**Moses and the Tent of Meeting**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 33:1-11**

**Bible Story Number: 1010640**

Copyright © 2015 by Fox Ministries, Inc.

All Rights Reserved.

Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version®*. *NIV®.* Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

**Moses and the Tent of Meeting**

**Bible Story**

Free guides and other free resources for presenting a Bible Story are available at: www.FoxMinistries.org

**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

After the tenth plague that God sent on the Egyptian people, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave. They had been in Egypt 430 years. The day they left, there were approximately 600,000 foot soldiers in the Israelites army. The total number of people was much larger because this did not include their families.

The Israelites had been away from Egypt for a while when the events described in this story took place. They had complained several times. They had disobeyed God many times.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 33:1-11**

This is what the Bible says.

God spoke to Moses again and told him to leave and take the Israelites with him. God said He would honor His promise to give them the same land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

He told Moses He would send his angel ahead of them to drive out the people who lived there now. He described it as a land flowing with milk and honey. But he also told Moses that He would not go with them. God said the Israelites were a stiff-necked people, and He might destroy them on the way.

When Moses told them what God had said, they mourned. He also told them that God told them to take off all their jewelry and God would decide what to do with them.

They took off all their jewelry. They did not wear any jewelry from then, at Mount Horeb, for the rest of the time they were in the wilderness.

Moses took a tent and set it up outside the camp. It was far away from the camp. He called it the tent of meeting.

Anyone who wanted to consult with God would go to the tent of meeting. Whenever Moses would go there, all the people would stand up at the door of their tent and watch him until he entered the tent.

When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance to the tent. All the people would bow down and worship, there at the door to their tent.

God would speak with Moses face to face, just like a man talks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp. However, his assistant, the young man Joshua, would not leave the inside of the tent of meeting.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Where was the tent of meeting?
* What was the purpose of the tent of meeting?
* What did the Israelites do when Moses went to the tent of meeting?
* How did God demonstrate His presence?
* How did God talk with Moses?
* Where did Joshua stay?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.