

TREASURES FROM THE TENT--DAY ONE
“A Holy God Wants to Dwell With Sinful People”
Grades 1-3

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
 - B. God speaks
 1. In smoke, fire, quaking, trumpet and thunder.
 2. I am the Lord who 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.

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

Exodus 24:3

- 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.

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

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

Ask: Who is a person you really like to be with? (Get several answers and ask why they like to be with those friends.) Have you ever been with another child who didn't treat you nicely? Did you want to be with them very much?

A long time ago God wanted a group of people known as Israelites to be His friends. But he said "You must obey me." Remember what we heard in the Tabernacle Time? God was telling the Israelites what He wanted them to do.

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

B. The People Build a Golden Calf

Storytell something like this:
(Show picture)

One day Moses, the Israelites' leader, went to meet with God on the top of the mountain, and God was going to tell him what the Israelites needed to do in order to make Him happy. They didn't know it yet, but God was planning on living in a tent just like they were living in tents!

God really wanted to be with the Israelites didn't He?

While Moses was gone, the people decided they didn't want to be God's friends anymore. They made an idol. (Show picture of golden calf.)

Does it look like God? Is it God? No!! Do you remember the first command God had given the Israelites? God knew what they had done and that

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

A. Moses Intercedes and God changes His mind

Exodus 33:12-17

B. "My presence shall go with you."

Exodus 34:10;
Exodus 40:33.

C. God Lives in a Tent with Curtains

they had disobeyed Him. Remember what you said about not wanting to be with people that treat you unkindly? Do you think God would still want to be with the Israelites even though they had treated Him badly?

God was very angry with what the Israelites had done. When you disobey your Mommy and Daddy, does that make them happy? Do they still love you? Moses prayed and asked God to still be with them and do you know what God said? God said, "Yes". He still wanted to live right with the Israelites! Do you know why? Because He did love them soooo much!

Back then, the Israelites didn't live in houses, they lived in tents. (Show picture.) God was going to take them to a place that had houses, but until they got there, they had to live in a very hot desert in their tents. And do you know what God was going to live in? He was going to live in a tent too. It was called the Tabernacle. Why do you think He was going to live right there in the desert in a tent? (because He wanted to be WITH the Israelites.)

Conclusion:

If you had been one of those Israelites, I think you would be very glad that God still wanted to be with you even though you had disobeyed.

Boys and girls, do you know that God wants to be with us too? Even when we do wrong things, God still loves us VERY much. Even though He is not happy with what we do wrong, He still wants to be with us. Do you want God to be with you? Then tell Him. Thank Him that even though He never does anything wrong, 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 sent Jesus, His only Son from Heaven so that He could live with people. Jesus had another name. Before He was born, the angel came to Mary and told them what he would be called: Immanuel. That means "God with us."