



Moses on the Mountain

You will need:

- Two people to narrate (one from the front of the stage, the other seated with a microphone – so that the congregation can't immediately see where the voice is coming from)
- Copy of the script
- PowerPoint
- Cards – 1 per 4 people (have written on them, "I have carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself")
- 6 long grey banners for clouds, or six lengths of grey ribbon.
- 6 long yellow streamers, or ribbons.

Sounds: trumpet blast (could be a real one if you have access to a trumpet player, or a sound effect)

Music: Track to play in background: The Steward of Gondor

**Instructions in italics*

Script:

Narrator: Everyone on their feet and marching (*invite everyone to stand and march on the spot*).

Marching on the spot. Marching, marching, marching.

(PowerPoint of the full moon)

By the light of a full moon the Israelites marched.
Through desert sands. Rock. Scrub. Over hills and through valleys
(*act it out*)

*Pause.

By the light of a full moon the Israelites marched. Tired, aching. Grumbling. (act this out)

By the light of a full moon the Israelites marched. Always moving. Getting closer. A mountain looming in the distance, bathed by the light of the third new moon.

By the light of the third full moon they arrived at Mt Sinai and set up camp. Take a seat.

(PowerPoint of a mountain with a moon in the sky by it)

Music: *Play the beginning of track (Steward of Gondor) in the background while Narrator 2 speaks.*

Narrator 2: *(Have narrator 2 speak using a microphone while seated in the front row)*

Narrator 2: Then Moses went up to God on the mountain, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

Music: *(Start fading music out as the narrator speaks so it goes silent at the end of this sentence).*

Narrator 2: So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.

Narrator 1: Pass it on. Pass it on pass it on.

At the front are cards. If you are in the front row pick up one of these cards. With those sitting near you, read the card aloud and then pass it on to the people sitting behind you. If you can remember the card and keep saying it as a group, then that's great. Keep saying it over and over until the cards reach the back row. When the back row gets the card I want them to stand up and call it out to finish.

(Get helpers to go around the back and collect up the cards).

“I have carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself”.

Narrator 2: *(when all is quiet then say this over the microphone).*
Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured possession.

Narrator 1: And all the people replied: We will do everything the Lord has said. – *(Have this up on the PowerPoint – all say together).*

And this is where things started to get interesting. God, the creator of the universe, made his presence felt.

To set the scene I am going to need your help.

The first thing that started to happen was that dense cloud started to circle around the mountain, so I need some volunteers to be my clouds. Up the front here are some lengths of grey cloud. I need 6 volunteers to come up to the front. Get the clouds circling. Now, while the narrator is speaking, I want you to circle your clouds around the base of the mountain.

Once the clouds are circling the narrator speaks over the microphone.

Music: *Play from beginning of track.*

Narrator 2: “And God said to Moses - I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after. No one was to go up the mountain or touch the edge of it. When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain”

Long pause.

Narrator: “On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning”

Music: *Fade the music out after the narrator’s sentence above...*

Narrator 1: We need some thunder. Now, you will have heard of a Mexican wave. We are going to do a thunder roll in the same way. But I am the conductor of the orchestra. I am going to wave my hand from one side of the room to the other. As my hand passes over your head you need to make the thunder roll. Thunder roll by stomping your feet on the ground five times.

Practice this.

You need to listen out for the word ‘thunder’ and every time you hear it watch my hand and get that thunder rolling.

And lightning, we need lightning.

(Choose six people to come to the front and hold the yellow streamers. Hold one end while tossing the streamer out over the congregation). Whenever you hear the word lightning, I want you to hold carefully to one end of the streamer, while tossing it out over the audience.

When you hear the words 'thunder' or 'lightening' at any stage you need to perform your action. So, listen out!

Music: *Play from the beginning of track 1*

Narrator 1: On the morning of the third day there was thunder *(pause while they do the thunder roll)* and lightning *(pause)*, with a thick cloud over the mountain *(pause)*, and a very loud trumpet blast. *(pause – if you have a trumpet player organized, this is where they blow!)* Everyone in the camp trembled. As the thunder rolled *(pause)*, and the lightning flashed *(pause)* Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently.

Get the volunteers with the lightning and clouds to lay down their banners and join the crowd.

Music: *Fade music out.*

Narrator 1: Moses went up the mountain several times during their stay at the foot of Mount Sinai. Twice Exodus records the length of his stay as forty days and forty nights. Remind you of any other places in scripture?

Moses developed a relationship with God that many of us long for. The intimacy and reality and power of God present on that mountain was extraordinary.

Listen to this passage from Exodus Chapter 33

Narrator 1: Moses said, "Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight.

Narrator 2: And God replied, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

Narrator 1: But, if your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us?

Narrator 2: I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name. I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord', (YHWH) and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live. See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by, then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen. The lord passed before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

Narrator 1: Can you imagine what it must have been like for those left waiting at the bottom of Mt Sinai. The suspense would have been thick and heavy like the dark clouds surrounding the mountain. Smoke, darkness, earthquakes. The very presence of God in power and might. Rather terrifying I would think. I can imagine there was an airy silence as they went about their daily tasks, keeping one eye on the mountain at all times.

And then, out of the shadow Moses appears carrying the two stone tablets. And the people of God turn and hide their faces. The entire Israelite camp, including Aaron, Gods chosen mouthpiece held back and were afraid to get close to him.

Because unbeknown to Moses his face glowed. The Bible tells us it was radiant, so radiant from the presence of God that the people were afraid to get close to him.

It was all a bit too much for them. To gaze at Moses' face. to know that his skin was glowing because he had met with God. So, he puts a veil over his face. Each time he meets with God he unveils his face only to put the veil back on again as he descends the mountain.

Moses, once a stumbling, bumbling shepherd boy, the prince of Egypt, murderer, forgiven, and the leader of the people of God. Moses who met with God on the mountain, who saw the back of God as he passed by and was never the same again.