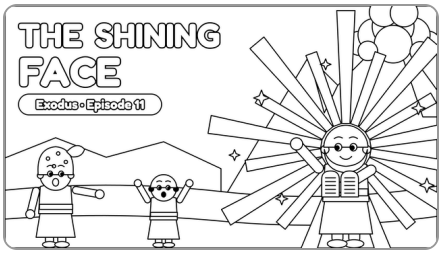
The Bible Under the Baobab · Discussion sheet for season 2, episode 11

The Shining Face

Exodus 33 and 34 · For ages 3 to 10 · Video: 5 min 52



The story in brief

Moses asks God, “Show me your glory!” God puts him in the cleft of the rock, passes in front of him and speaks his name: he is a God of tenderness and mercy. Moses cuts two new tablets of stone, and God makes his covenant with his people again. When Moses comes back down, his face is shining and he does not know it.

> **Note for parents.** The episode keeps close to chapters 33 and 34 of Exodus, and nothing frightening is shown. God is never pictured: only the pillar of cloud, a shining cloud and the light; for “I will cover you with my hand,” a golden light covers the cleft of the rock. “No one may see me and live” (33:20) is said more simply: “My face, no one can see.” The end of 34:7 (the fathers’ wrong falling on the children) is not quoted; the laws of 34:11-26, with what is said about the peoples of Canaan, and the beginning of chapter 33 are not told. When Kofi asks whether God has forgiven, Grandma says yes: the text says that God “forgives wrong” (34:7) and that he makes the covenant again after the prayer of Moses (34:9-10).

Let’s talk about it

1. Where does Moses set up the tent of meeting? What happens when he goes in?
2. How does the Lord speak with Moses?
3. What does Moses ask God? Where does God put him when his glory passes by?
4. What words does God say about himself? Which one do you like best?
5. What is Moses carrying when he comes back down the mountain? What do the people see on his face?
6. Kofi’s pot is broken, and Kofi offers to make a new one together with Nia. Have you ever broken or spoiled something? What helped to mend it, or to start again?

> **Notes for the grown-up.** Outside the camp, far from the camp; when Moses goes into the tent, the pillar of cloud comes down and stands at the entrance, and everyone bows down in front of their own tent. Face to face, as a friend speaks to a friend. Moses asks, “Show me your glory!” God puts him in the cleft of the rock and covers him with his hand. “A God of tenderness and mercy, slow to anger, full of love and faithfulness,” who forgives wrong. Moses is carrying the two new tablets of stone; his face is shining, because he has been speaking with God, and he does not know it. Later, he puts a veil over his face.

To remember

God of mercy, God full of love! He forgives, and my face shines like the sun above!

The song: God of mercy, God full of love

God of mercy, God full of love!
He forgives, and my face shines like the sun above!

To do

Draw a shining face: your own, or the face of someone you love. Then choose one of the words God says about himself (tenderness, mercy, love, faithfulness) and look for a way to live it today with someone.

Watch the episode and hear the song: labiblesouslebaobab.com/en/episodes/the-shining-face/

From the book of Exodus, chapters 33 and 34. Free for home, Sunday school and children’s ministry.