow His Ten Commandments. Then they would enjoy success. To help them, God asked Moses to write down the Promise, which the people already broke (Exodus 34:27, 28).



When God gave Moses the explanation of His name, Moses bowed down and worshiped the Lord.

THE SHINING FACE OF MOSES (Exodus 34:29–35)

What caused Moses' face to shine so bright? Read Exodus 34:29–35.

After God showed who He was to Moses, Moses went back down to Israel's camp. Moses' face was shining. Did Moses know, at first, that his face was shining? Of course not. The closer you are to the Lord, the more you see your own weaknesses and faults compared to God's perfect and holy life.

What happened to Moses that caused his face to shine? Was Moses' face bright because he stood in front of God for a while? No. Remember, several times in the past, Moses was with the Lord and his face didn't shine after those meetings. At the same time, if Moses didn't go meet with the Lord, his face never would have shone. But when Moses understood God's love and mercy, he completely opened himself to God because of the beauty of His love. Then Moses changed. His face shone. Our hearts and minds experience a similar change when we give ourselves fully to God and allow Him to be the Lord and King of our lives.

How can Jesus change you so that you become loving and kind, the same as He is? Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 for the answer.

Paul compares Moses' shining face with Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:12–18). The glory of Jesus is far more than all the glory that came with the law that God gave to Moses (2 Corinthians 3:7–11). Jesus, together with His law, can be written on our hearts. But we must first fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 12:2). Only the power of the Holy Spirit can make this change happen.

Moses is an example for us. Moses shows us what God can do for us when we allow Him to change our hearts. God helps us to become the same as He is in our hearts. This change is what Paul means when he talks about how "we can now live a new life" (Romans 6:4, ERV).

What parts of your life need to show God's love and mercy better? Every part, right? How can thinking about the meaning of the Cross give you hope for an everlasting life in the Savior?



Jesus, together with His law, can be written on our hearts. But we must first fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 12:2).



A father and his young son visited a church. They looked at the colorful windows with beautiful pictures of different Bible stories. All of a sudden, the sun started to shine in the glass pictures of people.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Carefully read Ellen G. White, “Idolatry at Sinai,” pages 327–330, in *Patriarchs and Prophets*.

On a cloudy day, a father and his young son visited a church. They looked at the colorful windows with beautiful pictures of different Bible stories. All of a sudden, the sun started to shine in the glass pictures of people. The people in the pictures shone brightly with light all around them. The small boy asked his father, “Daddy, who are these people?” The father didn’t know much about Christianity, Jesus, or His followers. But the father quickly said, “These people are Christians.” This bright, shining picture stayed in the little boy’s mind. Later, the boy’s teacher asked in class, “Children, do you know who Christians are?” The small boy remembered the bright picture in the church. He answered, “I know. Christians are people who shine.” Jesus told His followers, “‘In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven’ ” (Matthew 5:16, ERV). Only shining people can cause other people to change their lives for the better.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① “We must come to God with no pride in our hearts. We must be kind, thoughtful, loving, tender, and filled with pity. Then 100 people would become Christians where now only one person accepts the Savior.”—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, page 189, adapted. What powerful message is in this quote for all of us about how our actions, thoughts, feelings, and behavior can help lead people to Jesus or push them away?
- ② Exodus 34:6, 7 is known as the John 3:16 of the Old Testament. Why?
- ③ How can you explain the beauty of God in Exodus 34:6, 7 to people who ask you who your God is?
- ④ In class, ask people to talk about how Christians changed their lives. How did people who were loving, patient, and forgiving change your life for the better? How did “Christians” who were mean or filled with pride make you feel in your walk with God?

BAATKA'S BEST FRIEND

Baatka felt so lonely. He often stood at the window of his home in Mongolia. Baatka looked out the window and hoped for a real friend. Baatka wanted someone who would be his friend forever.

At 14 years old, Baatka was shy and afraid. He was the only son in his family. Father was always at work. Mother wasn't well, so she couldn't give Baatka much attention. She spent a month in the hospital every year. Baatka felt so alone. He wanted to die.

Then a cousin, Doogii, invited him to go to a Seventh-day Adventist church in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. Cousin Doogii said, "Come to church, Baatka. Something wonderful will happen there."

Baatka went to church because he was lonely. He didn't hear a word of the sermon. The microphone wasn't working very well. Also, Baatka had problems hearing. But he liked the church members. They smiled and accepted him. They were friendly. Baatka also liked the singing. The church made him feel good inside. He went back next Sabbath to feel good again.

Church members talked about God as their best Friend.

A church member told Baatka, "God can be your best friend forever, too."

Another member said, "With God as your Friend, you'll never be alone."

Baatka wondered if God was real. Baatka thought, "Can God really be my Friend if I can't see Him?"

After that, Baatka went to church every Sabbath. The church became the only happy place in Baatka's life. The church members became his family. Life started to have meaning for Baatka. He wanted to live.

Slowly, Baatka started to believe God was real. His ears didn't hear God speak. But Baatka heard God's voice in his heart. God became Baatka's best friend. God changed his heart and his life.

Today, Baatka Orgil is 31 and a new person in God. The boy who was quiet and shy is now a church pioneer. Baatka starts new churches in parts of Mongolia where there are no churches.

Baatka says, "I want to help people who are the same as me. That's why I became a Bible worker and church pioneer."

Baatka is now married and has two children. He said he used to think that God chose only the most talented people to serve Him. "But now I know that He chooses only the right people."

He said, "When I didn't believe in myself, God believed in me. If God can believe in me, I want to believe in Him, too."

Thank you for praying for our church pioneers worldwide.

INSIDE
Story
by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



Baatka looked out the window and hoped for a real friend.



Baatka Orgil