

Kids' Chronicle

God speaks to Moses

BY JOE SARNICOLA

"Moses!"
The voice of God filled the afternoon air. Moses was alone in a clearing, far away from anyone else.

"Moses!"
"Yes, Lord?" Moses asked.
"Find your brother, Aaron, and all of the leaders of my people Israel. Have them join you and I will meet you on the mountain. But I will speak only to you. Tell the others to stay behind and pray."

Moses immediately returned to the city and found Aaron and the council leaders. When they reached the base of the mountain, Moses told them, "Remain here and pray for our people. I will return with news from God. Do not leave until I come back."

Moses climbed the rocky path up the mountain. His friends saw his shape grow smaller as he climbed higher and farther away from them. And then he seemed to disappear into the side of the mountain. They prayed as Moses had instructed them. And they waited. And waited.

When Moses finally came back down the people rejoiced. They could tell by the intense gaze in his eyes and the reddish complexion of his face that Moses had been with God.

"Tell us, what did our Lord say?" they asked.

Moses shared everything God had told him. Instructions for certain rituals, standards of conduct, expressions of God's love.

"What the Lord says we will do," the leaders agreed.

The scribes wrote down everything Moses declared so that the commandments could be taught to the people of Israel.

At the rising of the next day's sun, Moses ordered the building of an altar to the Lord. A sacrifice was offered and Moses read from the new book of commandments.



Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

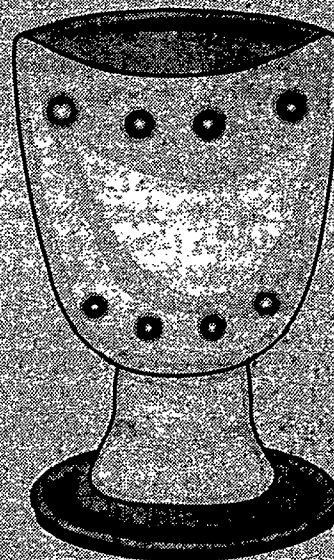
"The blood of this sacrifice seals the covenant God has made with us by these laws. And God has a greater joy to share with us today. Come with me up the mountain."

Moses, Aaron and the leaders of the people of Israel climbed up the mountain together. When they reached the summit, they witnessed the presence of God. They rejoiced and proclaimed a

feast to celebrate their great blessing from God.

Q&A

1. What is a covenant?
2. How did the people react to God's new commandments?



Bible Accent

There are seven sacraments in the Catholic faith. Some theologians divide them into three separate groups: sacraments of initiation, sacraments of healing, and sacraments of commitment.

The three sacraments of initiation are baptism, Eucharist and confirmation. These are the sacraments that help us to grow in strength and maturity as Christians.

The sacraments of healing are reconciliation — sometimes called confession — and anointing of the sick. These sacraments help us to heal spiritually.

The sacraments of commitment are matrimony and holy orders. Through these sacraments people commit to the vocations of marriage or the priesthood.

St. Joan of Arc

St. Joan of Arc was born in France, early in the 15th century. When she was a teenager she began to see visions of an angel who brought her messages from God.

In 1428, France and England were at war with each other. St. Joan believed God wanted her to lead an army for her country. She made a petition to King Charles VII, who ordered his religious advisers to question St. Joan about her visions. They believed her. St. Joan was given a sword and she led the French to a victory in battle.

She was later captured by allies of the English and sold to the English. They could not admit that she had defeated them in battle, so they made up charges that she was a witch and burned her at the stake.

We honor her on May 30.

Puzzle

Answers on page 9

Unscramble the names of the Old Testament characters, then use letters from the words to find the secret message.

19 4 10 27 2 1 13 6 26 35 24 15 30 33 3

A. s e o m s 1 2 3 4 5

B. r a n a o 6 7 8 9 10

C. l e u m a s 11 12 13 14 15 16

D. t l o 17 18 19

E. m o o s l o n 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

F. i n c a 27 28 29 30

G. t h r u 31 32 33 34

H. i d v a d 35 36 37 38 39

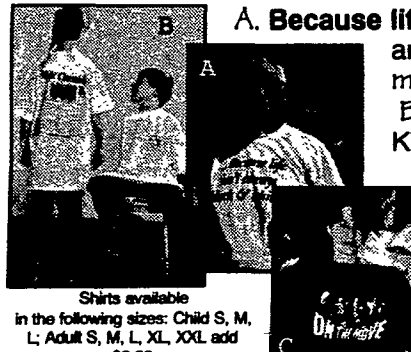
Bible Trivia

What is the Pentateuch?

Send Answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by June 12, 1997. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Annette Beck, a student at Cut Bank Middle School in Cut Bank, Mt. She correctly identified Saul as St. Paul's name before he became a Christian.



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