

CLIMB ON

A MOUNTAINTOP ENCOUNTER WITH THE CREATOR

THE MOUNTAINTOP.

A place of perspective. A place of challenge. A place of revelation.

Throughout the pages of Scripture, God can frequently be found on the peak of a mountain. Whether Sinai or Zion, Carmel or Golgotha, we often see the Creator revealing Himself to His creation from the heights. And, we believe He continues to do so today. That is why we at Cowboy's Rest encourage you to experience God at greater elevations this summer. That is why we invite you to scale the heights of a relationship with Him. And that is why we challenge you to ... CLIMB ON.

OUTLINE OF CAMP CURRICULUM

The following lessons each center around one mountaintop experience from scripture. They also each highlight one or more aspects of the character of God. The Biblical stories are arranged in chronological order to aid the student's comprehension of their historical context.

LESSON ONE: Mount Ararat – GOD'S PROMISE

Genesis 6 – 9

LESSON TWO: Mount Moriah – GOD'S PROVISION

Genesis 22:1-19, John 1:29

LESSON THREE; Mount Sinai – GOD'S PURITY

Exodus 19, 20

LESSON FOUR: Mount Carmel – GOD'S POWER

1Kings 17-18, Psalm 96:4-6

LESSON FIVE: Mount Horeb – GOD'S PRESENCE

1 Kings 19, Isaiah 66:1,2

LESSON SIX: Mount Hermon _ CHRIST'S PREMINENCE

Matthew 17:1-8, Luke 9:28-36

LESSON SEVEN: Mount Golgotha – CHRIST'S PASSION

John 19:17-30

LESSON EIGHT – Mount of Olives – GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Matthew 24-25, Acts 1:6-11

LESSON ONE: MOUNT ARARAT

GOD'S PROMISE

Genesis six through nine.

"I will set my bow in the cloud and it will be a sign of the promise between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we find a man who God makes a promise to. As in every case when God makes a promise, He is faithful to keep it.

In the first two chapters of Genesis we find that God is the creator of heaven and earth, and that all He created was good. However, by the time period that is recorded in the sixth chapter of Genesis, it seems that the whole earth had become corrupted, and the thought of every man's heart was evil. One man, namely Noah found favor in God's eyes. God promised Noah that He would spare the lives of His family members during a cataclysmic worldwide flood if Noah would follow His instructions. In the story that follows, Noah builds an ark which houses his family and the different species of birds and animals found on the earth. When the flood waters subside, they are safe.

Mount Ararat is the mountain peak where the ark rested when the floodwaters receded. God remembered Noah and all his passengers. He kept His promise to keep them safe through all the tumult. (Genesis 8:1) After the floodwaters are gone, God makes another promise to Noah that He has also been faithful to keep. He promises to never cause a flood to destroy the entire earth again. Every time the rain clouds come, Noah might worry. But, God gave him a sign in the clouds to remind him of his promise. The sign was the beautiful rainbow. Every time you see one remember, God has kept his promise to Noah, and He will keep His promise to you.

LESSON TWO MOUNT MORIAH

GOD'S PROVISION

"... As it is said to this day, "In the mount of the Lord, It will be provided." - Gen. 22:14

As we move on in the book of Genesis, we come to the story of a man named Abraham. Abraham is actually the father of the Hebrew people. He was called by God to leave his homeland and family and go to a land that God would show him. God promised Abraham three things: a land, a seed and a blessing. When Abraham was given this promise, he and his wife Sarah were very old and had no children. Abraham and Sarah traveled to Canaan and lived in tents and waited twenty five years before their son Isaac was born. (again, we see God keeping His promises.) When Isaac was in his teens, God put Abraham to the ultimate test. He told Abraham to go to Mount Moriah and sacrifice his precious son. Heartbroken, Abraham did what God called him to do. As they were headed toward the mountain, Isaac questioned his father. "The fire and the wood are here," he said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham's answer is the answer of faith. "God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering my son."

We know that Abraham climbed the mountain with his son, built an altar, set out the wood and tied his son up and laid him on the altar. As he lifted the knife, the angel of the Lord stopped him. God knows now that Abraham's heart is right, and he would be willing to sacrifice even his precious son to God. When Abraham looked up, he saw the ram caught by its horns in the thicket, thus indeed, "on the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

God provided the sacrificial lamb for Abraham, and He provides His Son as the sacrificial lamb for our sins. In John 1:29, John the Baptist sees Jesus walking towards him and identified Him as the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. God spared Abraham's son, but He did not spare his own Son, to make the sacrifice for our sins. "He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32 All things means all things!

LESSON THREE – MOUNT SINAI

GOD'S PURITY

"FOR YOU ARE A HOLY PEOPLE TO THE LORD YOUR GOD; THE LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN POSSESSION OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLES WHO ARE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH." Deuteronomy 7:6

Exodus 19,20

Many years after Abraham was alive, God's people, the Hebrews, moved to Egypt where they lived for four hundred years. They eventually became slaves to the Pharaoh. God sent a deliverer to set His people free so that they could return to the promised- land. The deliverer's name was Moses. His story is told in the second book of the Bible: Exodus. God sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: "let my people go." There is a huge contest between the gods of Egypt and the true God of the Hebrews. The children of Israel are miraculously delivered from Egyptian bondage, and on their way to the promised- land. Before they get to the promised- land, they come to the mountain of God called Mt. Sinai. They must meet with their God here, because He is holy and pure, and He wants His people to live holy and pure lives in the new land. So, on Mt. Sinai, God gives his people ten commandments which tell His people what He is like, and how they need to be like Him as they live their lives. For example, God's people must endeavor to tell the truth, because their Heavenly Father never lies. They had to learn that they must never worship an idol, but only the one true God. It is on Mount Sinai that we first learn how holy and pure God is. Like the children of Israel who approached the smoking, flaming mountain with fear and trembling, we must approach our God with the honor due His name.

LESSON FOUR – MOUNT CARMEL

GOD'S POWER

1 Kings 17 & 18

1 Kings 18:39 "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God, the Lord, He is God."

When the children of Israel lived in the promised -land for many years, they turned away from the one true God and started worshiping the horrible gods of their neighbors. They had many kings over the years. Some of the kings loved Jehovah the one true God; but many did not. There was one particularly bad king whose name was Ahab. He and his wife Jezebel brought Baal worship to God's people. Because of this sin, God sent a prophet to pronounce the judgment of drought. One fateful day, Elijah the prophet entered King Ahab's presence and announced that there would be no dew or rain until he said so. In Noah's time the judgment was flooding. This time it was no water at all. Needless to say, this caused a great hardship for the people of Israel. When three and a half years had passed, God told Elijah who was in hiding in another country, to go show himself to the king. Elijah sets up a contest on Mt. Carmel and invites all the prophets of Baal to come. He also invites all the people of

Israel to show up. He challenges the people to decide who really is god, and to then follow that God. The alters are built, and the sacrifices laid out, but no fire added. The God who sends down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice is the true God. In an amazing way, the Hebrew God shows His power over the Baals on Mount Carmel. This same God wants to display His power in our lives as we rely on Him.

LESSON FIVE – MOUNT HOREB GOD’S PRESENCE

1Kings 19

After the victory on Mount Carmel, and after killing all the prophets of Baal Elijah is threatened by Queen Jezebel who intends to kill him. Elijah becomes fearful and goes on the run to the wilderness of Beersheba. He lays down under a juniper tree and asks the Lord to take his life. An angel of the Lord comes to Elijah while he is sleeping and offers him a bread cake and a jar of water that the servant of God might be strengthened. This food gives him the energy for a journey to Mt Horeb which will take him forty days and forty nights. Elijah enters a cave on the mountain. Here is where God speaks to Elijah and asks him what he is doing. Elijah cries out in complaint that he has been very zealous serving God, and now he is the only one left who does serve god, and there are many who seek to kill him. Elijah is losing hope. God tells Elijah to stand on the mountain before him. God passes by and there is a very strong wind which threatens to break the mountain apart. Then an earthquake hits, and after that, the mountain catches on fire. However, God does not speak to Elijah in any of these natural disasters. All of a sudden, there was a gentle blowing, and God was speaking to Elijah in a still, small voice. God gives Elijah his next assignment, and tells him that He still has seven thousand in Israel who do not worship Baal. Sometimes God speaks loudly, and sometimes very softly. But, He will always speak when we are listening. May we be like the boy Samuel who said, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

LESSON SIX: CHRIST’S PREMINENCE

MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

Matthew 17:1-8, Luke 9:28-36

We now leave the time of the Old Testament prophets, and come to the New Testament where God speaks to us through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as predicted by the prophets of old. He grew up as a man and at the age of thirty began his public ministry in the land of Israel. One of the first things Jesus did was to call twelve men to be His disciples. On one occasion, Jesus took three of his disciples up to a high mountain to pray. The three that often accompanied Him were Peter, James and John. The Bible tells us that when Jesus was praying, He suddenly changed. His face started shining bright like the sun. His clothing became white and flashing like lightning. Peter and his friends had dozed off, but when they woke up they saw Jesus in His glory. And, funny thing, Jesus was talking to two men, Moses and Elijah. Peter was overcome by Jesus’s glory, and suggested that they build three tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Just as Peter was speaking, a cloud formed and enveloped them. Then, out of this cloud came the voice of God. God spoke these words to Peter,

James and John: "This is My Son, My Chosen one, listen to Him". Jesus is preeminent. He is chosen and anointed by His Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 1:3 tells us that "He is the radiance of His glory, and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power." Jesus is preeminent. He is above all others, and all surpassing.

LESSON SEVEN: MOUNT CALVARY CHRIST'S PASSION

John 15:12-14, John 19:17-30

Jesus came to earth to reveal His Father in Heaven. He also came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. After three and a half years of ministry, he entered Jerusalem at Passover where he was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. The scribes and Pharisees were very jealous of Jesus and sought to put Him to death. They forced the hand of the Roman governor to have Jesus crucified. All this was foreordained in Heaven and prophesied many years before. It is our dying Savior's blood on Mt. Calvary that cleanses us from all our sins. (remember John the Baptist's testimony in John 1:29) Here we see the depths of God's love for us. The suffering of Jesus is called His Passion. Thursday night is usually the time for an open invitation to receive Christ as ones Savior at Cowboy's Rest.

LESSON EIGHT: MOUNT OF OLIVES

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Acts 1:6-11

Last night we shared about Christ's sufferings on Mount Golgotha. In Corinthians, Paul tells us that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, and that He was buried. But, on the third day He was raised from the dead, according to the scriptures. Then, Christ appeared to Peter and all His twelve disciples. Paul tells us that the risen Lord Jesus actually appeared to more than 500 Christian brothers all at the same time. In Acts chapter one, Luke tells us that He appeared to many for a period of forty days. As He met with His disciples, they often asked Him when He was going to set up His kingdom on earth. Jesus told His friends that His Heavenly Father alone knew when that time would be. In the meantime, they were to wait until the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them so that they could be witnesses of Jesus to all who lived in their city, their country and the whole world. As He was speaking with His disciples, Jesus was taken up from the Mount of Olives. His friends watched him go up until the clouds hid Him from view. They kept watching the sky until two angels appeared. The two angels asked them why they were looking up in the sky. They promised that Jesus who was taken up into heaven would one day return in the same way they saw Him leave. Jesus is coming back, and the time may be getting close. As we wait for Him to return, we must be busy sharing His love with those who don't know Him, and we must make sure that we know Him, so that we can be ready.

Note: Thank you so much for agreeing to minister to our campers.
The Cowboy's Rest Staff.