



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20-32 & DEUTERONOMY 5

GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand the basic content of the Ten Commandments and the story of how God gave His law to the Israelites.
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CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Moses:** He was God's appointed leader of the people of Israel. He heard from God and carried to the people the two tablets on which God had written His commandments.

Israel: They were God's chosen people. This million-plus member nation heard and agreed to obey God's Ten Commandments

MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Exodus 20:3:** You shall have no other gods before me.
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OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read over Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5:** As the Israelites were journeying toward the Promised Land, they stopped near Mount Sinai to camp. While there Moses met with God and received the law by which the people of Israel were to live. The 10 most important commandments God wrote on two stone tablets with his own finger.



SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ **The laws given to Moses on Mount Sinai were the laws that the Israelites were to live by to show their love and obedience to God. Agreeing to obey these laws was the Israelites side of a covenant entered into with the Lord in return for God's protection over them.**

These laws were not just for the Israelites living at the time, but for all those who would come after them. While the Israelites entered into this covenant fully expecting and prepared to follow these laws, as humans, they were easily tempted to disobey. The disobedience shown by the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness was repeated by every following generation.

Love for the Lord is essential for those who attempt to live by God's law, but the Bible is filled with stories of people who loved the Lord who succumbed to temptation and sinned. Moses, the man to whom God spoke directly and brought these laws to the people, had sinned. Only one person was able to live a perfect, sinless life: Jesus.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Is It a Commandment?**
- On a sheet of paper, write out the Ten Commandments. On the same sheet of paper, make up 10 statements that sound like they could be part of the Ten Commandments. After you read each statement, students should raise their hands to say whether or not the statement is a commandment or a fake.

MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **Exodus 20:3:** The verse is the first commandment, and sets the stage for all the rest. Having God first is the only way we can obey all the other commandments.



**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

▶ **Sort the Commands** | **Supplies:** two printouts of the Ten Commandments and scissors.

Cut out each commandment and mix them up. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a set of mixed up commandments and challenge them to put the commandments in the correct order. The first team with the commandments correctly sorted wins.

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**TAKE
HOME**

▶ Every story in the Bible that records an act of disobedience points to our desperate need for a savior.

Loving the Lord will help us to live our lives as righteously as we possibly can, but when we fall, Jesus is there to pick us back up and help us try again.

Having a personal relationship with Jesus will help us make the right choices.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: How long had the Israelites been free from slavery in Egypt?

A1: The Israelites had been free for two months.

Q1b: It's the first day of summer vacation, what do you do to celebrate?

TN: Let students answer. Even those of us who enjoy going to school feel a sense of freedom at the start of summer vacation. All that time we spent in school now can be spent playing with friends or doing other fun activities. If summer vacation brings us a feeling of freedom, imagine how the Israelites felt after being freed from 400 years of slavery! What an incredible feeling! How grateful they must have been to God for delivering them from that horrible situation!

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What was God preparing?

A2: God was preparing a set of instructions to help the Israelites stay pure, faithful, and free.

Q2b: Have you ever wondered why shampoo bottles have to warn users that shampoo is for external use only?

TN: It seems silly, but most warning labels exist on products because someone used it in a way for which the product was not intended. Sometimes these people got hurt and they sued the company that made the product. To make sure that no one else tries to use the product in that manner again, the company adds warning labels to protect their customers and themselves. God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments and a series of other laws so they would know how God wanted them to behave. These laws were the warning labels for life.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Why did God tell Moses to go back down the mountain?

A3: God told Moses to go back down the mountain because the Israelites were creating a false idol to worship.

Q3b: The pizza you ordered is 15 minutes late. Should you give up waiting and eat dry cereal from the box?

TN: Dry cereal is no substitute for pizza fresh from the oven. Being patient can be difficult. After 40 days, the Israelites decided they were done waiting for Moses to come back down the mountain with word from the one true God on how they should live their lives. They decided that Moses wasn't going to come back, so they should create their own god to serve. Sometimes it seems like it takes God forever to answer our prayers. God answers our prayers at the perfect time, we just have to have faith that He has heard us and that He is working on it. We have wait patiently for God's perfect timing. Taking matters into our own hands will not bring the same result God is capable of providing.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What were the people of Israel worshipping?

A4: The people of Israel were worshipping a statue of a golden calf.

Q4b: You gave a friend a great Christmas present but couldn't afford to get him a birthday gift. How do you react when he stops talking to you?

TN: How rude! The Israelites' behavior was unbelievably awful. Two months after God saved them from slavery, they had created their own false god to worship. Fortunately, the way we would react in such a situation is not how God reacts. While in the situation with our friend, we might wish we hadn't given this friend a gift in the first place, God doesn't ever want to take back blessings He has given to us. There are consequences for our actions, but God never stops loving us and wanting to bless us. There is nothing we can do that will make God regret creating us, blessing us, or loving us. From before God created the universe, He knew we would exist, and He knew He would love us.

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Moses' anger cause him to do?

A5: Moses was so angry that he threw the stone tablets to the ground.

Q5b: Have you ever broken something really valuable?

TN: Nothing we have ever broken could have been as valuable as stone tablets written on by the hand of God. Moses really let his temper get the best of him. While it would have been amazing to see or even touch those tablets, we should remember that every day we are surrounded by things God created. We can see God in nature, our friends, family, ourselves, and our lives. God is everywhere!



**MEMORY
VERSE**

▷ **Exodus 20:3** You shall have no other gods before me.

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BIG IDEA

▷ Loving the Lord will help us to live our lives the way God wants.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▷ God, You are so wise. Thank You for giving us the Ten Commandments. Help us to obey them. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came to the Sinai desert. They decided to set up camp at the foot of Mount Sinai. There, Moses decided to climb up the mountain to enter the presence of the Lord. God had special instructions for him. God wanted to make sure that the hearts of the Israelites remained faithful. He gave Moses instructions to tell the Israelites to obey Him and, thereby, always be under His guidance and protection. To this, the Israelites agreed.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 2



God told Moses to climb Mount Sinai for a second time. There, God was going to meet with Moses in a thick cloud of smoke. When the Israelites saw the smoke, neither they nor any animal were allowed to come close to the mountain; if they did, they would die. God was preparing a special set of instructions that would help the Israelites stay pure, faithful, and free. He also told Moses to bring his brother Aaron with him. There on the mountaintop, God wrote the Ten Commandments that all the people of Israel were to follow. He also instructed Moses in many other regulations and matters that would help him lead the people of Israel. If they obeyed these rules, God's blessing and protection would be with them. If they broke them, God's punishment would be upon them.

The Ten Commandments include:

- 1.** Obey and worship God alone. Do not worship any other gods.
- 2.** Don't make any carvings and idols.
- 3.** Don't use the Lord's name in cursing or any unholy way.
- 4.** Keep the Sabbath day special.
- 5.** Honor your father and mother.
- 6.** Do not commit murder.
- 7.** Do not commit adultery.
- 8.** Do not steal.
- 9.** Never lie.
- 10.** Be content with what you have. Do not always want what others have.

These commandments were so special that God wrote them on two stone tablets.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



Moses spent a long time with God, and the Israelites started to wonder if Moses was ever coming back. The Israelites grew impatient and demanded a false god that they could worship. Their wicked hearts forgot about God's providence. When God saw this, he told Moses to go back down the mountain and speak with the people.

SLIDE 4



As Moses came down the mountain carrying the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, he heard festivities and soon saw the golden calf statue. There, Moses saw the Israelites dancing and shouting before this false god. It was an atrocious sight to behold. God's own people, whom He so powerfully rescued only two months ago, had turned their hearts from Him and worshiped a false idol.

SLIDE 5



Moses was so angry that he threw the two stone tablets to the ground, smashing them to pieces. How could these people be so ungrateful? How could they so quickly forget how God delivered them from the hands of the Egyptians? Moses shouted to the people, "Whoever is on the side of the Lord, come stand with me." All the sons of Levi came and stood by Moses. Then Moses gave them instructions to take their swords and kill the rest of the people. Their horrific idol worship had brought a terrible sin upon the people. That day, 3,000 Israelites died because of their wicked hearts and dreadful sin. Soon after, God sent a terrible plague upon those that remained. Though God had to punish their disobedience, He still led them on the path to the Promised Land. His forgiveness and mercy still upheld the remaining Israelites.