

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3

- Summer Friendship Gathering events lasts three evenings and each evening is divided into three parts: fellowship meal, worship time with a large group lesson, and small group discussion. On the last evening there is a closing worship service, which replaces the Large Group Bible Lesson and Small Group Discussion time.
- As you start preparing your lesson a good place to start is to pray asking the Holy Spirit to give you insight and direction.
- You will find an illustrated sample video for this Day 3 Lesson along with the other Summer Friendship Gathering training videos. You are encouraged to use this training material as you plan your lesson.
- The theme for this year's Summer Friendship Gathering is, "He is Worthy."
- Over these three days, we will see how God called Moses to lead His chosen people, the Israelites, out of slavery and into the promised land. Every step of the way the LORD showed Moses that God is worthy because of His Holiness, His Power, and His Love towards His people.



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2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- God wants to show us also that He is a Holy God, an all Powerful God and a Loving God who will never leave us. God is truly worthy of our worship and praise. It's what we were made to do!
- Our theme verse for these three lessons is found in Revelation 5:12b (NIRV)
“He is worthy to receive honor and glory and praise!”
- God freed the Israelites from slavery, led them out of Egypt, and saved them from Pharaoh's army with His power, but He did it because He loved them.
- Our Bible verse for today's lesson comes Exodus 33:14 (NIRV)

The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

- In today's lesson we will learn that God is also worthy because of His love. God heard the cries of His people, and out of His love, He sent Moses to free His people from slavery and lead them out of Egypt.
- God convinced the Pharaoh to free His people by sending 10 plagues that caused big problems for everyone in Egypt. Finally, Pharaoh told Moses to take God's people and leave Egypt. But after they left, Pharaoh changed his mind.
- Pharaoh's army chased the Israelites to the Red Sea. It seemed they were doomed, but God held back the water, so the Israelites crossed on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried to follow, God released the water and all the Egyptians drowned.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- His powerful presence continued to be with them. He led them with a cloud by day and fire by night. God provided everything for them.
- There were no grocery stores in this desert, but God loved His people. When their food ran out, every morning, except on the Sabbath, God provided heavenly bread for them to eat. They called it manna.
- They only needed to gather it off the ground. Every evening God sent small birds called quail that they could eat.
- There were no lakes or rivers, but God loved His people. When their water ran out God provided water. It was like a river flowing from a rock.
- God's love also protected the Israelites. When an enemy nation attacked God's people, God provided victory over their enemy. Without God they would not have survived.
- When the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai, God told Moses to go up on the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments. These were special instructions for God's chosen people. It was a new and better way to live. On stone tablets God Himself, carved out Ten Commandments they were to follow. Moses was on the mountain for 40 days.
- While Moses was up on the mountain with God, the people became impatient. They didn't know what could have happened to Moses.

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2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- The people went to Moses' brother Aaron. They asked him to make them a god that would lead them, since their leader Moses was gone.
- *Aaron told the Israelites, "Take the gold earrings off your wives, your sons and your daughters. Bring the earrings to me." So all the people took off their earrings. They brought them to Aaron. Aaron took all their earrings and cast an idol in the shape of a calf. The Israelites said, "Here is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." Many of the people worshiped the golden calf."*
- In spite of all that God had done for the Israelites, they chose to bow down and worship a golden calf. They exclaimed this was their god who brought them out of Egypt. They became so caught up in worshipping the golden calf that they started to do things that were sinful against God.
- God saw their sin and became very angry. Think about all that God had done for His chosen people because He loved them.
- Just as God was giving them His Word to guide their lives, they sinned against Him by making and worshiping an idol rather than worshiping the one true God.
- Moses went to the Israelites and told them they had committed a great sin. He then humbled himself and went to the Lord asking God to forgive His chosen people.
- God kept His covenant to take them to the promised land, but He wasn't going with them. He was going to give them the land, but without Him.

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2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- Moses and the people were terrified that God would not go with them. God was the One who had freed them from slavery and led them this far in the desert. It was God who gave them their food and water. How would they survive without God?
- Again, Moses pleads with God to go with them. He asked God to remember that the Israelites were God's chosen people. Moses wants to continue to be with God and learn His ways. In Exodus 33 Moses continues to plead with God on behalf of His chosen people.
- The LORD could see Moses' humility, and that Moses really cared about God's people. *"The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*
- *And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you, and I know you by name."*
Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."
- *And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence."*
- God loves, as only God can love. It is a selfless and perfect love. God showed His love for His people, by setting aside His anger. God went with His people to the promised land.

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2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- God showed all His goodness to Moses. Anyone who is humble before God and sees God's goodness pass before them would respond to God's love with their worship and praise.
- In God's perfect love, we all know that God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. That was a sacrificial love. God has also promised that He will never leave us.
- Think about this. God sent His Son Jesus, and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. This is an amazing demonstration of God's goodness to us. Through the Holy Spirit we have the presence of God all the time, to help us, comfort us, guide us, and give us rest. This truly shows us His glory.
- We get to witness God's goodness through His holiness, His power, and His love every day. Our response must be to give God all our praise and worship because He is worthy!
- There are four main points to be made in this lesson. It will be important that each of these points are covered in your lesson because they will be part of the small group discussion questions.
- **The first point is, only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is loving.**
God's love freed the Israelites from slavery, led them out of Egypt, and saved them from Pharaoh's army. God's love provided everything they needed. God's love forgave His people and continued to go with them to the promised land. He did all of this because He loved them.

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2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- **The second point is God's love is a perfect love. It is a sacrificial love and never expects anything in return.**

God loves, as only God can love. It is a selfless and perfect love. It was God's love that provided the needs of His people. He provides everything we need too.

- **The third point is God's love forgives even when it is not deserved.**

Because God loves His people, He forgave them. He set aside his anger after Moses humbled himself and ask God to not forget His promise to His chosen people.

- **The last point is God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for the forgiveness of our sins.**

In God's perfect love, we all know that God sacrificed His only Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. That was a sacrificial love. God has also promised that He will never leave us.

- As you plan out the flow of your lesson, you can choose to use, or not use the optional skit or object lesson. These resources can be used before your first telling of the story or afterwards. This is up to you.
- It is important to find more than one way to tell the story. Visuals and illustrations will help with learning. Most people learn best if the lesson combines different techniques, or modes of learning. Remember, you have access to the PowerPoint slides of the story provided on the flash drive with the curriculum and on our website.
- You should also review the Discussion Leader's Guide for the detailed questions and sub-questions that will be asked on Day 3.

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2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

- Before you finalize your lesson, be sure to incorporate these Day 3 Discussion Questions into the Large Group Bible Lesson.
- It is best to reinforce the main points with our adult friends. This helps them with a smoother transition into the small group discussion time which follows the large group lesson.
- Thank you for your willingness to lead the Day 3 lesson. You are encouraged to review the Large Group Leaders Guide and the notes for this presentation. The links can be found on the Connection Ministries website.
- If you have any questions or need information you can email us at connect@connection-ministries.org or call our office 317-646-5067.