



LINK247

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Big Idea — *This series will focus on the various mountain experiences that shaped Moses' walk with God and his development as a Christian and a leader.*

- **Week 1 — Mount Horeb: The Burning Bush**
We all must have a personal burning-bush experience and learn the fundamentals to being used by God.
- **Week 2 — Mount Sinai: Moses' Experience with God**
People who choose to meet God and spend time in His presence will be changed by those experiences and become agents of change among God's people.
- **Week 3 — Mount Sinai: Covenant and Relationship**
What sustains us as believers is our willingness to walk with God, study His Word, and obey, despite what the rest of the world is doing.
- **Week 4 — Mount Pisgah: A View of the Promise**
Even though sin prevented Moses from possessing the promise of God in his life, we can learn from his mistakes and make certain we will take possession of all the wonderful things God wants for us.

LESSON MAP



Each LINK247 lesson follows the same lesson map. This map is designed to help you connect students with biblical truth. Each lesson has options to help you tailor the lesson to best fit the group you are teaching. Listed below are the elements in each LINK247 lesson.

1

LAUNCH

Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.



2

UNLOCK

Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.



3

INTERSECT

Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their daily lives.



4

ARRIVE

To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.





ASCEND

THE MOUNTAINS THAT MADE ME

WEEK 3 — MOUNT SINAI: COVENANT AND RELATIONSHIP



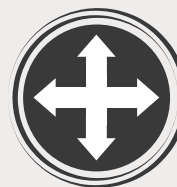
SERIES BIG IDEA

This series will focus on the various mountain experiences that shaped Moses' walk with God and his development as a Christian and a leader.



BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Exodus 34:1–7, 10–14



BOTTOM LINE

What sustains us as believers is our willingness to walk with God, study His Word, and obey, despite what the rest of the world is doing.

LESSON OUTLINE



1. LAUNCH

- Option 1 — Discussion
- Option 2 — Birthday Celebration
- Option 3 — Trivia Challenge

2. UNLOCK

- A. Finger Lickin' Good
- B. Sound Like Someone You Know?
- C. Not His First Rodeo
- D. Abundant in Goodness and Truth

3. INTERSECT

- A. The Proper Response
- B. A Lasting Change
- C. Here Is Where You Fit In
- D. What Happened to That Guy?

4. ARRIVE

- Option 1 — Prayer
- Option 2 — Colonel Sanders Challenge
- Option 3 — Past, Present, and Future

1

LAUNCH

Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.



Option 1 — Discussion

- A. What is the difference between a “hearer” of the Word and a “doer” of the Word?
- B. Can you think of anyone you know who deserves the description of a “doer” of the Word?
- C. Why would you give that person that title?
- D. Are there times in your own life when you could have been a doer, but you elected to be a hearer only? Why?

Option 2 — Birthday Celebration

- A. I want to invite you to a birthday celebration. I am celebrating my birthday, and I want all of you to come to both of my parties.
- B. One of them is on *(fill in date of when you were baptized)*, and the other one is on *(fill in date of when you received the Holy Ghost)*.
- C. *Wait for the obvious question: “You are having two different birthday parties?” Then explain that you are celebrating your birth of the water and birth of the Spirit.*
- D. *Take a moment to ask if students want to share when their two spiritual birthdays are.*

Option 3 — Trivia Challenge

- A. What two people in the Bible are said to have fasted for forty days and forty nights? (Jesus and Moses)
- B. What three feasts are named in Exodus 34? (Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks—aka Pentecost, and Feast of Ingathering—aka Tabernacles)
- C. What does the word *Pentecost* mean? (Fiftieth)
- D. Name the six nations God promised to drive out of the Promised Land in Exodus 34:11. (Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites)
- E. *Idea: A great prize for the winner would be a small item from KFC.*

2

UNLOCK

Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.



A. Finger Lickin' Good

The year was 1955. The United States had just endured the Great Depression, experienced the thrill of victory in World War II, and found itself one decade into the Cold War with what was known as the Soviet Union. President Eisenhower sent the first “advisors” to Vietnam, and in that same year a woman by the name of Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, an event which sparked the Civil Rights movement and launched the future of Martin Luther King Jr.

Also in 1955 a recently retired man sat on his front porch and watched as his Social Security check was delivered in the mail. His life had been difficult. His father had died when he was only six years old, causing Harland to take the lead in caring for his younger brothers and sisters when their mother entered the workforce. He had dropped out of school in the sixth grade and had held a wide variety of jobs. Then at the age of sixty-five, all he seemed to have to show for his efforts was the promise of another Social Security check being delivered. He went to the mailbox, retrieved his check, and thought to himself, *Is this all my life is going to be—just sitting on the front porch waiting for my next Social Security check to arrive?* It was a very discouraging thought.

He took out a legal pad and wrote down all the gifts, blessings, and talents he had going for him. He listed everything, even the small things. In the list of gifts in his life, he included that he was the only person in the world who knew his mother’s recipe for fried chicken, a recipe that included eleven different herbs and spices.

He decided that instead of sitting on the porch, he would become a doer. He went down to the local restaurant and asked if he could get a job cooking chicken. The chicken he cooked with his mother’s recipe became the most popular item on the menu. He hit the road to market his unique recipe and eventually began the string of restaurants we now know of as Kentucky Fried Chicken. He sold his franchise to a national organization for millions of dollars and served as their public representative until his death—all because he made the decision not to sit and wait on what many would argue he deserved; he became involved in something greater than himself.

Here was a man who had received a gift—he had a talent that made him unique. Most important, he recognized he had something to offer the world. When given the option to simply sit on the porch and wait to receive, he decided to do something with what he already had.

B. Sound Like Someone You Know?

1. Think about how that story is similar to the lessons we’ve learned in this series.
 - a. Colonel Sanders had a recipe for fried chicken, and he used it to do something good for himself.



- b. Moses had a staff, and he used it to do something for God.
2. Notice that in both cases, accomplishing something was only possible when the person transitioned from being a hearer and a thinker into a doer.
3. *Read James 1:17–25.*
 - a. When we are exposed to truth, it must change more than just the way we think; it must change the way we conduct our lives.
 - b. Exposure to truth must result in specific action that brings the will of God into reality.
 - c. That was true when Moses encountered God on Mount Horeb when he received his calling, and it was also true when he met with God on that same mountain and received the Ten Commandments.
 - d. An encounter with God always requires us to do something with what we know.

C. Not His First Rodeo

1. While we are focusing on four of the mountaintop experiences Moses had with God, they are by no means the only ones in his life.
2. In fact, by the time we arrive at Exodus 34, Moses had already had many experiences on Mount Sinai with the Lord.
 - a. Moses had received the first draft of the Ten Commandments, only to destroy them in anger upon seeing the sin that had overtaken the camp of Israel in his absence.
 - b. Moses had requested to see the glory of God and been given the opportunity to get a glimpse of what happens when the glory of God passes by.
3. *Read Exodus 34:1–4.*
 - a. Our God is certainly a God of second chances.
 - (1) It is rather amazing that Moses had the audacity to destroy the first set of tablets where God wrote out the Ten Commandments.
 - (2) The most impressive thing in this story is God’s grace in being willing to provide them a second time.
 - b. Here we see that the Lord desired to meet with Moses one-on-one. The Bible declares that Moses was able to speak with God on a personal level, unlike any other person we read about in the Old Testament.
4. Once Moses was obedient to the commandment of God, the Lord appeared and declared in detail who He is.
5. *Read Exodus 34:5–7.*
 - a. God’s description of Himself is repeated often in the Bible, and it deserves our attention.
 - b. The Lord first described Himself as merciful and gracious.
6. *Mercy* can be defined as not getting what we do deserve.
 - a. God is willing to forgive sin.
 - b. God is willing to exempt us from punishment for the many ways we may have failed Him if we make it right.
7. *Grace* can be defined as getting what we do not deserve.
 - a. We do not deserve abundant life, but God is willing to offer it to us.



- b. We do not deserve to spend eternity in His presence, but because of His grace, it is attainable to us all.
- 8. Next, the Lord described Himself as longsuffering.
 - a. It is important to understand the difference between the word *patient* and the word *longsuffering*.
 - b. The Bible never describes God as patient. One reason is that every reference to patience in the Bible deals with putting up with temporary circumstances. Those have no ability to frustrate God, who knows the end from the beginning.
 - c. God is not impatient; He has no need for patience. He is not bound by time nor a limited ability to understand events, like we are. Therefore, He needs no patience.
- 9. Every time the Bible uses the word *longsuffering*, it deals with the difficulty of putting up with people.
 - a. One example is found in II Peter 3:9. *Read II Peter 3:9.*
 - b. God does not need patience because He is not restrained by circumstance.
 - c. However, God can certainly be described as longsuffering because He has decided to limit His ability to work in our lives based upon our level of faith.

D. Abundant in Goodness and Truth

- 1. God has more than just what is needed to get by.
 - a. He is not a minimalist when it comes to goodness.
 - b. He is not a minimalist when it comes to truth.
- 2. Let's look at how many of these characteristics are included in the list of the fruit of the Spirit.
- 3. *Read Galatians 5:22–23.*
- 4. Finally, the Lord described Himself with two actions: “Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:7).
- 5. More than simply having mercy, God actively keeps His promise to apply it to the sin account of thousands.
- 6. But we must not interpret that truth to mean He will not punish the evildoers.
 - a. God does not punish people for the sin of others, but He acknowledges that the sin of one generation affects the life of the next generation.
 - b. God also tells us that if He punished our parent’s generation for a sin, He will do the same to our generation. The moral compass of the world changes, but God’s does not.

3

INTERSECT

Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their daily lives.



A. The Proper Response

1. Moses immediately bowed in worship. Then he prayed and asked for God to forgive the nation of Israel.
2. God's response was to make a covenant with Moses and the people.
3. *Read Exodus 34:10–14.*
4. First God told Moses that He would do wonders among them.
 - a. God would perform miracles.
 - b. God would drive out their enemies.
5. The Israelites' responsibility was to serve only God—not the gods of the people He was driving out.
 - a. God's people were to destroy the altars to the false gods, break the images, and cut down the groves.
 - b. They were not to make a covenant with the people the Lord would drive out.
 - c. They were not to marry the daughters of these people because of the potential of their spiritual influence.

B. A Lasting Change

1. While the Lord repetitively explained to Moses the importance of Israel not worshipping other gods, He did not stop there.
 - a. In life it is important what we do not do.
 - b. It is also important what we do.
2. The Bible says we are to overcome evil with good. This principle can be seen in the remainder of the expectations the Lord gave to Moses for His people in chapter 34.
3. There are many similarities between the experience of Moses on Mount Sinai and our understanding of Pentecost.
 - a. At Mount Sinai the Law was written on stone tablets. At Pentecost the law was written on the fleshly tables of our hearts.
 - b. At Mount Sinai fire came down and touched the mountain. At Pentecost flames of fire shaped like tongues came down and rested on every one of the 120 men and women gathered in the upper room.
 - c. At Mount Sinai the Law was given, but no one was able to follow it perfectly until Jesus came and fulfilled the Law. At Pentecost God poured out His Spirit into the lives of people; now everyone can have the power to live a life that is pleasing to God.



C. Here Is Where You Fit In

1. We understand that Jesus is our Passover Lamb; He was sacrificed to enable us to escape from our personal Egypt, a life where we were held captive by sin. We should always remember our personal deliverance and celebrate what God has done for us.
2. We should celebrate our spiritual birthdays just like we celebrate our natural birthdays.
 - a. Do you know what day you were baptized in Jesus' name?
 - b. Do you know what day you received the Holy Ghost?
 - c. Why not celebrate them just like your natural birthday?
3. We always acknowledge Pentecost Sunday and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Ghost.
 - a. We should take the time not only to relate back to Acts chapter two, but we also should understand that we are connected to the experience on Mount Sinai.
 - b. The Holy Ghost is not just an extra blessing; it is the law of God written in our hearts that demands us living in covenant relationship with God.
4. The Bible refers to our bodies as tabernacles, an old word that literally means "tent."
 - a. We have already experienced the Passover sacrifice of Jesus Christ and should celebrate what He did for us, just like Israel celebrated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
 - b. We have already experienced the Feast of Pentecost—the outpouring of God's Spirit into people who repent, are baptized in Jesus' name, and seek after Him with their whole heart.
 - c. Now we live our lives in these tabernacles—these booths of our bodies—waiting for the future ingathering when Jesus returns for His bride. On that day Jesus will call His elect from the four corners of the world, and we will leave these temporary structures of our mortal bodies to be with Him for the marriage supper of the Lamb and to reign together with Him as kings and priests for one thousand years.

D. What Happened to That Guy?

1. *Read Exodus 34:28–30.*
2. Only two places in Scripture tell of a fast that lasted for that long. Moses ate no bread and drank no water for forty days and nights, and so did Jesus.
 - a. Science tells us that is physically impossible.
 - b. A person cannot live that long without these essential items.
 - c. What Moses experienced was nothing short of a miracle, and it only occurred because he was in the presence of God.
3. When Moses returned to civilization, although he was not aware, his face shown with a reflection of the glory of God. When we invest time in the presence of the Lord, it changes us—both on the inside and outside.
4. People should know we have been with God.
 - a. People should see a change in the way we act.
 - b. People should see a change in the way we speak.



- c. As Apostolics we should not be ashamed that our appearance is not like everyone else in this world.
- d. That was true for Moses.
- e. That was true for Israel.
- f. That has always been a part of the blessing it is to be one of God's chosen people.

4

ARRIVE

To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.



Option 1 — Prayer

- A. I challenge you to pray an honest prayer right now.
 - 1. Search your heart to find areas that have not been fully submitted to God.
 - 2. Tell Him of things you have done that you know are not pleasing to Him.
 - 3. Tell Him of things you have not done that you know He desires from you.
 - 4. Ask God to reveal to you the effect you are having upon other people.
- B. I am not asking you to commit to fasting for forty days and nights like Moses, but when was the last time you fasted a meal or fasted a day?
- C. When was the last time someone commented to you about seeing evidence in you of your walk with God?
- D. Commit to dedicating your time and talents to God.

Option 2 — Colonel Sanders Challenge

- A. Let's take the Colonel Sanders Challenge.
 - 1. I will give each of you a piece of paper and a pen.
 - 2. Take a few moments to write down all the gifts, blessings, and talents you have going for you.
- B. Now, consider this question: are you using those gifts, blessings, and talents to advance God's kingdom?
- C. *Ask for volunteers to share ways they can better use what they have to serve God. Consider participating in this exercise personally as well.*

Option 3 — Past, Present, and Future

- A. Let's invest a few minutes thinking of reasons we have to celebrate the goodness of God in our past, present, and future.
 - 1. What event in your past are you thankful to God for?
 - 2. What current blessing do you want to praise God for providing?
 - 3. What promise in your future can you celebrate in advance today?
- B. *Ask for volunteers to share.*