



PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 5 EXODUS 32:7-14, 31-34; 33:12-23

1. How did last week's study on **Moses and Miriam's celebration song** impact your view of God at work and how can you praise Him today.

MOSES' PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Moses, Israel's leader, was up on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights talking with God and receiving a crucial revelation for his people ("the Law", **Exodus 24:12-18**). When he finally came down, (**Exodus 31:18**) he found that the people had rebelled and fallen into deep sin.

2. Read **Exodus 32:7-14, 31-34** and **Exodus 33:12-23**. In each passage, Moses is talking with God about the consequences of the Israelites' sin. What attribute(s) of God stand out to you?
3. Read **Exodus 32:1-6** to understand to the incident that led to these three conversations between Moses and God. What aspects of the incident do you find unsettling? (see also **Exodus 20:1-5a**)
4. God's righteous anger is on display to Moses in **Exodus 32:7-10**.
 - a) Compare the two descriptions of the Israelites in **Exodus 32:7** and **Exodus 32:11**. What do you notice and why is it important?

- b) Who are “your people” - the ones for whom your heart aches and you intercede for them in your prayers to God?
5. In light of God’s words in **Exodus 32:11-13**, what is interesting about Moses’ response? What promises or attributes of God do you cling to when you pray for your loved ones? Share a favorite verse.
6. **Exodus 32:14** reveals God’s answer to Moses’ pleas, “*Then the Lord relented ...*” God’s response to Moses’ prayer of intercession can be a great encouragement when we find ourselves doubting that our prayers make a difference. Where do you struggle to believe that God hears and responds to your prayers?
7. *NOTE: Exodus 32:15 - 30 describes Moses’ difficult but needed response to the Israelites sin.*
Read **Exodus 32:31-34**. Moses personally identifies with the sins of the Israelites - even though he was not present as they worshipped the golden calf idol. How can you do the same as you consider the sins of “your people” (family, church, community, or nation)?
8. In **Exodus 33**, Moses continues to plead with God on behalf of the people of Israel. Before you answer the questions below, read **Exodus 33:1-11** to set the stage.
- a) In your own words, what is Moses asking God for in **Exodus 33:12-14**, and how does God fulfill this?
- b) What more is Moses asking God for in **Exodus 33:15-16** and what encourages you about God’s response in **V17**?

9. Throughout Moses' years as leader of the Israelites, he pleaded with God, interceding on their behalf over and over. Despite Moses' intimate relationship with God, **Exodus 33:18-23** makes it clear that Moses could not see God's face. What do you learn from the verses below about the One who is our intercessor and what do they mean to you personally?

- **Romans 8:34**

- **Hebrews 7:24-25**

10. HEART REFLECTION

Read and meditate on **Psalm 79:8-9** (below) together with today's passage, then write out your own prayer asking God to meet you and your loved ones in your place of "*desperate need*."

Psalm 79:8-9 "Do not hold against us the sins of past generations; may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake."

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST