

# HE IS WORTHY



“...He is Worthy to Receive Honor, Glory and Praise!”

Revelation 5:12

connec<sup>+</sup>ion  
ministries

## 2024 Discussion Group Leader Guide



# INTRODUCTION

## “He is Worthy”

Why do you think we go to Church and participate in the activities of the church? Is it a social activity where we go to see our friends? Do we go because we’ve been taught it’s the right thing to do?

Coming to a Summer Friendship Gathering is a fun thing to do. It is a great time to be with friends, and the food is pretty good too. But the best reason to be at church is that it is a special time to worship and praise God.

We should want to worship and praise God, because “He is Worthy.” But why is He worthy? God deserves all our worship and praise for many reasons. Just look at His creation. It is easy to see His majesty in the mountains, lakes, rivers and creatures.

But the people are especially amazing. Did you know that we are created by God in His image?

### **Psalm 146 says,**

“He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
He remains faithful forever.”

God created everything, and literally does everything for us. God is truly worthy of our worship and praise for many reasons. But at this summer’s Gathering, we will look at just three reasons God is Worthy. He is Worthy because,

- **He is Holy, or perfect,**
- **He is Powerful, and**
- **He is Loving**

When we say, “God is Holy,” we mean He is perfect in all His ways. Unlike us, there is no trace of evil in God’s character. His perfect goodness separates us from Him, except when we have Jesus living in us. This is because Jesus is holy, or perfect for us. Because of Jesus’ death on a cross for our sins, we can come into God’s presence.

God is also all powerful. He not only has power over everything, but He is the source of all power. There is nothing that is impossible for God.

God is also loving. It says in 1 John 4:8, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." The love the apostle John speaks of is a self-giving love. A love that gives without expecting anything in return. God loves us with a perfect love.

Is there anyone in your life that you would say is worthy of your worship and praise? A parent, family member, teacher, staff, friend. Are any of them Holy or perfect?

Do you know anyone who has the power to do anything and everything? Do they love perfectly? Being worthy means being deserving, and only God can do all these things and so much more. God is the only one who is worthy of our worship and praise. He deserves all our praise and worship.

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 God showed Moses His worthiness through His Holiness, His Power, and His Love.

### **Theme Verse - Revelation 5:12**

**"...He is worthy to receive honor and glory and praise!"**

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## **DAY 1 - HE IS WORTHY - GOD IS HOLY (PERFECT)**

### **Day 1 Bible Verse: 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.""*

God appears to Moses in a burning bush. God tells Moses He is holy and that He is the God of his father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He tells Moses that He has seen how His people are suffering in Egypt and He sends Moses on a mission.

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## **DAY 2 - HE IS WORTHY - GOD IS POWERFUL**

### **Day 2 Bible Passage Ephesians 3:20-21**

*"God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us..."*

(Day 2 Continued)

Pharaoh allows Moses and the Israelites to leave Egypt, but quickly changes his mind. Pharaoh traps the Israelites at the Red Sea, but through God's power the waters part and the Israelites cross on dry ground. Pharaoh and his army follow, but God lets the water go and Pharaoh and his army drown.

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### **DAY 3 - HE IS WORTHY - GOD IS LOVING**

**Day 3 Bible Verse: Exodus 33:14**

*"The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.""*

The Israelites worship a golden calf instead of the one true God. God becomes angry and told Moses that He would not go with them to the promised land. Moses intercedes for the Israelites and God promises to go with them and give them rest. Jesus promises to always go with us until the end of time.

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### **Buzz Word Chant**

Our three lessons for this summer focus on "God is Worthy" of our worship and praise because He is holy, powerful and loving. It is our goal that we enthusiastically come together as a community of believers to give God all our praise and worship because "He is Worthy."

**This week every time we hear the words Holy or Holiness, Power or Powerful, or Love, or Loving, everyone will shout out "He is Worthy"**

At the beginning of each large group lesson lead your group through the Buzz words and chant. And have them practice.

**On day 1 we will learn that God is Holy – "He is Worthy!"**

**On day 2 we will learn that God is Powerful – "He is Worthy!"**

**On day 3 we will learn that God is Loving – "He is Worthy!"**

## HELPFUL HINTS

### BE PREPARED!

To be properly prepared to participate in your discussion group please read through this guide, watch the Discussion Group video by following this link;

<https://connection-ministries.org/summer-friendship-gathering-training/> and study the following Biblical passages prior to the event:



**DAY 1**  
**He is Worthy**  
God is Holy  
(Exodus 3:1-12 )

**DAY 2**  
**He is Worthy**  
God is Powerful  
(Exodus 13:20 - Chapter 14 )

**DAY 3**  
**He is Worthy**  
**God is Loving**  
(Exodus 33:12-19 )

### REVIEW EACH DAY'S OUTLINE

**REVIEW EACH DAY'S ROUTINE.** In each day's lesson you will find 4 sections: Introduction, Bible Lesson, Discussion Questions, Reflection Questions, and Group Prayer. These are tools for you to use to help our adult friends understand the lesson.

### INVOLVE EVERYONE IN THE GROUP

**INVOLVE EVERYONE IN THE GROUP.** Everyone in the group should be encouraged to participate in the discussion, including the adult friends, families, direct support staff, and volunteers. It is important to moderate the conversation so that all participants have a chance to share. Even though some adult friends may not use words, they can hear, listen, and learn from the discussion.

### HAVE PARTICIPANTS READ ALOUD

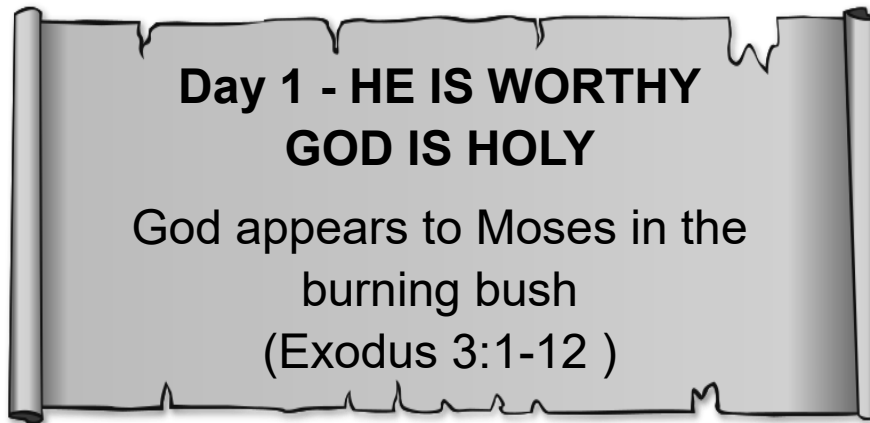
**READING ALOUD IS IMPORTANT.** If you have adult friends with disabilities who are good readers, or family members, consider having them read the daily Bible verse and discussion questions. This encourages group participation and involvement. There will not be enough time to read the entire lesson during discussion time.

### PATIENTLY WAIT FOR A RESPONSE

**PATIENTLY WAIT FOR A RESPONSE** when asking a question. Those with disabilities sometimes need a moment to process the question, and to formulate their answer. If he/she does not respond after a minute, ask the question again or rephrase it. Do not hesitate to ask for help from our friend's direct support staff and housemates in the group. Companions can whisper answers in adult friend's ear.

### CONNECT THE BIBLE LESSON TO REAL LIFE

**CONNECT THE BIBLE LESSON.** Connecting the day's Bible story to real life situations helps everyone apply God's Word to their own lives. Feel free to give examples from your own life where the lesson relates to your situation. And whenever possible, tie the discussions back to the importance of trusting Jesus and obeying His calling.



**Day 1 Bible Verse: Exodus 3:4-5 (NIRV)**

*“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.””*

**LESSON  
OBJECTIVES**

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is holy.
- God is holy (perfect) and set apart from anyone or anything else that is sinful. There is no one better than God, and we should be humbled before Him and give Him all our worship and praise.
- 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 God.
- God had a mission for Moses and God has a mission for us. Like Moses, God promises to go with us on our mission.

**DAY 1 LESSON  
INTRODUCTION**

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. God sent Moses on a mission to Pharaoh to tell him to “let God’s people go.” God promised Moses He would go with him. God also promises that He will always go with us.

**Day 1 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS HOLY**  
Bible Lesson - Exodus 3:1-12

## **Lesson**

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.

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. Moses 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."*

*"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 told Moses not to come any closer. He literally stopped Moses in his tracks because he was approaching the presence of God which was "Holy Ground". Think about it, even the ground in the presence of God was "holy."

Back then people took off their shoes when they came into someone's house. It was a sign of humility and respect. Moses was in God's "house," a place of His presence, and Moses needed to show his humility and respect for God.

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. 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.**

**Day 1 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS HOLY  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

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.

Another way to think about the Holiness of God, is think about the best person you know. Do you think they ever did anything wrong? Did they ever sin? Even the best person you know has sinned. The God we worship has never sinned. He is perfect, He is Holy, and because of this, **God is worthy of our worship and praise.**

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."

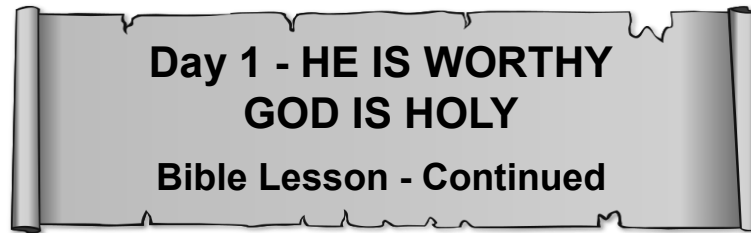
God told Moses who He is. God told Moses that He is the same God of his Father, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the same God who is faithful and did not forget His promises to love and care for His people.

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.

Do you remember last summer when we studied Peter? In Luke 5 Peter realized that Jesus, the Son of God, was in his boat. His response was "depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man." Just like Peter and Adam and Eve, in the light of God's perfect holiness, Moses was aware of his sinfulness, and he hid his face from God.

In our sinfulness we also hide from God. But God knows all our sins, yet He





**Day 1 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS HOLY  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

still wants a relationship with us and He has a purpose for our lives.

God wants to show Himself to us, sometimes 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. He watches us and wants to talk to us. God wants us to draw closer to Him.

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.

*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 He wanted to talk with him as well. Our conversations with God are called prayer.

God had an important mission to send Moses on, 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.

God may also want to send you on a mission to help someone.

*"The Lord said to Moses, "So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh. I want you to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. They are my people.""*

**Day 1 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS HOLY  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

God explained to Moses that He sees how badly the Egyptians are treating His people and God hears his people's cry. God wants to free the Israelites from slavery and lead them to the land He promised Abraham four hundred years earlier.

God was sending Moses to tell Pharaoh to "let God's people go!"

*"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." "*

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 His disciples 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. **We are to give God all our worship and praise because He is holy and worthy.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why was the mountain where Moses saw the burning bush important?  
**It was the mountain of God!**
- Who appeared inside the burning bush?  
**God appeared from inside the bush as the Angel of the LORD**
- What did God tell Moses to do after He called out his name?  
**God told Moses not to come any closer and to take off his sandals. God didn't want Moses to come any closer because God is Holy, (God was Perfect without sin) and Moses was not.**
- What did God tell Moses He was going to “come down” and do for His people?  
**God wanted to deliver His people from being slaves in Egypt and lead them into a new land with a lot of room. It is a land that has plenty of milk and honey. Later we will learn, this land was called the “Promised Land.”**
- How was Moses part of God's plan?  
**God was sending Moses to tell Pharaoh to “let God's people go!”**
- What did God tell Moses His people would do after He brought them out of Egypt?  
**They would worship Him on this mountain.**

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?  
**God revealed to Moses who He is. God let Moses know that He is the same perfect God of his Father, Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. Moses was afraid to look at God because of God's perfect holiness. It made him aware of his own sins.**
- What are some ways you come near to God? The passage from James promises that the times you came near to God, He came near to you.  
**We come near to God when we pray, worship or study His Word**
- How do we approach God? How can we acknowledge His holiness?  
**We need to humble ourselves knowing that we are sinners. Then we can come near to Him with our worship and praise, because He is worthy.**

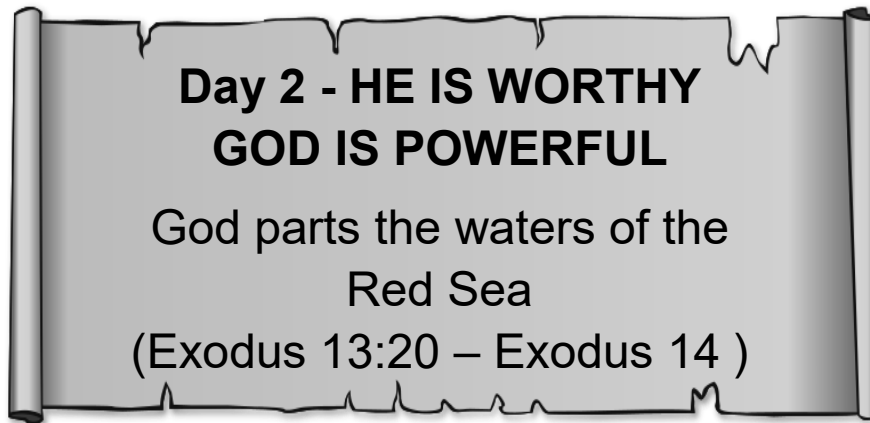


**GROUP ACTIVITY**



**PRAYER TIME**

**At the end of your group's discussion time, be sure names are on the booklets and place them in the table bins with everyone's nametag.**



*Day 2 Bible Verse: Ephesians 3:20 (NIRV)*

*"God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us."*

**LESSON  
OBJECTIVES**

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is powerful.
- God's uses His power to lead His people.
- God's uses His power to protect and save His people.
- We need to trust in God's loving power and not our own because His ways are perfect.

**DAY 2 LESSON  
INTRODUCTION**

Today we will see that God is worthy of our praise and worship because He is powerful. We will learn how God's power, working through Moses freed His people; and led them through the desert to the land He promised Abraham 400 years earlier, even when their way seemed impossible.

## Day 2 - HE IS WORTHY GOD IS POWERFUL

Bible Lesson - Exodus 13:20 – Exodus 14 )

### Lesson

Did you know God has power over His whole creation: the weather, the rulers of the nations, and the hearts of people. God has power over everything, and there is nothing He can't do. There is nothing that is impossible for God!

God demonstrated His powerful love for the Israelites even when their situation looked impossible. They thought they would surely die. But God was with them every step of the way.

God kept his promise and delivered His people from slavery. First, God showed His power by sending plagues on Egypt. The plagues were so bad that the Egyptians begged the Israelites to leave their country. They even gave them their gold and riches so they would leave.

God's people marched out of Egypt and were on their way to the promised land. After seeing His great power, they put their trust in Him and worshipped Him.

Have you ever been in a bad situation where things seemed impossible? Maybe you thought it couldn't get any worse. Every time you see a little bit of hope, something else comes along and all your hope is gone. Well, you're not alone. The Israelites felt the same way after God led them out of Egypt to freedom.

In Exodus 13:20 it says, *"The people camped at ... the edge of the desert. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. It guided them on their way. At night he led them with a pillar of fire. It gave them light. So they could travel by day or at night."*

God didn't just let his children wander around not knowing where to go. Just imagine being guided by a giant column of clouds every day or fire every night! Wherever the pillar was, that's where God was.

God was showing His people the way through the desert. God was protecting them like a shield protects a warrior.

The passage continues.

*"Then the Lord spoke to Moses. He said, 'Tell the people of Israel to turn back. They must camp by the sea, Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land. They don't know which way to go. The desert is all around them.' I will make Pharaoh stubborn. He will chase them. But I will gain glory for myself because of what will happen to Pharaoh and his whole army. And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.'" "So the Israelites camped by the Red Sea."*

**Day 2 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS POWERFUL  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

God also wanted the Israelites to see His glory. God wanted to show them that He is all powerful so they would worship Him.

God's plan always makes sense, even when it doesn't make sense to us. God always has a purpose for everything He does. He wants us to trust His ways, not ours. When we trust God to lead us in the right direction, He gives us a peace in our hearts even when things don't make sense.

*"The LORD made Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, stubborn." "All Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen and troops chased them. They caught up with the Israelites as they camped by the sea."*

*"The Israelites were terrified. They cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Why did you bring us to the desert to die?" "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die here in the desert!""*

The Israelites didn't think their lives could get any worse. Their lives were bad in Egypt and now everything was hopeless. Pharaoh and his army were behind them, and the Red Sea was in front of them. There was no way out! It looked like God put the Israelites between a rock and a hard place.

When they realized they were doomed, they cried out to the LORD. They had no way to escape. They even wished they could have stayed in Egypt as slaves. Even after God saved them from slavery, the Israelites still could not see God's awesome power.

God wants us to cry out to Him when we are afraid, when we are hurt, or when things seem too big for us. God is always with us and ready to help us. He wants us to trust Him, even when things don't make sense. Sometimes it's in these circumstances we see just how powerful God is and how much He really loves and cares for us.

*"Moses answered the people. He said, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today. Do you see those Egyptians? You will never see them again. The LORD will fight for you. Just be still.""*

*"Then the Lord spoke to Moses. Tell the people of Israel to move on. Hold out your walking stick. Reach out your hand over the Red Sea to divide the water. Then the people can go through the sea on dry ground." "The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord. I will gain glory because of what will happen to Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."*

*"Then Moses reached out his hand over the Red Sea. All that night the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong east wind. He turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. The people of Israel went through the sea on dry ground."*



**Day 2 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS POWERFUL  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

But the Egyptian army was still chasing them. They chased them right into the sea on the dry ground.

*“Then the Lord spoke to Moses. He said, “Reach out your hand over the sea. The waters will flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” So Moses reached out his hand over the sea.” “The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen. It covered the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the people of Israel into the sea. Not one of the Egyptians was left.””*

*“The Israelites saw the amazing power the Lord showed against the Egyptians. So the Israelites had great respect for the Lord and put their trust in him. They also put their trust in his servant Moses.”*

God wanted His people to see that only He makes impossible situations possible. Because only God can do it, He receives all the glory. There is no one more powerful than our God!

Every day we make decisions and if we make them on our own, we may make mistakes, But through His power, God can lead us in the right direction.

When we find ourselves in difficult and even impossible situations, God will use His power to protect and save us.

God’s healing power can help when we are sick or hurting. His power can protect you when you are afraid. God will comfort you when you are sad or lonely. He brings peace when you are angry and unable to forgive.

Just like the Israelites in this story about Moses, God’s power is at work in all of us. It’s what keeps us alive, calms our fears, and fills our hearts with love. When the Israelites experienced God’s powerful deliverance from Pharaoh’s army, they sang a song of praise and worshiped the LORD.

**Exodus 15:1-2**

“I will sing to the Lord.

He is greatly honored.

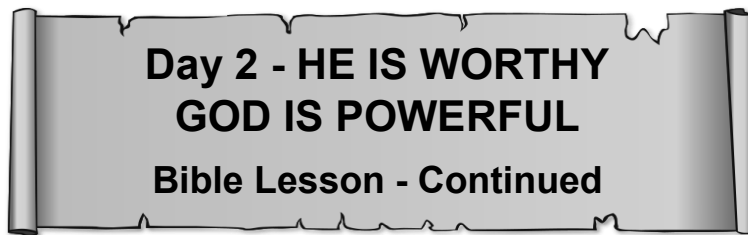
He has thrown Pharaoh’s horses and chariot drivers  
into the Red Sea.

The Lord gives me strength and protects me.

He has saved me.

He is my God, I will praise him.

He is my father’s God, and I will honor him.”



**Day 2 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS POWERFUL  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

When God delivers us from our impossible problems, we can also sing our own song of praise to Him. Because of God's powerful love for us we proclaim, **"He is Worthy of all our worship and praise."**



**GROUP ACTIVITY**

### **Day 2 – Craft: Praise Tambourines**

Connection Ministries will provide the supplies needed for the Day 2 craft.

The praise tambourines will be used during the Day 3 Worship service. Small group discussion leaders will need to collect the finished praise tambourines at the end of their small group on Day 2 and put them in a bag. The bags can be stored under the registration table.

After the group picture is taken on Day 3 the small group leaders will retrieve the bags and hand out the tambourines to their group members.

Our friends can play them during the praise and worship time of the Day 3 worship service.

At the end of the Gathering friends can take their praise tambourines home with them.

#### **Supplies needed for the Praise Tambourines:**

- Chinet paper plates (1 per person)
- Different colored ribbon
- Jingle bells (4 per person)
- Pipe cleaners
- Stickers or tape
- Washable markers

Continued on next page

## **Day 2 – Craft: Praise Tambourines continued**

We have been learning about how worthy God is of all our praise and worship. He is holy and powerful and there are so many more reasons to praise Him.

God demonstrated His power to the Israelites even when their situation looked impossible. Do you remember all the ways God showed His powerful love to His people?

He freed them from slavery and led them in the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Then God led them across the sea on dry land and the entire Egyptian army was swept away.

Do you remember what the Israelites did after they crossed the Red Sea and saw that they were safe from their enemy?

When the Israelites experienced God's powerful deliverance from Pharaoh's army, they sang a song of praise to the LORD. They not only sang but the Bible says they played their tambourines and danced!

So today we are going to make our own tambourines so we can sing our own worship songs and praise the Lord.

First you will need a paper plate. With the pipe cleaner you will thread the jingle bell and attach it to the plate through the hole provided. Each person will get four jingle bells.

Next you can decorate your tambourine with ribbons and stickers. You can also add some color with washable markers.

When God delivers us from our impossible problems, we can also sing our own song of praise to Him. Because of God's powerful love for us we proclaim, "He is Worthy of all our worship and praise."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did God lead His people after He delivered them from Egypt?

**He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Wherever the pillar was, that's where God was.**

- Why did God lead His people into the wilderness?

**God had a better plan for the people He loved. He wanted to make Pharaoh think the Israelites were confused in the wilderness. God was setting a trap for the Pharaoh and the Egyptian army. He had a perfect plan. God wanted them to trust His ways. God wanted to receive all the glory.**

- When the Israelites reached the Red Sea, why were they terrified?

**They saw the Egyptian army chasing them. They had nowhere to run because they were up against the Red Sea.**

- What did the people do when they saw Pharaoh's army chasing them?

**They complained to Moses and cried out to the LORD for help.**

- How did God save the Israelites by doing the impossible when the Egyptian army was chasing them?

**God made a way for the Israelites to escape through the Red Sea by pushing the sea back so the Israelites could go through the sea on dry ground. God also destroyed Pharaoh's army by allowing the water to flow back and covered the chariots and horsemen. It covered the entire army, not one Egyptian was left.**

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- God probably won't lead us today with a pillar of cloud or fire. But He does lead us. What are some ways God leads you?

**He can lead us by His Word, the Bible. Sometimes He leads us through others who know Him, our pastors, teachers, parents, or friends. Sometimes He puts things or people in our path.**

- Can you share a time when you were terrified and cried out to God for help?
- Do we trust in God's Power when we are struggling, or do we trust in ourselves or others.
- What are you struggling with?

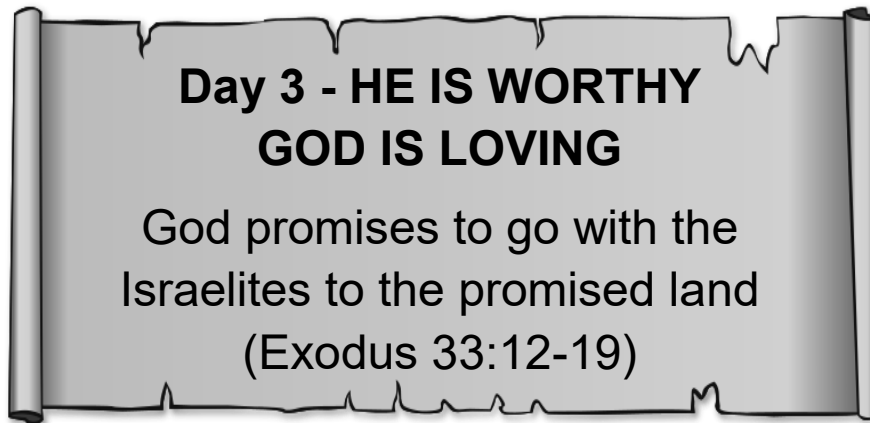


## **PRAYER TIME**

Leave enough time to take praises and prayer requests. Be sure to ask all our adult friends, volunteers, family members, and care givers/support staff for praises and prayer requests as well.

**You can use this space to write down each person's prayers requests**

**At the end of your group's discussion time, everyone can take their books home. Be sure to place nametags in the table bin.**



***Gatherings may or may not choose to have small group discussion on day 3. We provided discussion materials in the Discussion Group Leader Guide and the participant's Discussion Booklet. Check with your Friendship leaders if you will be leading the day 3 discussions.***

*Day 3 Bible Verse: Exodus 33:14*

*The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

## **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is loving.
- God's love is a perfect love. It is a sacrificial love and never expects anything in return.
- God's love forgives even when it is not deserved.
- God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for the forgiveness of our sins.

## **DAY 3 LESSON INTRODUCTION**

After God parted the Red Sea and led them across on dry ground, Moses, his sister Miriam, and all of God's people worshiped Him with singing and dancing because He is worthy. God is the only one worthy to receive the glory for anything that is good.

## Day 3 - HE IS WORTHY GOD IS Loving

### Bible Lesson - Exodus 33:12-19

#### Lesson

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.

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.

The Israelites miraculously crossed through the Red Sea by God's great power and love. God continued to lead them through the desert to the land He promised Abraham 400 years earlier.

The Bible says there were 600,000 men. But if we include the women and children, there would have been well over 2 million people with Moses following God into the desert.

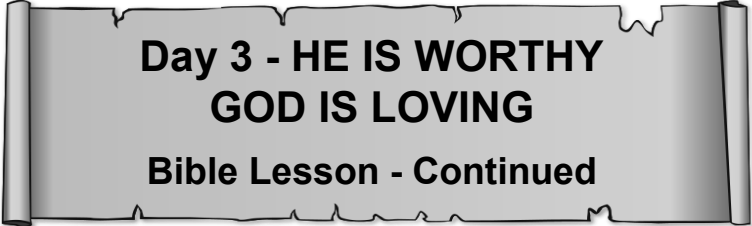
His powerful presence continued to be with them. He led them with a cloud by day and fire by night. God provided everything for them.

What do you think it would be like to go on a long journey in the desert? Would there be grocery stores where they could stop for food? Would there be lakes and rivers to take a bath or get a drink of water?

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



**Day 3 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS LOVING  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

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.

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.

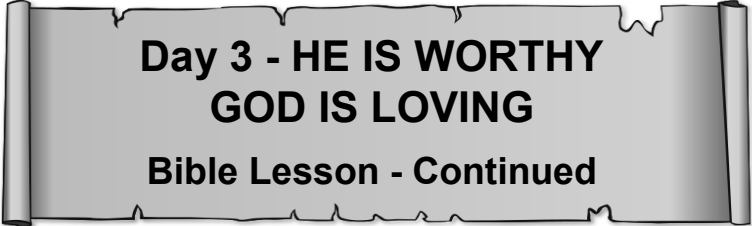
Just as God was giving them His Word to guide their lives, they sinned against Him by making and worshiping an idol rather than worshiping the one true God.

Moses went to the Israelites and told them they had committed a great sin. He then humbled himself and went to the Lord asking Him to forgive His chosen people.

Exodus 33:1-3 *"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Leave this place. You and the people you brought up out of Egypt must leave it. Go up to the land I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I said to them, 'I will give it to your children after you.' I will send an angel ahead of you. I will drive out (your enemies)... Go up to the land that has plenty of milk and honey. But I will not go with you. You are stubborn. I might destroy you on the way.'"*

Yes, God kept His promise that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but He





**Day 3 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS LOVING  
Bible Lesson - Continued**

wasn't going with them. God said He would send an angel ahead of them. God was going to withdraw His presence. He was going to give them the land, but without Him.

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. Moses said to the Lord, *"You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' 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."*

Moses wanted to learn God's ways so that he would continue to find favor with God. He asked God to remember that the Israelites were God's chosen people.

The LORD could see Moses' humility, and that Moses cared about God's people. *"The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.""*

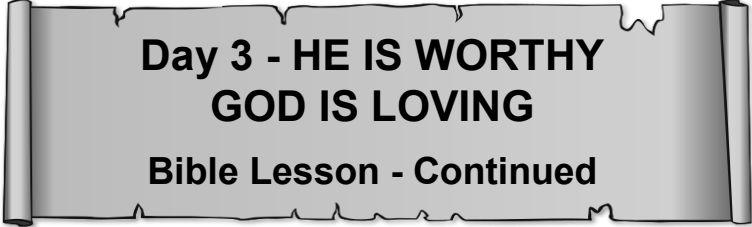
*And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."*

*"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.

When Moses said to God, "Teach me Your ways," and later, "Show me your glory," it showed that Moses had a hunger to know God more deeply. It also showed His humility.



**Day 3 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS LOVING  
Bible Lesson - 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.

**You may want to take some time here and read John 3:16 or choose a similar verse that talks about God sending His son Jesus.**

*“ God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”*

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.

**You may want to ask, So, what is our response for what God's Son, Jesus, did for us? How do we respond to God's never-ending presence in our lives?**

You may want to ask, So, what is our response for what God's Son, Jesus, did for us? How do we respond to God's never-ending presence in our lives?



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How did God show His love to the Israelites?

**God's presence was seen in the cloud by day and fire by night. God provided everything for them. When their food ran out God provided heavenly food called manna and quail for meat. When their water ran out God provided water like a river flowing from a rock. When an enemy nation attacked the Israelites, God provided victory over their enemy.**

- How is God's love seen in your life today?

**His love may be seen in your life by the food, shelter, and caring people He gives to you. He also gives you the Holy Spirit who promises never to leave you. God speaks to you through His Word, the Bible. The Bible leads you every day in the way you should walk.**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(CONTINUED)

- Why was worshipping a golden calf not a good idea?

**This was not a good idea! When God spoke to the people about a new way of living, He gave them ten commandments on how to live as His chosen people. One of the commandments God had given Moses told them not to make any gods with their hands, and not to worship any other gods besides the LORD God.**

- Why was God going to destroy the Israelites?

**They disobeyed God's commandments by making and worshipping a false god, or idol, other than the LORD God.**

**They bowed down to the golden calf exclaiming this was their god who brought them out of Egypt. The people became so caught up in worshipping the golden calf that they started to do things that were very sinful against God.**

- What did Moses do when God said He would destroy them?

**Moses went to the Israelites and told them they had committed a great sin. Moses humbled himself and went to the Lord asking God to forgive His chosen people.**



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do we love more than God? (What is our golden calf)?
- What are some ways we can worship God?



## **PRAYER TIME**

Leave enough time to take praises and prayer requests. Be sure to ask all our adult friends, volunteers, family members, and care givers/support staff for praises and prayer requests as well.

**You can use this space to write down each person's prayers requests**