HEIS WORTHY



"...He is Worthy to Receive Honor, Glory and Praise!"
Revelation 5:12

connection minis ries

2024 Large Group Leader Guide



"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 God, except when we have Jesus living in us.

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!"

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.

DAY 2 - HE IS WORTHY - GOD IS POWERFUL

Day 2 Bible Passage Ephesians 3:20

"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)

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

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.

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!"



BE PREPARED

o prepare for leading the large group lesson please read through this guide, watch the Large Group Leader videos by following this link https://connection-ministries.org/summer-friendship-gathering-training/ and study these 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

In each day's outline, you will find 4 sections to help you lead the large group: Daily Bible Verse, Lesson Objectives, Background Information, and Bible Lesson.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

It is vital for the Bible lesson to actively engage the adult friends, as this encourages further learning. Here are some ideas to use in teaching the large group lesson:

Skits, Props, & Costumes: Engage the large group through the use of skits, costumes, and /or having a guest visitor (puppets or Bible character). It is important to use a volunteer to narrate the skits using a microphone. It is important for everyone to hear and understand the skit lines.

Songs: Worship and interactive songs related to the day's Bible lesson are good ways of reinforcing the lesson.

<u>Biblical Character:</u> A volunteer can play a Bible character from the day's lesson.

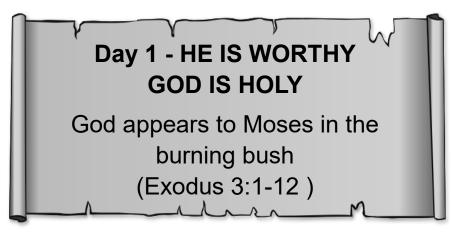
Ask Lots of Questions: The Large Group Bible teacher should ask lots of questions throughout the lesson and engage the group for answers.

WAIT PATIENTLY
FOR A RESPONSE

CONNECT THE BIBLE LESSON

Those with disabilities sometimes need more time to process the question and formulate their answer. If he/she does not respond after a minute, ask the question again or rephrase it.

By connecting the Bible lesson to real-life situations it



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.""

- 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.

LESSON OBECTIVES

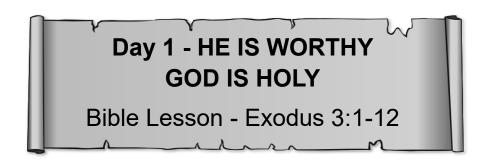
HELPFUL PROPS & TEACHING AIDS

- DAY 1 PowerPoint slides
- Object Lessons (see SFG training video with note pages)
- Skit Scripts with actors

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 Pharoah 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.

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Buzz Word

This week every time you hear the words Holy or Holiness, Power or Powerful, or Love, or Loving, I want you all to shout out "He is Worthy" Let's 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!"

<u>Lesson</u>

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 Pharoah'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 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."

You may want to ask, what do you think was the reason God told Moses to take off his sandals?

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.**

You may want to take some time and review what it means when we say God is Holy. Ask the group what were some of the words we used?

- He is perfect
- He is unlike us
- There is no trace of evil in Him
- There is no one like Him
- God is set apart from anyone or anything
- No one better than God

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.

You may want to ask, what happened that separated us from God for 4,000 years? Who brought us back to the presence of God?

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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, 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.

You may want to ask why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?

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

This would be a good place to say that when we sin we need Jesus' forgiveness. Jesus forgives us when we ask him. He forgives us because He wants to be in a relationship with us, because He loves us.

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.

Here would be a good time to ask what are some ways you come near to God? This passage from James promises that the times you came near to God, He came near to you.

(Give time for a response, if a response isn't offered, have an example ready.)

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.

This would be a good place to ask if they have a friend who is suffering, maybe needing prayer, or a helping hand, or someone to visit them.

God may be sending 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.""

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?""

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[&]quot;God said, "I will be with you.... When you have brought the people out of Egypt, <u>all of you will worship me on this mountain.""</u>

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.

You can end the lesson by asking some of the reasons they have come to the Gathering tonight. Was it to see your friends? Was it the food or the T-shirt you will receive later?

May I suggest that the best reason to be here tonight is to worship and praise God because He is worthy!

Being Prepared for Small Group Time

Below are discussion and reflection questions that will be used during their small group discussion time. You should ask some of these questions during the lesson to engage the group. Be sure the answers for all of these questions have been covered during your lesson.

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."

(Discussion Questions Continued)

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?

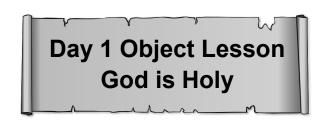
God revealed to Moses who He is. God let Moses know that He is the same perfect God of his Father, Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. Moses was afraid to look at God because of God's perfect holiness. It made him aware of his own sins.

• 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.



For this object lesson you will need:

- a large cylinder glass of water (about 8 oz.)
- a glass of vegetable oil (about 4 oz.)
- 1 drop of food coloring a darker color, green, blue, red
- a tray to set the glasses on to catch any water.
- About 8 oz. of bleach
- A straw for stirring

Have you ever thought about what God's Holiness looks like? It's something we can't really see with our eyes like we can see the sunrise, a newborn baby, or a great waterfall. Yet when we look at some of God's creation, we do see His holiness. We see something separate, unlike anything that we could ever create or do on our own. God is Holy, He is perfect, pure, and above anything or anyone.

Today we are going do a little experiment to show you what we mean when we say, "God is Holy." Holy means perfect, and we know God is perfect. Unlike us, there is no trace of evil in God. We sin, but God never sins.

This glass of water represents us. (Put a drop of food coloring in the glass and stir with a straw). This food coloring is the sin in our lives. We all have sin. We are not pure; we are not perfect. Only God is perfect!

God is Holy, or perfect (**Hold up the glass of oil).** Like this glass of oil. The Holiness of God means there is no one like Him, He's the only One. God doesn't have any sin in Him. God is totally set apart from anyone or anything else. He is the only perfect Person.

God wanted to show Moses that He is a Holy God. He did something that was unlike anything Moses had ever seen. Do you remember what it was? Yes... He showed Moses a bush that was on fire but not burning up.

When Moses wanted to come closer, God told Moses to stop and take off his sandals. God wanted Moses to know that the ground he was standing on was



not ordinary ground. God is Holy and that made the ground holy, sacred, clean, and perfect. God wanted to teach Moses He is worthy of honor and respect.

What do you think will happen when I pour the glass of water into the glass with the oil? (You will need a few moments to let the oil and water mixture time settle and separate).

Look! The water and oil separated. God's Holiness cannot mix with our sinfulness. He is perfect and pure. He is all together set apart from us.

But wait!! We are still filled with sin. Let's look what Jesus did when he died on the cross and washed away our sins. This bleach represents Jesus and His work on the cross for us. (Add the bleach to the water and oil mixture and stir. You will need to wait a few minutes to let the bleach work and the oil to go up to the top again).

When we trust in Jesus to wash away our sins. He makes us pure. The Bible says in *Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."* It is Jesus who now lives in us and makes us pure.

Even though we are saved from our sins through Jesus Christ, God is still Holy and above us. Remember, He is the only perfect Person and there is no sin in Him.

See how the water, even though it is clean now, is still separated from the oil? God is above everything and there is nothing that is greater than Him. **This** makes God worthy of our worship and praise.



Three characters are needed; Will, Melody, and Patrick. Will is sitting in a chair pretending to wash his feet. Melody walks up to him.

Melody: Hey Will, what are you doing?

Will: Oh, well...um... I am washing my feet.

Melody: Why are you washing your feet?

Will: I just want to be ready for when I have to take off my shoes. (Will looks around to make sure no one is listening) I don't want everyone to smell my feet. I have a foot odor problem.

Patrick walks up.

Patrick: Hi Melody! Hi Will! Didn't you just love today's lesson? Wow, I never thought about God's Holiness like that. He's perfect, He's set apart, He's better than anyone or anything. He truly is worthy of our worship and praise.

Melody: Oh yes! God is so awesome! Just think He spoke to Moses from inside a burning bush. And though it was on fire it didn't even burn up!

Will: (Still washing his feet) Wow! That must have been something to see.

Patrick: Uhhhh..Will, why are you washing your feet?

Will: Oh, I want to make sure they are nice a clean in case God calls me to stand on Holy ground, like He did Moses.

Melody: But Will, you already are in God's presence when you trusted Jesus to be your Lord and Savior last year, remember?

Will: (Shaking his head yes)

Patrick: Yeah Will, Jesus cleans us on the inside by washing away our sins. He doesn't care if your feet are stinky. Besides, He gave us the Holy Spirit to live in us. God will always be with us wherever we go.

Will: You mean I don't have to worry about taking off my shoes to be near God?

Melody: No, God showed us through Moses that He wants us to humble ourselves, like Moses did when he took off his shoes. Moses was ready to listen to God because he was humble before God.

Will: But how will I hear God talk to me like He did Moses?



Melody: God talks to us today when we pray to Him. We can hear him when we read His Word in the Bible.

Patrick: Yeah, we can also hear God talk to us through other people like our teachers, pastors, or friends and family. Just yesterday when I was talking to my friend Bruce. He told me that his mom was really sick. Immediately I felt like I wanted to pray with him. So, Bruce and I prayed together right there.

Will: Wow! That's amazing! You heard the Holy Spirit tell you to pray right then and there!

Melody: That's right, the Holy Spirit is our guide. Do you remember from our lesson what God told Moses when he asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" "God told Moses, "I will be with you...." God also goes with us through the Holy Spirit living in us.

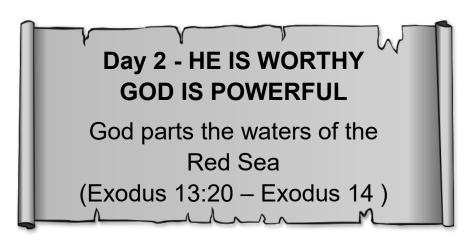
Will: Oh yes, I remember that! So, the Holy Spirit is like my personal guide and I just follow God's lead.

Patrick: You got it Will. Whatever mission he calls us to, big or small, He promises to always go with us.

Melody: And we will always be in His Holy presence.

Will: Stinky feet and all!

(The three friends laugh together)



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 OBECTIVES

- 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.

HELPFUL PROPS & TEACHING AIDS

- DAY 2 PowerPoint slides
- Object Lessons (see SFG video with note pages)
- Skit Scripts with actors

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)

Buzz Word

Like Yesterday, every time you hear the words Holy or Holiness, Power or Powerful, or Love, or Loving, I want you all to shout out "He is Worthy" Let's practice;

On day 1 we learned that God is Holy - "He is Worthy!"

Today we will learn that God is Powerful – "He is Worthy!"

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

Recap

On day 1 we talked about,

- 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.

<u>Lesson</u>

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.

This would be a good time to pause and ask if they had ever been in a bad situation that seemed impossible. How did they feel? Were they scared, did they panic, maybe they even cried or got angry.

Exodus 13:20 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.

You may want to ask, How did God lead His people? What are some ways God leads you? Does He lead us by a pillar of cloud or fire? Probably not. Give them time to answer with a few ways God may lead us today.

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.""

You may want to note that there was a shorter, more direct way to the promised land, so this didn't make any sense to the Israelites. But God knew best. God was setting a trap for the Egyptian army.

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.

You may want to take some time here and read Deuteronomy 32:4, "He is the Rock. His works are perfect. All his ways are right. He is faithful. He doesn't do anything wrong."

"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. Pharoah 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.

This would be a good place to ask, have you ever felt like you were between a rock and a hard place where it seemed impossible? What did you do? Did you cry out to God to help you?

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."

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!

You may want to take some time at this point to review the story.

Ask, what was the impossible thing that only God could do when He led the Israelites to the Red Sea?

Do we trust in God's power when we are struggling, or do we trust in ourselves or others? What are you struggling with?

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.

This would be a good place to go over today's Bible verse from Ephesians 3:20 "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."

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 Pharoah'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."

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."

Being Prepared for Small Group Time

Below are discussion and reflection questions that will be used during their small group discussion time. You should ask some of these questions during the lesson to engage the group. Be sure the answers for all of these questions have been covered during your lesson.

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 Pharoah 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?

Day 2 Object Lesson God is Powerful

These past two days we have seen the Israelites have been going through hard times. We learned that many of the hardships they encountered seemed impossible. But we also learned that God's power is greater than anything they could have ever imagined!

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

We have seen God's powerful love for His people when He parted the water so the Israelites could walk across on dry ground. God's powerful love caused that same water to fall back over the entire Egyptian army and not one of them survived.

Today we are going to demonstrate just a glimpse of what God's power can do with these sticks and this huge log. (Show a bunch of sticks and show the log).

Now I can easily break this one stick. (Hold up a stick and snap it in half) I could probably break a couple of sticks. (Hold up two sticks and break them in half)

I think I am strong enough to break four sticks! (Hold up four sticks and break them in half)

As you are demonstrating breaking the sticks you may want to invite some friends to come up and break the sticks.

How about this huge log. Do you think I can break this in half? (Give a little time for their response) Of course not. My power, my strength, is limited.



But God is all powerful. He can do anything. Have you ever seen a tornado? Or watched one on TV? A tornado can break giant trees in half, like the size of this log. It can lift roof tops off buildings, and even spin trucks in the air like a leaf. Now that's powerful.

God's power can be seen in nature, and it is God who controls the weather and all of creation. Do you remember what the Israelites did when the army was chasing them up to the edge of the Red Sea? They were in an impossible situation.

Yes, they cried out for God to save them.

Not only did God save His people from the Egyptian army by parting the Red Sea. He provided guidance for them with the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.

Moses led more than 2 million people out of Egypt and into the desert. There were enough people to fill 40 football stadiums. God's power gave His people food and water every day for 40 years. If it weren't for God's power the Israelites would have starved.

God's power can help us today! God's healing power can help when we are sick or hurting. His power can protect us when we are afraid. He will comfort us when we are sad or lonely. He brings us peace when we are angry and unable to forgive. It's God's mighty power that even brings us here together today!

Because of God's powerful love we proclaim, "He is Worthy of all our worship and praise."



Melody is wandering around on the stage looking worried. Her head is down, wringing her hands, and shaking her head.

Patrick and Will walk up to Melody concerned.

Patrick: Melody, you seem worried about something. Is everything ok?

Melody: Ohhh, I just found out that my employer is changing me to a different department, with different people, a different place, and even different hours. What am I going to do?

Will: Huh, that's a lot of change, and I don't like it when things change.

Melody: It just doesn't make sense. Why would God have me in a place with so many changes? It's going to be impossible.

Patrick: You know, It kind of reminds me of today's lesson. Remember when God freed the Israelites and had them camp by the Red Sea. It didn't make sense that God would lead them to a place with no way to escape from the Egyptian army.

Melody: Yeah, I remember, they were **terrified**. And, I'm terrified too. It's really hard for me to meet new people.

Will: It's hard for me too Melody. But I remember the leader said something else. That God is all knowing and all powerful.

Patrick: That's right! God is the only One who can make impossible situations possible. We just need to trust Him.

Melody: Well, I don't see how God's power can help me in my **impossible** situation.

Will: I don't think the Israelites knew that God could help them either. In fact, they even wanted to go back to Egypt and be slaves again. Can you imagine?

Melody: I wish I could go back to my old job even though I didn't like what I was doing, the people were mean to me, and the place was dirty, and my hours were all mixed up and I couldn't eat dinner with my family. But at least it was familiar.



Patrick: Melody! Do you hear yourself. You sound just like the Israelites. Maybe God brought you to a new job because He loves you and wants the best for you. Remember the Bible verse for today?

(Melody, Patrick, and Will say the verse together) Ephesians 3:20 "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.

Will: That's it! God's power will be at work in you as you start your new job. You **get** to meet new people and be in a brand-new place.

Melody: You really think so. You mean all I have to do is trust Him and His powerful love for me?

Patrick: I know so. Remember, God's ways are perfect. And when you trust Him He will lead you in His perfect way.

Melody: Well, I am just a little scared. Can you guys pray for me so I can trust God with my job?

Patrick and Will: Of course!

Will: God help Melody to trust you and not to be afraid. Help her to make new friends at her new job.

Patrick: And God give Melody Your power working in her when she goes to work tomorrow because You can do above what we could ever ask or even imagine. In Jesus name, Amen.

Melody: Thanks guys! I feel better already.

Will: I think God has a better plan for you, just like He did for the Israelites. And remember what they did after He led them through the Red Sea on dry ground? And after God squashed the Egyptian army by pushing the Sea back on top of them?

Melody: Umm...they thanked Him?

Patrick: They did more than that. They worshiped and sang praise songs to God, because He is worthy.

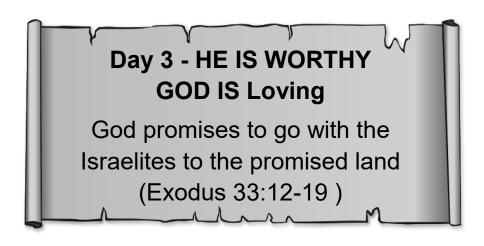


Will: Yeah, and they got down and boogied too.

Patrick and Melody: Huh?

Will: They danced and played their tambourines! (Will picks up his tambourine and shakes it while dancing).

Patrick and Melody: Right! (they both pick up instruments and start to play and dance).



Day 3 Bible Verse: Exodus 33:14

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

LESSON OBECTIVES

- 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.

HELPFUL PROPS & TEACHING AIDS

- DAY 3 PowerPoint slides
- Object Lessons (see SFG video with note pages)
- Skit Scripts with actors

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

Buzz Word

Like Yesterday, every time you hear the words Holy or Holiness, Power or Powerful, or Love, or Loving, I want you all to shout out "He is Worthy" Let's practice;

On day 1 we learned that God is Holy – "He is Worthy!"

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

Today we will learn that God is Loving – "He is Worthy!"

Recap

On day 1 we talked about,

- Only God is worthy of all our worship and praise because He is holy.
- God is holy. There is no one better than God, and we should 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.
- God had a mission for Moses and God has a mission for us. God promises to go with us on our mission.

On Day 2 we talked about,

- Only God is worthy 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.
- God can deliver us from our struggles through His loving power.

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 Pharoah to free His people by sending 10 plagues that caused big problems for everyone in Egypt. Finally, Pharoah told Moses to take God's people and leave Egypt. But after they left, Pharoah changed his mind.

Pharoah'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 Pharoah's army with His power, <u>but He did it because He loved them</u>.

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 it 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 survived.

This would be a good time to pause and ask how did God show His love to Moses and the Israelites? How is God's love seen in your life today?

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.

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On stone tablets God Himself, carved out Ten Commandments they were to follow. Moses was on the mountain for 40 days.

You may want to note this was the same mountain where God met with Moses in the burning bush.

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.

You will want to note that one of the commandments God gave Moses on the stone tablets told them not to make any gods with their hands, and not to worship any other gods besides the LORD God.

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.

You could pause here and ask the friends to name some of the powerful miracles God did for them 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 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.""

Ask if God kept His promise that He gave to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob? What was it that changed?

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

Ask, how do you think Moses and the Israelites reacted when they heard that God refused to go with them to the promised land? You may want to talk about how you would feel if you were an Israelite.

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."

This would be a good place to ask, how did Moses respond to God when God said He would not go with them?

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.

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?

Being Prepared for Small Group Time

Below are discussion and reflection questions that will be used during their small group discussion time. You should ask some of these questions during the lesson to engage the group. Be sure the answers for all of these questions have been covered during your lesson.

Gatherings may have other activities and not choose to have small group discussion on day 3 We provided discussion materials in the Leader Guides and the participant's Discussion Booklet.

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.

Why was worshiping 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 worshiping 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?



For this object lesson you will need:

Two large empty clear glasses

One small bucket of water labeled "OUR LOVE"

One 5-gallon bucket of water labeled "GOD'S LOVE"

One large sponge

A tray to catch the water

Have you ever felt forgotten or unloved? Maybe you feel like you're in a desert. We're not talking about a desert with sand and scorching sun, but a time in your life when you felt all alone or forgotten.

God's love was always with the Israelites as they traveled through the desert. He led them with a cloud by day and fire by night. Even when things seemed impossible, God's powerful love opened up the Red Sea.

When they ran out of food and water in the desert, God's love fed millions of people with heavenly food for forty years!

Today we learned that even when Israel turned their backs on God and worshiped the golden calf, God's still loved them and forgave them. He promised to go with them to the land that He had given them.

In Psalm 136 it says "Give thanks to the LORD for His love endures forever." This means God's love is never ending. This phrase is repeated 26 times! Do you think God wants us to remember that His love keeps going on forever and ever? Yes!

Our object lesson today is going to demonstrate that God's love never ends. And that makes Him worthy of our praise and worship.

Here is a small bucket of water that represents "OUR LOVE" (about 2-4 cups). I am going to ask for someone to help me use this sponge to soak up as much water from the OUR LOVE bucket and ring it out into the glass.

Encourage the volunteers to soak up all of the water from the bucket and try to ring out the water as much as possible into the glass. (The glass should not fill up all the way).

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As you can see the glass isn't full. We are able to give some love but we are not able to fill the glass completely.

Now let's try "GOD'S LOVE" bucket. (Bring out the 5 gallon bucket of water labeled GOD's LOVE) I would like you to soak up as much water to fill the other glass full. Give the sponge to the second volunteer to take the sponge and soak up water from the GOD'S LOVE bucket to fill the other glass)

The volunteer may want to ring out more water. (Encourage them to let it overflow) They may even fill the first glass to overflowing.

Now this is just a small way to see how much love God has for us. Even this GOD'S LOVE bucket will eventually run out, But God's love never runs out. God's Love endures forever.

What if we took our sponge and soaked up all the water of a swimming pool. Eventually the pool would run out of water. But God's love endures forever.

How about an ocean! Even as big as an ocean is, it only holds a certain amount of water. But God's love endures forever.

Do you see how God's love keeps giving and giving, even to overflowing! It never runs out. God wanted to show His chosen people that they can trust Him to keep loving them.

God wants to show us that same love. He wants us to know that His love is constant, His love will never end. There is nothing that can separate us from the love God has for us. God's love endures forever.



Will and Patrick enter center stage. Melody enters center stage from the opposite side.

Patrick: Wow, I am really learning a lot this week of how worthy God is of all our praise and worship! How about you guys?

Will: That's for sure. I learned that God is a Holy God, and I don't have to take off my shoes to be in His presence. He's with me all the time!

Patrick: That's right Will. When we come near to God, He will come near to us! Because of Jesus, we can always be in God's presence through the Holy Spirit. Being in God's presence is worthy of our worship and praise.

Melody: Oh yes! God showed me His powerful love this week at my new job. I am thankful that God is all powerful! He is so worthy of praise.

Will: Oh yeah, how is your new job going? I know it is a big change. I bet God has given you some superpowers.

Melody: I guess you could consider the Holy Spirit as superpower. The first day I was really scared. But then I remembered all the mighty things God did to get His people out of Egypt. If God did all that for His chosen people, I'm sure He can surely calm my anxious heart.

Patrick: And just think Melody, He did it because He loves you.

Melody: Patrick, what has God taught you this week?

Patrick: Well, it's kind of embarrassing. I've been holding a grudge against my house mate because he wasn't doing his share of the chores. I had to do them all or they wouldn't get done.

Melody: That must be frustrating, having to do all the work yourself.

Will: Did you give him a piece of your mind? (Putting his hands on his hips and looking angry)

Patrick: I tried that, but it just made him angry. They were going to move him to a different house, but, I didn't want him to leave. He's my friend. I just wanted him to do his share of the chores.

Melody: Sooooo, what does that have to do with our lessons this week?



Patrick: Do you remember how the Israelites sinned against God? God was angry and refused to go with them to the promised land. But Moses prayed to God on their behalf. Moses was mad at them too, but He still prayed for them.

Will: So, did you start praying for your house mate?

Patrick: I sure did. I asked God to forgive me for holding a grudge. I asked God not to send my friend away. Then I thought. I can just do his chores. I know it can be hard for him sometimes with his bad leg and all.

Melody: What happened? Did he get changed to another house?

Patrick: No! But he had a change of heart. When he saw me doing his chores and not getting mad about it, he started helping me. Now we do them together! And it's great! We've even become best friends.

Will: Wow! It sounds like God gave **you** a change of heart too Patrick.

Patrick: He sure did, and I give God all the praise.

Melody: God is so good. Like Moses, you humbled your heart, and God showed you His goodness. He not only let your house mate stay but He gave you a best friend.

Will: (putting his arms around Patrick and Melody) I am glad God gave me such good friends. (Will starts singing. Patrick and Melody join in)

"God is so good, God is so good, God is so good He's so good to me!"

(Consider using "God is so Good" as one of your worship songs.)