

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 2 • Week 1

GOD IS GRACIOUS AND SLOW TO ANGER (PATIENT)

OBJECTIVE:

To make known some of the qualities of God's character (patient, gracious, willing to listen, protective, encouraging, slow to anger, wise in dealing with us—a deliverer, teacher, provider) through the Bible lesson "God Teaches Moses."

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Use the following two scenarios. You will need three children to read the character parts for each scenario (Narrator, Mom and Daniel for the first; Narrator, Mom and Matthew for the second). Make three copies of each scenario.

Say: Pretend you are listening to a story on the radio. Two different boys have a school project to do and they make excuses to get out of doing it. Each mom handles her son's excuses differently.

First Scenario:

Narrator: Daniel noisily drops his schoolbooks on the kitchen chair and reaches for a cookie.
Mom: Daniel! Please be quieter. Can't you see I am listening to my favorite program?
Daniel: Sorry Mom, gotta go. The guys are waiting for me at the park.
Mom: Isn't your school project due sometime this week?
Daniel: Oh that's not due until Friday; today's only Monday.
Mom: You really should get started.
Daniel: I don't know exactly what to do. I left my notebook at school.
Mom: Can't you get the assignment from one of your friends?
Daniel: Well yeah, I guess I could. I'm out of loose-leaf paper, too.
Mom: Use some of mine.
Daniel: I don't have all the supplies that I need.
Mom: (Irritated voice) Stop making excuses. Make a list of what you need and I'll get it tomorrow. I'm in the middle of this program and I don't want to miss the ending.
Daniel: So, is it OK if I go to the park with my friends? I'll be home in time for dinner.

Narrator: Mom was so absorbed in her program that she didn't hear Daniel when he left.

Say: OK. Now let's listen to the second story.

Second Scenario:

Narrator: Mom has just taken a batch of cookies out of the oven. She gets the milk out of the refrigerator as she hears Matthew coming down the sidewalk.

Matthew: Hi Mom! Hey, thanks for the cookies.

Mom: How was school today?

Matthew: OK. I made the basketball team. Coach says I'll need a lot of practice.

Mom: That's great Matthew!

Narrator: Matthew finishes his milk, grabs his cookies and begins to rush out the door.

Mom: Whoa there, young man, not so fast. Don't you have a school project to do?

Matthew: Oh that's not due until Friday. I told Robert I'd shoot some hoops with him. We need a lot of practice.

Mom: You also need to practice working on your school project.

Matthew: I don't have any loose-leaf paper.

Mom: You are welcome to some of mine. I picked up a pack when we went shopping for your project supplies last week.

Matthew: I can't come up with any good ideas for the project.

Mom: If you do the research first, you'll come up with some ideas.

Matthew: But, you won't be able to drive me to the library because it's too close to dinner-time.

Mom: There is enough time for me to show you how to search the Web.

Matthew: But Mom...

Mom: Stop making excuses and get busy! You've already wasted too much time.

Ask: Which boy, do you think, will have better grades and be more successful when he grows up? Why? [Let students respond.]

Ask: Do you think Daniel's mom was a good listener? Why?

Ask: How did Matthew's mom show her love for Matthew?

BIBLE LESSON:

[Scripture basis: Exodus 3:1-22; 4:1-18.]

Do: Make enough copies of the Bible lesson (on the following page) to give to the students at class.

Say: [As you hand each child a copy of the Bible lesson.] We will take turns reading the Bible story "God Teaches Moses." This story tells about God giving Moses the task of leading His people out of Egypt and what Moses does. We are going to compare the Bible story with the two previous stories and see if there are any similarities.

GOD TEACHES MOSES (EXODUS 3 AND 4)

Forty years had passed since Moses fled from Egypt and settled in the land of Midian. He was now 80 years old and still tending sheep for his father-in-law Jethro.

As Moses neared the pastureland, a thorn bush, ablaze with fire, caught his eye. Intrigued to see the bush burning furiously without damaging the leaves and flowers, Moses started toward it. He was startled to hear a clear voice from the midst of the bush calling his name, "Moses, Moses."

"Here I am," Moses, answered.

"Do not come any closer," the voice said. "Remove your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground." The burning bush cast a glowing light on Moses as he quickly removed his shoes at God's command. Then in an ever clearer voice, Moses heard, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Upon hearing this, Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

God continued, "Because My people have been made miserable by the oppression of the Egyptians and their cries of anguish have reached unto heaven, I have come to deliver them from their enslavement. I will send you to Pharaoh and you are to tell him to let my people go. You must also speak to the leaders of the children of Israel. Tell the elders to prepare My people for the time when you will lead them to the land of Canaan.

Moses well remembered the cruelty of the Egyptians and his fleeing from them. Having no desire to leave his peaceful life as a shepherd and return to Egypt, he tried to talk God out of sending him.

"Why should Pharaoh open his court to me? I am a 'nobody' and not worthy of bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt. I do not know how to lead so great a people," said Moses.

Understanding Moses' reasons for not wanting to return to Egypt, God patiently explained, "Certainly I will be with you, for I have chosen you to bring the people out of Egypt. When you have led My people out of Egypt and worshiped God on this mountain you will know that it is I who sent you."

Searching for another excuse Moses asked, "When the leaders of the children of Israel ask me what is your name, what shall I answer?"

"I AM WHO I AM," God replied. "Tell them that I AM sent you," He added.

With patience, God continued to teach Moses. "Gather the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob appeared unto me saying, "I have seen that which is done to you by the Egyptians. I shall deliver you from your affliction, and bring you to the land of Canaan. It is a good land flowing with milk and honey and I will give it to you.'"" For encouragement God told Moses, "The elders will believe you and go with you to Pharaoh."

Moses made another attempt at trying to get out of the job. "But suppose they won't believe me?"

But God continued to patiently work with Moses. "What is in your hand?" God asked. And Moses answered, "A rod."

"Cast it on the ground," God said. The minute the rod hit the ground it became a snake and began to slither around. Moses quickly backed away. Then God said, "Now grab it by the tail." Cautiously, Moses grabbed it by the tail and in his hand it became a rod again.

But God knew that Moses still felt afraid to take on this task, so He gave Moses another miracle to display. "If they do not believe the first sign, put your hand in your cloak and it will become leprous and white as snow. Then put it back in your cloak and it will become healthy again. If they still do not believe, take a pitcher of water from the Nile and, as you pour it on the ground, it will turn to blood."

Before God could finish, Moses was ready with another excuse. "O Lord God, I am slow of speech because I stutter. I am not capable of winning over others to follow me."

"Who gives man speech or makes him mute, eyes that can see or eyes that cannot see and ears that can hear or not hear? Is it not I, your Creator? I will help you speak and teach you what to say. Now go," commanded God.

Moses had run out of excuses, and in a last desperate attempt he pleaded, "Lord, please send someone else."

God's anger burned against Moses (Exodus 4:14). He had invested many years in preparing Moses to lead His people out of the bondage of Egypt to the Promised Land. He had saved Moses, when he was a baby, from being killed by order of Pharaoh. He then arranged for Moses to be found floating in a basket near the shore by Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him. He also arranged for his real mother to teach Moses His Ways while she cared for him as a little child. Then, when he was old enough he was brought to Pharaoh's daughter and given an education that would be very helpful in God's plan. Now after personally teaching him with great patience, providing him with the power to perform miraculous signs and promising to be with him, Moses responded by asking God to send someone else. But instead of ending Moses' life and sending another, God provided Moses with a spokesperson. With the love and patience of a good parent, God said, "Your brother, Aaron speaks well and he is on his way to meet you. He will be your spokesman. I will tell you what to say and you will repeat it to Aaron. Now take this rod with you; with it you shall do signs."

Moses returned to Jethro's house and explained that he wanted to go back to Egypt to see his relatives. "Go in peace," Jethro replied.

Thus began the last 40 years of Moses' life.

Ask: What qualities of God's character are shown in this lesson? [Let students respond. Possible answers: patient, gracious, willing to listen, protective, encouraging, slow to anger, wise in dealing with us—a deliverer, teacher, provider.]

Say: After reading the story, can anyone tell me any similarities between the first two stories and the Bible lesson?

Some similarities:

1. Daniel, Matthew and Moses were given an assignment.

2. They all tried to get out of doing the task by making up excuses.

3. Matthew's mom patiently taught Matthew how to use the Web so that he could do his school assignment.

God patiently taught Moses how to accomplish the task He had given Moses to do.

4. Matthew came to trust his mother's knowledge and wisdom after she taught him how to search the Web so that he could do his assignment.

Moses came to trust God when He showed Moses how to do miracles in order to convince Pharaoh to let His people go to worship Him in the desert. Moses trusted God to keep His promise to be with him always.

5. Both Matthew and Moses stopped making excuses and did their job.

LESSON APPLICATION

Say: We are going to play a game. Each person that adds an event that happened in Moses' life will score 5 points. The one with the most points is the champ.

Examples:

1. As a baby, the mother of Moses placed him in a basket of bulrushes and set him afloat in the river.
2. God parted the Red Sea and Moses led the people to the other side.
3. Moses led the people out of Egypt.

Say: We'll go around the room, if you can't think of anything, we'll go to the next person.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 22:19 "So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you."

family activity

THE POINT:

To make known some of the qualities of God's character (patient, gracious, willing to listen, protective, encouraging, slow to anger, wise in dealing with us—a deliverer, teacher, provider) through the Bible lesson "God Teaches Moses."

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss how God always prepares His servants for the jobs He calls them to do. Sometimes He prepares them personally as He did while speaking to Moses from the midst of the burning bush. Sometimes God teaches through His inspired writings, as with Josiah when the master copy of the "Book of the Law" was found when the temple was being restored. And sometimes God prepares us in the midst of the teachings of this world. This happened to Daniel. Because he was one of the princes of Judah, he received the best education that could be provided. Even though the society was mostly pagan, he was taught God's way. Later he was taken to Babylon as a captive and educated for service in the Babylonian government. Though he lived out his life in the pagan Babylonian society, he never lost his faith in God because of his teachings when he was a child.

Discuss how God taught Moses in order to prepare him for the time when he would lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God had arranged for Moses' real mother to thoroughly teach him about God and His way while Moses was a child. All the attractions of the heathen palace never eradicated those early teachings. He had the finest education that could be afforded in pagan Egypt but it did not move him from his faith. Had he renounced his real mother's teachings, he might have become king of Egypt. While God used the educational system of Egypt to help in preparing Moses, God made sure that Moses was taught His way first. There was much for Moses to learn before he was fully prepared to lead the people out of Egypt. It took 80 years to prepare Moses for the task of leading God's people out of Egypt. God is patient.

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 22:19 "So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you."