

Looking upon the Glory of God

Storyteller (spreads out the Desert Bag): This is the Desert Bag. So many wonderful and important things happen in the desert, we need to know what it is like. We can't get the whole desert into our church, so here is just

a

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord, "I know that you have told me to lead these people to the land you promised them. But you have not told me who my assistant will be. You have said that you are my friend and that you are pleased with me. If this is true, let me know what your plans are, then I can obey and continue to please you. And don't forget that you have chosen this nation to be your own."

The Lord said, "I will go with you and give you peace."

Then Moses replied, "If you aren't going with us, please don't make us leave this place. But if you do go with us, everyone will know that you are pleased with your people and with me. That way, we will be different from the rest of the people on earth."

So the Lord told him, "I will do what you have asked, because I am your friend and I am pleased with you."

Then Moses said, "I pray that you will let me see you in all of your glory."

The Lord answered:

Alright. I am the Lord, and I show mercy and kindness to anyone I choose. I will let you see my glory and hear my holy name, but I won't let you see my face, because anyone who sees my face will die. There is a rock not far from me. Stand beside it, and before I pass by in all of my shining glory, I will put you in a large crack in the rock. I will cover your eyes with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back. You will not see my face.

little piece of the desert. *The Storyteller smooths the sand while s/he talks.* The desert is a dangerous place. There is little water, and almost nothing grows there. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night. God's people travelled through the desert to get to God's holy mountain where God gave them the Law. *Put the large rock in the top left of the desert bag (near your left knee).*

Story Materials

- Desert Bag
- Mount Sinai rock
- smaller rock
- Moses figure

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

God gave Moses the Law, and Moses gave the Law to God's people. But Moses knew that sometimes God's people broke God's Law. They did not always please God; sometimes they angered God. Moses did not want God to leave God's people because of God's anger. He did not want God to leave them alone in the desert. *Put the Moses figure in the desert bag near Mount Sinai.*

So he said to God "You have said that you are my friend and you are pleased with me. If this is so, tell me your plans so I can obey and continue to please you. And do not forget that you have chosen this people to be your own."

God told Moses to lead God's people through the desert, away from God's holy mountain to the land that God had promised them. *Add some People of God figures to the desert bag.* But Moses knew that he could only succeed in leading God's people, if God went with them also. So he said, "If you aren't going with us, please don't make us leave this place. But if you do go with us, everyone will know that you are pleased with your people and with me. That way, we will be different from the rest of the people on earth."

God told Moses, "I will do what you have asked, because I am your friend and I am pleased with you."

Moses talked with God many times, but God always spoke from inside a fire or inside a cloud. Moses asked God to let him see God in all of God's glory. God answered: "I will let you see my glory and hear my holy name, but I won't let you see my face, because anyone who sees my face will die" God put Moses into a large crack in a nearby rock. *Put the second rock in the desert bag next to the Mount Sinai rock, and put the Moses figure between them.* Then God passed by in all of God's shining glory, but God covered Moses' eyes until God passed by. *Hold your lefthand out covering the rock, and move your right hand slowly past in front of the rock.* Then I will take my hand away, *take your left hand away* -- and you will see my back. You will not see my face.