

GOD GAVE MOSES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God demands perfect obedience.



THE STORY: EXODUS 19

MONDAY

God spoke to the people

God spoke to the people – Moses led the people to the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

There on the mountain, God met with Moses and told him to warn the people to obey. He reminded Moses of what He did to the Egyptians (Exodus 19:4). The people responded that they would do all that the Lord said. The Lord instructed Moses to have the people wash and approach the mountain so that God could meet with them. He warned them, however, not to come too close to the mountain. If anyone even touched the foot of the mountain, they would die.

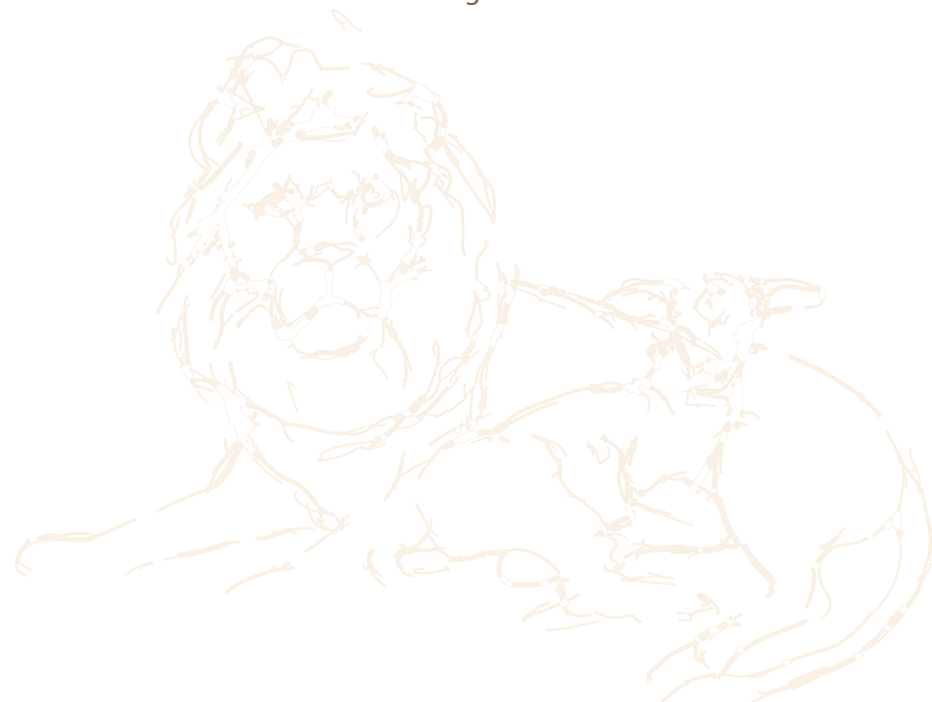
TALK ABOUT IT:

Why couldn't the people touch the mountain? (*God's holy sinless presence came down upon that mountain. Sinful people could never approach God's immediate presence and survive.*)

Why did God decide to appear in a dense cloud and speak to Moses so the people could hear Him? (*God did this so that the people would believe and put their trust in Moses as their leader - see 19:9.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for His amazing grace that now allows us to approach Him freely in the righteousness of Christ.





God gave the Law to the people

God gave the Law to the people – The law was given in the presence of the people. Moses did not go up to the mountain alone. The people were summoned to the mountain to hear God Himself call out His Law. In the law we have the spoken Word of God for the obedience of man. This law is the foundation for all other laws. Even keeping the first commandment is impossible for man to do without the grace of God. The impossibility of total obedience is made complete with the additional commandments. No one can claim perfect obedience to God's law. We are all law-breakers. When the people heard the voice of God, they pulled back from the mountain in fear. God revealed a bit of His awesome might and power so that the people might learn to properly fear Him. And for the moment, they did.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did the people react to hearing the voice of God? *(The people were so afraid they asked Moses not to have God speak to them again. God's holiness overwhelmed them.)*

What role did the people want Moses to play? *(The people wanted Moses to communicate with God on their behalf. They wanted Moses to be the middle man or mediator between them and God.)*

PRAY:

Give an opportunity for each of your children to share how they have failed in keeping the commands. Encourage them with the Gospel. Ask God for strength and grace to obey His commands. Confess your failures in your prayers.



Where is Jesus?

God gave Moses the law so the people would know what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Furthermore, through the commandments they would learn how incapable they are of keeping the law. This was designed by God to point them to their need for a Savior. Ultimately the law points us to Christ, the only who was able to keep the law. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does the law point us to Christ? *(Since we all fail at keeping the law, the law can not help us become righteous. It can only judge us. Guilty of violating God's law, we need to find another way to be righteous outside of ourselves. Jesus is that way.)*

How is Jesus our path to righteousness? *(Jesus kept all the commandments. He represented us. His perfect obedience is then given to us as a free gift. God accepts Jesus' obedience as ours.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the perfect obedience of Jesus who has become our righteousness.



THE STORY: EXODUS 20:22-26

THURSDAY

God warned them again

God warned them again – It is interesting to note that God told Moses to give the people an additional warning. They received their first warning in the first two commandments. In Exodus 20:21-23, God told Moses to remind the people they should not “make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make gods of gold.” Of course that is exactly what the people would do a short time later. God, in His kindness, gave this specific warning, knowing the weakness of the people and the strength of sin.

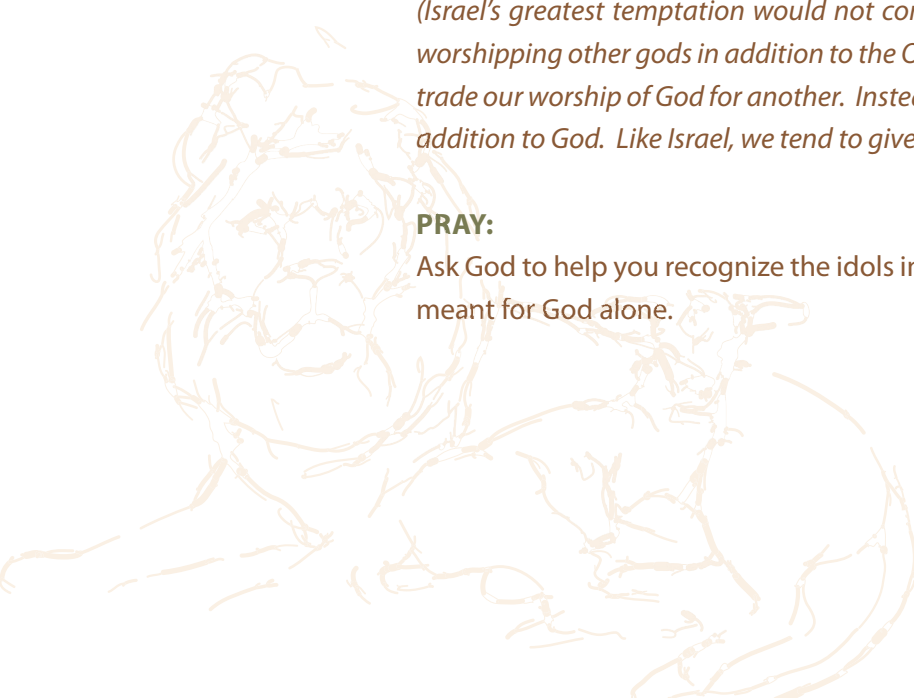
TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this second warning show God's care for His people? *(God was aware of their weakness and wanted to be sure to give them specific help and instruction.)*

What does God mean when he says, “Do not make gods to be alongside of me”? *(Israel's greatest temptation would not come from outright rejection of God but from worshipping other gods in addition to the One True God. Similarly, we rarely completely trade our worship of God for another. Instead we try to worship God and other things in addition to God. Like Israel, we tend to give ourselves to other gods.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you recognize the idols in your life which try to share the allegiance meant for God alone.





On the road to Emmaus.

Jeremiah was prophesying the new covenant of Christ. This passage was quoted in Hebrews 8:7-8 and was fulfilled in Christ. Jesus introduced a new covenant at the last supper (Luke 22:20).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Read Hebrews 8:6. Who does the writer of Hebrews say would mediate the new covenant? (*Christ.*)

How is the new covenant better than the old covenant? (*Obedience was placed upon man in the old covenant. In the new covenant, Jesus' perfect obedience satisfies the requirements of the law. Also, sacrifices for sin are no longer needed. Jesus became the perfect sin-sacrifice and the perfect high priest, thus making the old covenant obsolete.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for giving us the new covenant in Jesus' blood. Thank God that Jesus' blood covers our sin and that Jesus' obedience is transferred to our account.

