

# SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

## 2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1

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- 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 1 Bible Lesson “HE IS HOLY”, along with the other Summer Friendship Gathering training videos. You are encouraged to watch this video as you plan your lesson.
- The theme for this year’s Summer Friendship Gathering is **“HE IS WORTHY.”** Over these next 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 1 CONTINUED

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- This week we will learning how 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 comes from Revelation 5:12b (NIRV)

***“He is worthy to receive honor and glory and praise!”***

- Today we will learn that God is worthy (deserving) of all our praise and worship because He is Holy. God showed Moses His Holiness when He spoke to him in the burning bush. There is no one more holy (perfect) than God. God wanted a relationship with Moses. God also wants a relationship with us.
- We will also learn the mission God had for Moses, to “let God’s people go” and God promised Moses He would go with him. God promises that He will go with us also.
- Our Bible verse for the Day 1 lesson is ***Exodus 3:4-5 “God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am,” Moses said. “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground.””***
- Have you ever had something amazing catch your attention and you wanted to get a closer look? It could be as simple as a single leaf floating to the ground or as grand as standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

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- That's what happened to Moses. Moses saw a bush on fire that didn't burn up. It caught Moses' attention, and he wanted a closer look.
- Our story today starts in Exodus chapter 3. Moses was 80 years old. He grew up in Egypt as the adopted son of the Pharaoh's daughter. Moses had to flee to the desert because he murdered an Egyptian out of anger. The Egyptian was beating a fellow Hebrew. Moses hid himself for 40 years and became a shepherd in the land of Midian.
- *"Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro was the priest of Midian. Moses led the flock to the western side of the desert. He came to Horeb. It was the mountain of God."*
- **You may want to note that another name for this mountain is Mt. Sinai where later God gave Moses the ten commandments.**
- "There the angel of the Lord appeared to him from inside a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire. But it didn't burn up. So Moses thought, "I'll go over and see this strange sight. Why doesn't the bush burn up?"
- "... God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am," Moses said. "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground."
- God literally stopped Moses in his tracks, he was approaching the presence of God which was "Holy Ground."

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

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- What do we mean when we say God is Holy? When we say, “God is Holy,” we mean He is perfect. Unlike us, there is no trace of evil in God.
- We sin, but God never sins. The Holiness of God means there is no one like Him, He’s the only One. God is totally set apart from anyone or anything else. He is the only perfect Person. There is no one better than God, and **this makes God worthy of our worship and praise.**
- When God first created Adam and Eve, He walked with them in the garden. Adam and Eve were perfect and had a perfect relationship with God. They spent time with God.
- But we all know Adam and Eve sinned. God told them that they could eat from any tree in the garden except one tree. The serpent lied to them. He told them that If they ate from that tree, they would be like God. Adam and Eve wanted to be like God and ate the forbidden fruit.
- When they disobeyed God, they sinned and hid from God. God sent them out of the Garden and away from His presence. We all need to be in God’s presence, but sin keeps us from God because He is holy and perfect, and we are not!
- This separation between God and man remained for about 4,000 years until Jesus came to die for our sins. Now, when we put our trust in Jesus, our sins are washed away, and through the Holy Spirit, we can live in God’s presence.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

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- The passage continues, *“I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard that, he turned his face away. He was afraid to look at God.*”
- God told Moses who He is. God told Moses that He is the same God of his Father, Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. He is the same God who is faithful and did not forget His promises to love and care for His people.
- Moses was afraid to look at God because God’s perfection made him aware of his own sinfulness. Maybe Moses remembered that he murdered an Egyptian 40 years earlier, along with a thousand other sins. This made him afraid to look at the Most Holy and perfect God. So, he hid his face.
- *In our sinfulness we also hide from God. But God knows all our sins, yet He still wants a relationship with us and has a purpose for our lives.*
- God wants to show Himself to us, like He did with Moses. Sometimes it’s when we are not expecting it. It can be when we are seeking Him in places like church, our prayer time, or listening to music.
- God can even show up when we are going about our ordinary day, like Moses was. He watches us and wants to talk to us. God wants us to draw closer to Him. Just like Moses did when he wanted to have a closer look.
- When we approach God, like Moses, we need to be humbled by knowing we are sinners. We can only be saved by the free gift of God’s grace. This grace is given to us through the work of Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. In gratitude, we can approach this perfect and Holy God who is worthy of our praise and worship.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

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- *James 4:8 says, “Come near to God, and He will come near to you.” This is a promise! We can be confident that God is always available and wants to be with us.*
- Not only did God want to be near Moses, but God wanted to talk with him as well. Moses humbled himself and was ready to listen. Our conversations with God are called prayer.
- God had an important mission for Moses, and God has a mission for all of us as well.
- *The LORD told Moses, “I have seen how my people are suffering in Egypt. I have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers. I am concerned about their suffering. So, I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them up out of that land. I will bring them into a good land. It has a lot of room. It is a land that has plenty of milk and honey. And now Israel’s cry for help has reached me. I have seen how badly the Egyptians are treating them.”*
- God knew the suffering His people were experiencing as slaves in Egypt and He wanted Moses to lead them to freedom.
- As you approach God humbly and ready to listen, God may be sending you on a mission to help someone.
- *“But Moses spoke to God. “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” he said. “Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”  
“God said, “I will be with you.... When you have brought the people out of Egypt, all of you will worship me on this mountain.”*

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

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- Like Moses, none of us are worthy because we are all sinners. But God has a purpose for our lives. God still goes with us. In Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus gave His disciples, and us, an impossible task.
- He sent them, and us out to tell the whole world about Jesus. Jesus made the same promise that was made to Moses, *“And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”*
- We are to respond to Jesus the same way Moses responded to God. When God brought His people out of Egypt, they worshiped Him on the mountain. They recognized God’s holiness. We are to give God all our worship and praise because He is holy and worthy of it.
- 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 God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is holy.** God showed Moses His Holiness when He spoke to him in the burning bush. There is no one more holy (perfect) than God. Even the ground where Moses was standing on was holy ground because God was there.
- **The second point is God is holy and set apart from anyone or anything else that is sinful. There is no one better than God.** We sin, but God never sins. The Holiness of God means there is no one like Him, He’s the only One. God is totally set apart from anyone or anything else. He is the only perfect Person.

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- **The third point is God wants a relationship with us, so He sent His only Son Jesus to die for our sins.** Jesus paid the price for our sins so we can live in the presence of a perfect and holy God.
- Moses was afraid to look at God because God's perfection made him aware of his own sinfulness. Maybe Moses remembered that he murdered an Egyptian 40 years earlier. In our sinfulness we also hide from God. But God knows all our sins, yet He still wants a relationship with us and has a purpose for our lives.
- **The fourth point is God had a mission for Moses and God has a mission for us.** Like Moses, God promises to go with us on our mission. God knew the suffering His people were experiencing as slaves in Egypt and He wanted Moses to lead them to freedom. You may have a friend who is suffering, maybe they need prayer, or a helping hand, or someone to visit them. As you approach God humbly and ready to listen, God may be sending you on a mission to help someone.
- 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.



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## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

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- It is helpful to review the Discussion Leader's Guide for the detailed questions and sub-questions that will be asked on Day 1.
- Before you finalize your lesson, be sure to incorporate these Day 1 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 1 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](mailto:connect@connection-ministries.org) or call our office 317-646-5067.

