

Mommy Disciple Me

MAKING GOD'S WORD HOME 

Mirr

ors: God's Character My Character

Lesson One Our Amazing God

Word: What does the Bible say?

The Theme Verse: **Exodus 34:6-7** - "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving..." (ESV)

The Theme Verse for Preschoolers: **Exodus 34:6** - "The Lord, The Lord!"

Whispers: What is the truth God is speaking to us through our verse?

Our God describes Himself to us in His Word!
Our God has so many wonderful character traits!

Welcomes: What can we learn about these truths?

Have you ever wondered exactly what God is like? I sure have! We can't see God like we see each other; we can't touch God like I can touch you; we can't smell God or physically hear Him. Yet, by faith our family has chosen to follow Him, so, we're going to learn what God says about who He is in His Word! Then, as we learn about His character, we're going to talk about how our character can be like mirrors that reflect Him!

Our lesson starts with a true story, almost at the beginning of the Bible, told by a man named Moses. Now, I think Moses was curious to know more about what God is like, just like we are! So, one day, Moses asked God a really big question: "Please show me your glory!" he said (Exodus 33:18-23). Glory is beauty! Glory is honor and amazing incredible-ness! And guess what? God did what Moses asked! Moses got to see God's greatness and glory with his own eyes! Wouldn't that be incredible? Moses fell to the ground in worship.

What happened next was even better, though, because it helps **us** get to see a glimpse of

God too, thousands of years later! What we get to see are the words God used to describe His character to Moses. God said:

“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving...” Exodus 34:6-7 (ICB)

Wow! Our God is (*hold up a finger for each character trait*) merciful, gracious, slow to anger, loving, faithful and forgiving! We will talk about each of these character traits in weeks to come. But, for right now, we can sum it all up to say that our God is a - ma - zing!!! Our God is far better than we can even imagine!

We don't get to physically see God, touch Him or audibly hear His voice. However, we get to know His character through His Word, the Bible.

So, let's start by memorizing our verse! It's a little long, but I know we can memorize it!

Our verse is: **Exodus 34:6-7 - “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving...” Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)**

For Preschoolers: **Exodus 34:6 - “The Lord, the Lord!” Exodus 34:6** (*we recommend this really short version to be said with great enthusiasm!*)

I love learning about our God with you kids, and I am excited to learn how our character can reflect His character!

Wonders: What questions do we have about this?

Have you ever imagined what God is like? What do you think He looks like? (*let your children answer these questions...*)

How do you think Moses felt when he got to see God's glory and goodness?

If you could choose God's character traits, what would you want Him to be like? (*let your kids express what they would “choose” – more than likely, they will express ideas that go along with who God truly is: loving, kind, good, forgiving, compassionate...!*) Isn't it amazing how wonderful our God is - and He is even better than we can imagine!

Do you think Moses reflected God's character after he saw His glory and heard Him speak? (*he sure did! Moses wrote down what happened so we can know, too!*)

Is there anybody that you feel pressure to look like or try to be like? (*this can lead to a good conversation about peer pressure for older kids*) What do you feel God would say to you about reflecting these people's character? or God's character?

For Preschoolers: What do you imagine God to be like? How can we be more like Him?

Hold up two fingers and see if you can remember two characteristics of God from the Bible

verse that we read. *(God is: merciful, gracious, slow to anger, loving, faithful and forgiving.)*

Weavings: What else does the Bible say about these truths?

Old Testament:

(NOTE: One idea that will take a little extra prep-work but will be so worthwhile in helping your kids see the “big picture” of God’s Word is to take seven sticky notes and put them in your Bible on each of the following references. As you read this section, give your kids that Bible to hold and have them go from one sticky note to the next, to see how God’s character is “reflected” from one end of Scripture to the other.)

The verses we are memorizing in this lesson are some of the most wonderful words about God that have ever been recorded. These words that Moses reflected became words that others reflected, too. You can follow these reflections throughout the whole Bible! See if you can recognize the reflections of Moses’ words through other people. *(NOTE: You might read Exodus 34:6-7 again before you do this “W” so the passage is fresh in your kids’ minds.)*

The great leader Nehemiah encouraged the people by praying: “You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...” (Nehemiah 9:17b ESV). *(Does that sound almost exactly like our memory verse?)*

King David wrote: “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...” (Psalm 103 ESV) *(Hmmm...that sounds really similar, too!)*

The prophet Jeremiah reflected God’s voice and character: “Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever” (Jeremiah 3:12 ESV). *(Kind of sounds like the same character statement to me!)*

Daniel prayed, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments...” (Daniel 9:4).

The prophet Joel reflected God’s character as well, calling out, “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...” (Joel 2:12-14).

The prophet Micah proclaimed, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love...” (Micah 7:18-20). *(This kind of sounds similar to the words Moses wrote, too!)*

All these people, one generation after another, read what Moses wrote about God – the

same verses we read in this lesson! They memorized those verses, like we are memorizing them! And they reflected those truths about God to everyone they knew! One generation saw the picture of who God is and reflected it to those around them and to the next generations. When we praise God and point people to Him, our lives become like mirrors reflecting God's character to others!

New Testament: After Jesus went back to heaven, one of Jesus' closest friends named John the Beloved had an experience similar to Moses. While he was in prison for his faith, John had a vision of Jesus in all His glory in heaven! The experience was so amazing that John fell to the ground in worship just like Moses did. Then, just like Moses, John wrote down what he saw in what became the book of Revelation (*which is the last book of the Bible, to your right*). John wrote,

"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen...' (Revelation 11:17-19).

John chose to do what Jesus told him to do, even though his life was really hard in prison. John chose to reflect who God is and make Jesus famous! Because he did, we have the last book of the Bible which tells us so much more about the glory and goodness of God. The Apostle John is a wonderful example to us to reflect God's character by doing whatever He calls us to do!

Walking: How can we live out this truth?

(NOTE: Round up some handheld mirrors, one for each person in your family. Tell your family members to each spend a few moments examining the characteristics of their faces in the mirrors. Talk about how many times a mirror can reflect an image back and forth. Say...)

As we begin a new season and school year, there are all sorts of things pulling on your attention. There are new friends and new teachers. Sometimes we can start to think, "I should be like this person or look like that person." Those feelings are normal. However, as Christians, there's one Person we want to resemble the most, and that Person is the Lord! When people look at the "mirrors" of our lives, we want them to see Jesus' character reflecting through us! (*talk to your kids about how we can do that!*)

For Preschoolers: (*Take your kiddos to a long mirror in your house or even your bathroom mirror.*) What do you see? (*allow them to answer - eyes, mouth, arms etc.*) Do you think you can reflect Jesus the way that the mirror reflects them? Yes! Through your smile you can show Jesus' kindness. Through your eyes you can show Jesus' compassion. Through your arms you can give hugs of forgiveness. Through your feet you can walk with your friends....and with your fingers... you can tickle, tickle, tickle! (*Tickle your kids and when you*

finish laughing and playing, tell them that Jesus gives us joy and laughter too!) There are so many ways we can reflect Jesus!

Worship: How shall we respond to the Lord for these truths?

Thank You, God, for revealing who You are to us through Your Word! We know that You are great and above all gods (Psalm 135:5). God, we want to know You more! Help us to know You better as we learn more and more about how amazing You are!

Family Disciple Me: A final blessing from this lesson to speak over your children...

From the time you are young, I pray you will reflect the Lord and His character all the days of your life. In Jesus' Name I pray this blessing over you, amen!

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