

Lesson 54: THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD
Isaiah 2

INTRODUCTION:

Other than flying, how can you reach the highest height on this earth? By climbing a mountain. A climb up a mountain can bring you high above all the usual hustle and bustle of earthly life, into a peaceful yet exciting place, where you can see for miles and miles.

So it may not be surprising to you that the people of the Most Ancient Church worshipped on mountains. Being on a mountain made them feel closer to heaven, and to the Lord.

And there was an even deeper reason for them to worship on a mountain. Mountains correspond to love of the Lord. Love of the Lord is the highest kind of love, just like a mountain is the highest kind of ground. When a person makes love to the Lord the most important thing in their life, they are closest to heaven, just like a person on a mountaintop is closest to the sky. A person who loves the Lord can see more in life than ever, just like a person on a mountaintop can see for miles and miles.

Now we'll read some verses written down by the prophet Isaiah. You may recognize some of these words from a song.

READING:

Now read aloud, or have some children read aloud from **Isaiah 2: 1-4**.

DISCUSSION:

Notice that Isaiah started out with, "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days..."

These words were spoken as a prophecy, about something that would happen. The prophecy is telling about a day when the people who know about the Lord will come to truly love Him. A "church" is a group of people who know and worship the Lord. But being in a church doesn't automatically bring you into heaven, does it? Each person in the church needs to learn to love the Lord for him or herself.

How do you love the Lord? Is love only a feeling? If you felt like you loved someone, but wouldn't help that person when they really needed you, would that be love?

No. Love is more than a feeling. Love means doing things. When you love a person, you need to be a friend to them, to be kind, to be loyal and stick up for them, and to help when they really need it.

To love the Lord is more than just a feeling. To love the Lord, we need to be a friend to Him. This means to respect what He tells us, and to treat Him with kindness when we speak about Him or His Word. It also means to act kindly toward all the people, animals, and nature that He has created.

If each one of you can work as you grow up to love the Lord, then you will help to put yourself and your church on a mountaintop. Love to the Lord is what makes a church strong, and the more people there are in a church that love the Lord, the stronger that church can be.

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And when a church is strong with the power of love, more people can come to it. In our reading, it said, “Many people shall come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD.” The stronger a church becomes with real love, the better it can lead more people to love the LORD.

The last part of our reading talked about people “beating their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.” Do you know what plowshares and pruning hooks are? They are tools to plant and take care of crops that will produce food.

The end of the reading said, “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” The troubles that we have in this world do not come from the Lord. Any pain or frustration or fights that come into our lives come from the conflicts that evil spirits bring. While we’re growing and learning and choosing, we will have conflicts, because evil spirits will try to keep us away from the path to heaven. Those conflicts cause battles between the angels and evil spirits, and to us feel like unpleasant troubles.

But when finally we have come into real love of the Lord, there don’t have to be any more battles. Frustrating troubles will fall away, because the evil spirits have lost their power over us. Then, instead of having to battle with pain and troubles, we can concentrate on working on exciting, productive things. What we really want to do with our lives will grow and flourish, like crops. We really will have come up to the “mountain of the LORD.”

PROJECT: MOUNTAIN SANDPAPER PRINTS

Supplies:

Crayons in bold, bright colors
Medium-rough sandpaper (no bigger than construction paper) – one per child
Paper towels (or just a cloth to keep the ironing board from getting dirty from the newsprint)
Newspaper
White construction paper
Iron
Ironing board, or other surface to iron on

Procedure:

1. Color a striking scene of mountains with the crayons onto the rough side of a piece of sandpaper. The less detail in the drawing, the better it will transfer. *Take your time* to try to get as much crayon into the grain of the sandpaper as you can.
2. Lay paper towels or cloth over the ironing board or surface (so it won’t get dirty from the newsprint), then lay several sheets of newspaper down. Place the sandpaper drawing on the newspaper, rough side up. Place one piece of white construction paper directly over the sandpaper.
3. Iron over the top of the construction paper at the iron’s lowest setting until the crayon melts. Remove the construction paper and set it aside to cool.
4. If there is extra time, let the children make some other sandpaper impression picture.