

Exodus 34:29-35

Face-to-face with God

Moses descends from Mount Sinai, his face shining after his encounter with God, and ready to share God's commandments with the people. After speaking with them, Moses puts a veil over his face, which is only removed when he talks again with God.



Imagine how Moses might have felt being so close to God and engaging in conversation with him. Have you ever encountered God in this way? Would you like to get so near to God that your face shone? Spend a couple of minutes in silent companionship with God.

CREATE

You will need: paper, cotton bud tips, lemon juice, an iron.
Use cotton bud tips dipped in lemon juice to write words that you associate with God onto a piece of paper. Later on, carefully iron the paper to reveal the words. Wonder together about why Moses needed to hide his face after speaking closely with God.

Sing



Sing along to this song from Powerpack <https://bit.ly/4f24aSr>

Bible notes



After the story of Joseph (part of which we read last week – Genesis 45:3-11,15), Joseph's father Jacob (also known as Israel) and brothers settled in Egypt. Over generations, the Israelite tribe grew and, as foreigners in the land, they were seen as a threat by the Egyptians. The Israelites were oppressed and forced to work under increasingly harsh conditions. In response to their cry for help, God tasked Moses with leading the Israelites out of Egypt. After a series of plagues, culminating in the first Passover, and the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, they were free and began a 40-year period of living a nomadic lifestyle in the wilderness, being fed by God with manna from heaven. As they learn to rely on God, God provides instructions for living his way. It is after one of Moses' encounters with God, collecting these instructions, that we find today's passage, describing the visible effect on Moses of that encounter. Encountering God changes people and is not to be taken lightly. When the Israelites first reached Mount Sinai, the entire tribe had been required to consecrate themselves – to wash their clothes and set themselves apart – ready to witness God speaking to Moses from the mountain (Exodus 19). When Moses went into the 'tent of meeting' outside the camp to encounter God, the pillar of cloud by which God had led them through the wilderness would appear outside it and the people would bow down (Exodus 33). Following this encounter, subsequent meetings always resulted in Moses' face shining as he reflected the glory of God (v.35).

First impressions

- Do you know anyone who 'glows' with the love of God?
- Is it obvious to others that we have met with God through prayer/worship? Do we glow?
- In what ways will you seek to encounter God's presence in the coming week(s)?



Pray

Loving God,
we pray today for those who have come face-to-face with tragedy... with suffering... with bullying... with hunger... with loneliness... with rejection... Help us to look on them with compassion, gentleness and understanding, that they might find hope and strength and friendship. Amen.



Create a collage with pictures representing yourself in the middle and those you see face-to-face all around you. How can you shine for God in your relationships?