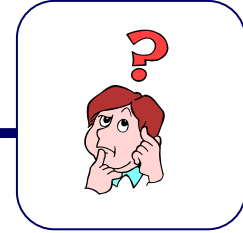


Get Ready!



Text



Exodus 33:12-34:1-10; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 4:2-6; Matthew 5:48 & 6:6-15; Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 18:30-32



Key Quest Verse

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4).



Bible Background

Throughout the Bible the Lord is revealed to us through written descriptions and also in His interactions with people. The scriptures begin with the fact that God was in the beginning (Gen.1:1). The written account of creation teaches us that He is the Creator. He is the sustainer of life (Isaiah 46:4). He shows His love (Exodus 34:7), kindness (Romans 11:22) and caring (1 Peter 5:7) for humans throughout the scriptures to each generation, more specifically to each person who reaches out to Him (Hebrews 11:6). God shows His giving nature and His desire to have a relationship with humans in the account of Abraham. God promises him children. Descendants that are so numerous that trying to count them would be like counting the stars (Gen.15: 4 & 5). God reaches out to this man and through him creates a nation that will be a special people in His plan. God foretells Abraham what the future will hold for this nation formed by his descendants. This Hebrew group was the Israelites. As God said, after 400 years the Israelites lives were filled with slavery in Egypt. God called to Moses from the burning bush and revealed His name to him in Exodus 3:14. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" The Hebrew word YHWH gives us God's name Jehovah or Yahweh from the verb "to be" meaning "He Is." The divine name Yahweh is usually translated "Lord" in English versions of the Bible. Our scripture text is taken from Exodus 33:12-34:10. This is the time following the idolatry of the golden calf by the Israelites. Moses makes a request of God in Exodus 33:13, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." God honors his request in our Bible Story.

Get Ready!

**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:**

- Know:** That our Heavenly Father is the only One, complete perfect God.
- Feel:** Thankful that God wants to be their God and Father.
- Do:** Commit to learning who God is through the scriptures and building a relationship with Him.

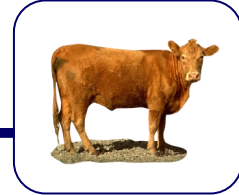
**Leader's Devotion**

I love categories. I like to put a label on this or that in my life and file it away in a box. There is a danger in doing that with God. He is so incredible and has so many magnificent attributes that I know I will continue to discover more about Him throughout my lifetime. Yes, with our finite minds, it would be impossible for us to completely understand God, but we can know Him. We continue throughout our lives to grow into a better, closer relationship with Him. I am amazed that this perfect God wants to be a Father to me. What an incredible blessing it is for an individual to have an earthly father that follows God and some of our teens are being raised by Christian dads. Unfortunately, we live in times when some of our teens may have a difficult time finding good father figures. Many teens do not have that fatherly influence in their lives. Some are dealing with the pain of a dad that has walked away from his family; others have fathers with human weaknesses and serious moral flaws in character that are very obvious to their teens. What a wonderful opportunity to teach our students that they have a Perfect, loving Father that cares for them. He is a Father who desires a relationship with them. What a great chance to share with them a little more about this wonderful, Holy God that we worship and to discover the incredible love that he has for us. This one true God that loves us so much that He wants us to call Him our Father. Read all the Quest Text Verses and reflect on whom God is and how you might share that with your students.

Get Set!



Option A



Materials: Small plastic cow toy, (you can find them at the dollar store, they may also come in a farm set for a couple of dollars) gold paint

Procedure: Cover a small plastic cow toy with gold paint. “Today I have an object that reminds me of a story in the Bible. Does it make you think of a story from the Old Testament?” (Let the students guess and see if they think of the Israelites worshipping the golden calf at the bottom of Mt. Sinai in Exodus 32.) “Why do you think the Israelites turned to worship this fake calve that they had made with their own hands?” (Let the students respond. They might answer that it was something they could see, they were afraid, they didn’t know if Moses would come back, they were worshipping in the same way that they saw the Egyptians worship, etc.) “Let’s remember that the Israelites watched all the plagues that were imposed on the Egyptians. They had witnessed the miracle of God parting the Red Sea. They had received water, manna and quail (Exodus 16:13-15) from God. While they traveled, a pillar of cloud guided them during the day and at night a pillar of fire gave them light (Exodus 13:21-22). They had witnessed all these wonderful things that God had done, yet, they made an object to worship.”

“Now most of us do not bow down to golden calves, but we may be guilty of putting things in our lives above God. When money, clothes, being popular or accepted becomes so important that we don’t serve God like we should then we are making those things idols in our lives. We are putting them before God. We should get rid of any idols that fill our time and remove us from God. We should make God the most important person in our lives by showing Him respect and love. We should find out more about Him by reading our Bibles. Our actions should show that we honor God as the Only True God. Let’s look at the interaction of Moses with God after the Israelites had sinned by worshipping the calf. Moses seeks out God and asks Him to teach him His ways so he could really know God. Just like Moses, we want to seek God, too. Let’s look at what happens.”

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Option B



Materials: A boxed jigsaw puzzle, sack and table for the puzzle

Procedure: Before class, take the pieces out of the box and place them in a bag. Put the box out of sight. Show one of the pieces. “This is a jigsaw puzzle piece. Guess what the completed jigsaw scene will be?” (Let students respond.) Add a few more pieces and continue to let students guess. After several pieces have been put on the table say, “It going to be a _____. Here is the picture on the box. Show the picture on the package to let them see the completed jigsaw puzzle.

“It was difficult to know for certain what the puzzle scene was going to be from only one piece. As we added more, it may have become clearer for you. I want us to consider how this shows us something about God’s nature. God has so many wonderful characteristics. He is (take pieces of puzzle and place out as you list these traits) loving, kind, caring, full of compassion, righteous, truthful, always there for us, generous, merciful, faithful, all-powerful, the King of all the earth, holy . . . As you see, God is all of these things and much more. We begin to discover who He is through the scriptures that He gives us in the Bible. We also learn who He is by having a relationship with Him. We learn to appreciate the way He works in our lives. We can talk with Him about everything in our lives including our temptations and worries. Through prayer we can ask for His power, His Spirit which enables us to live a life that pleases Him. God wants a relationship with us, He wants to be our Father. He is the One True God. Let’s discover more about this perfect God who wants us to become His children.”

Teachers Hint: You may want to purchase the puzzle from a Christian Bookstore. If the students seem interested, you can let the students work on the puzzle for a few minutes before class or for a few minutes during class over a few weeks. The project will teach them to work together and if it has a Christian theme, the image on the puzzle will really become imprinted on their minds. You can use it as a teaching tool by asking the students to relate what this beautiful nature scene, picture of a person in the Bible, etc. reveals to us about the nature of God.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story



“How many of you have watched the Prince of Egypt or the Ten Commandments Movies? Both are dramas based on Moses and the Israelites leaving Egypt. There are many things that occurred on the journey that are not shown in the movies. God performed miracle after miracle for the Israelites. God took care of the Israelites needs as they traveled through the desert. He provided water, manna and quail for them to eat. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night (Exodus 13:21). This should have made their faith in God strong, but they quickly turned to an idol to worship while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments.”

“Look at the difference between Moses and the Israelites. The Israelites were making something with their earrings to worship while Moses was seeking out the One True God. He went directly to the source to find out who God was. He went to God to find out how they should live and to find out how to worship. The Israelites repented of their sin, but Moses still had the challenging task of leading the Israelites to the Promised Land. God told the Israelites that He would send His angel before, but that He would not travel with them because they were so stubborn (stiff-necked) Exodus 33:3 & 5. Under this stress Moses prays to God. Let’s read the conversation in Exodus 33:12-17. After reading verse 17 say, “How would you feel if God said that He was pleased with you and knew you by name? “Let’s read on.” After reading verse 2 in chapter 33 say, “How do you think Moses felt that night? He was probably so excited that he couldn’t sleep. Let’s begin reading in verse 4 through 7. How did God describe Himself in these verses?” (Let students respond. Write on the board: compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. He punishes sin.) “We need to be like Moses and seek Him. Read the Bible, talk with Him and ask Him to be the center of our lives.”

**DISCUSSION****Go!****What's In A Name?****God****Materials:** None**Procedure:** Discussion Questions, Worksheet "Interview with God"

"There are a few references to names in our story today. They are in Exodus 33:12, 17." (Read the verses.) The Lord told Moses that He was pleased with him and that He knew Moses by name. "Why do you think God wanted to reassure Moses that He was pleased with him? What do you think He meant by telling Moses that He knew him by name? God gave Moses a wonderful privilege by allowing him to hear the name of the Lord proclaimed in his presence. Let's look at Exodus 33:19 & 34:5. If you had a chance to talk with the Lord, what do you think it would be like? After you had talked with Him, whom would you tell first?"

**Quest Connection**

"God's name deserves respect! Of course, everything and everyone has a name; we have to call every object or person something. Sometimes we have nicknames and short names for our friends and family. There is a name that deserves our complete respect. That is the name of our God, Jehovah. It is very common to hear people using the name of God in a disrespectful way. You hear it on T.V., radio and even your friends at school, but what does God say about using His name in this way? Let's check it out. He says in Exodus 20:7 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.' Actually this is one of the Ten Commandments. This command was given so our speech would show our love for God when using His name. When we speak the name of God or His son Jesus, it should be to express our praise, worship, faith . . . Our use of their names should not be done as profanity, because this does not take seriously the powerful and perfect character of our heavenly Father."

**Close**

"Let us always remember that we can talk to God whenever we want. We need to remember that God not only knows us, but also loves us more than we ever can imagine. Think carefully about the times you can set-aside during the day to spend time in prayer."



ARTS AND CRAFTS: Before class, cut out the shape of a number one from a piece of Styrofoam. Shape a base for the number if you would like to make it stand up. Attach both pieces with hot glue.

Go!



God Is One



Materials: Two pieces of Styrofoam (Styrofoam is available in many sizes; choose one that is appropriate for your class), markers, paper, scissors, a pack of straight pins

Procedure: Have every student draw two ears (make them big enough to write the entire Quest Verse on them). Cut the ears out with scissors. Have students write Deuteronomy 6:4 on the ears and attach all the pairs of ears to the Styrofoam with pins. (The students will have fun creating the ears. Some will be big; some will look like Mr. Spock. Let them be creative.)

* Note – If you do not want to use the Styrofoam, you may also make the number one with poster board and attach it to the wall. You may use tape to attach the ears.



Quest Connection

“We learned that God is the only one and true God. We are going to make a number one for our classroom from our Quest Verse. It is: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deut. 6:4).



Close

“It is so important that we make God number one in our lives. Take steps this week to become closer to Him. In your prayers ask that you will learn more about Him and build a better relationship with Him. While you read your Bible this week, try to learn more about God from a story with which you may not be familiar. What does this story reveal about the nature of God?”



FOOD: This activity could also be done with two different candy bars. Check for food allergies!

Go!



You Got The Right One



Materials: Cans of cola, cherry cola, ice and cups

Before class, pour a small amount of cola and a small amount of cherry cola in two cups.

Procedure: Before class, pour a small amount of cola and a small amount of cherry cola in two cups.

“We are going to have a taste test. Who would like to be a volunteer?” (Select one of your students to taste. Have the student taste the first and ask the students what they think the soft drink is. Have the student taste the second drink.) “What about this drink what do you think it is? How did you know there was a difference between the two sodas? How did you know that this was plain cola and this was cherry flavored?” (Thank the student.)



Quest Connection

“We know the taste of this soft drink because we have had it before, some of us have it several times during the week. We can taste the difference between regular cola and cherry cola. Now if you had never had a cola before you would not know what it is supposed to taste like. I want you to think about this when you hear people make comments about God. You may hear people refer to God as the ‘man upstairs.’ From the Bible we know that God is not a man at all (Numbers 23:19). He created man. The point is that we need to learn about God from the source. We need to experience and learn about Him from the Bible. Someone could tell me what a soft drink tastes like, but it is not the same as tasting it for myself. In the same way, we need to experience God for ourselves. Here are just a few verses to help us to understand who God is.”

(Pour soft drinks and let students enjoy while they look up and read verses.)



Close

Prayer: Dear Father, You are so perfect. We thank You for letting us understand more about You from Your Word. Please be with us this week and help us to continue to become closer to You. Help us to love You and show Your love to others. It is in Jesus Christ’s name that we pray. Amen.



CHRISTIAN LIVING: This activity will help your students understand that many items they use each day may be used in a positive way. It may help them to start making positive daily choices that will please God rather than turning things into idols.

Go!



Idol Or Item?



Materials: Writing paper, pen, second watch

Procedure: Give each student a few sheets of writing paper and a pen. You will also need a second watch to time the responses. “I am going to call out the name of an item. Write that name on your paper. All of the items could be used for good or they can be used for us. See if you can come up with an idea that would be a good use of the item within 30 seconds. For example: if I called out money, you might say it could be used for tithing to the church, could be given to a charity that helps others, you could purchase a much needed item for someone around you who is less fortunate, etc. We will compare our answers when we are finished.”

Answers: (Here are some suggested answers; accept any reasonable answer.)

1. A car – can to be used to take you or others to church, can be used to run errands for others (someone who is sick or elderly), can be used to deliver groceries or other useful items to someone in need, etc.
2. Radio – can be tuned to the local Christian channel to hear Christian music, can be used for hearing positive music, can be tuned into a Christian sermon or talk show,
3. TV & VCR – we can tune into positive programs, educational programs, Christian programs, or watch Christian videos, Christian Music Videos such as “WOW,” movies based on the Bible (you can read the story from the Bible to see how accurate the movie is), etc.
4. Telephone – call friends from church to encourage them to attend church activities, call to see if someone is feeling better, call someone who may not be able to attend church very often, maybe you could call an elderly member of your family and brighten his/her day, etc.



Quest Connection

“We have learned that our relationships with God should be the most important thing in our lives.”



Close

“God has blessed us with many things, including material items. We should always remember to honor Him with all the blessings that we have.”



MUSIC: Discuss with your students which style of worship they like the best and why.

Go!



Songs to God



Materials: Chalkboard or posterboard

Procedure: Write down the words to the each song on a chalkboard or posterboard.

What a Mighty God We Serve

What Mighty God we serve, What a Mighty God we serve
Angels bow before Him, Heaven and earth adore Him,
What a Mighty God we serve.

Our God is an Awesome God

Our God is an Awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power and love our God is an Awesome God.

*Rich Mullins, Awesome God-A tribute to Rich Mullins, sung by Michael W. Smith
www.kidbrothers.net*



Quest Connection

We are going to sing a couple of worship songs that praise God and tell of His wonderful nature.”



Close

“What are other ways that we can praise and worship God? What about on other days of the week when we are not attending church?”



GUEST QUEST: What an ideal way for your students to get to know other people in their church!

Go!



Let Us Pray



Materials: Invite someone from your congregation who is a leader of a prayer chain or prayer group and let them discuss why prayer is important in their lives. Share the questions with them ahead of time so they can prepare for their visit.

Procedure: Ask your guest to share the following information:

1. Why do you believe prayer is an important part of a Christian's life?
2. Is there a certain time of the day when you pray?
3. What are some of the things you pray about?
4. Have you experienced answers to specific prayers?
5. At what times do you participate in group prayers?
6. Who taught you how to pray?
7. Is there a special Bible verse on prayer that you would like to share with our students?



Quest Connection

“We know that prayer is important, because Jesus taught us to pray. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus shows us that we can call on God as our Father in prayer. We have a special guest to share the importance of prayer. I have invited _____ (guest's name) to share some thoughts on prayer today.”



Close

“We are so glad that _____ (guest's name) could join us to share what prayer means to him/her.” Ask the special guest to dismiss class by leading the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer Life

1. Why do you believe prayer is an important part of a Christian's life?
2. Is there a certain time of the day when you pray?
3. What are some of the things you pray about?
4. Have you experienced answers to specific prayers?
5. At what times do you participate in group prayers?
6. Who taught you how to pray?
7. Is there a special Bible Verse relating to prayer that you really like?



INTERVIEW WITH GOD

If you had a chance for a personal interview with God, what 10 things would you talk to Him about?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

**DRAW A PICTURE BELOW OF AT LEAST 3 THINGS THAT YOU
THINK TEENAGERS TODAY WORSHIP BESIDES GOD.**



Attributes of God!

Design a thank you card with a cover, that praises God for all His many attributes!