**Moses’ Face Glows**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 34:28-35**

**Bible Story Number: 1010670**

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**Bible Story**

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**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.

Moses was their leader and God spoke to them through him. Moses was still concerned because God had told him to lead the Israelites to the land God had promised, but that God would not be going with them. (Ex. 33:3)

Moses talked to God on behalf of the Israelites. God committed to go with them. This even happened before they continued their journey.

God also met with Moses to replace the stone tablets he had broken. Moses spent forty day and nights on Mount Sinai. This story begins as Moses is coming down from the mountain.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 34:28-35**

This is what the Bible says.

Moses met with God for a second time on Mount Sinai. He was there for forty days and nights.

When Moses came down from the mountain he had the two new stone tablets in his hands. He did not realize that the skin of his face glowed as a result of his time speaking with God.

When Aaron and the Israelites saw Moses, the skin on his face glowed. They were afraid to get near him. But Moses called out to them and they responded.

When everyone had gathered around, Moses spoke to the people. He told them everything God had said while he was on the mountain. When Moses finished speaking, he put a veil over his face.

Then, when Moses went before God to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out. He would tell the Israelites what God had said. The people could see that Moses’ face was glowing (or radiant) because he had been with God.

After he relayed the message from God, he would put the veil back over his face again until the next time he went to speak with God.

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**

* What happened to Moses’ face after he had been with God?
* What was the people’s first reaction to seeing Moses?
* Why do you think his face glowed?
* Why do you think Moses put on a veil?
* Did this happen to Moses more than once? Explain your answer.
* 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.