

GOD GAVE MOSES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 20:1-24



God demands perfect obedience.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

God spoke to the people – Moses led the people to the wilderness of Mount Sinai. There on the mountain, Moses met with God and he told Moses 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 any one so much as touched the foot of the mountain they would die.

God gave the Law to the people – Unlike in popular movies, 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 just the first commandment, that we should have no other gods, is impossible for man to do, apart from 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.

The people became afraid and cried out for Moses – When the people heard the voice of God, they pulled back from the mountain in fear. God revealed a bit of his His awesome might and power so that the people might learn to properly fear Him. And for the moment, they did.

God warned them again – It is interesting to note that God told Moses to give the people an the 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.

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WHERE IS JESUS?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:22-24)

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jeremiah was prophesying the new covenant of Christ. This passage was quoted in Hebrews 8:7-8 and was fulfilled in Christ.

Questions for reflection:

- Read Hebrews 8:6. Who does the writer of Hebrews say would mediate the new covenant spoken of in Jeremiah? (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. No longer are any sacrifices needed. Jesus becomes the perfect sacrifice, the perfect high priest, and makes the old covenant obsolete.)



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SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

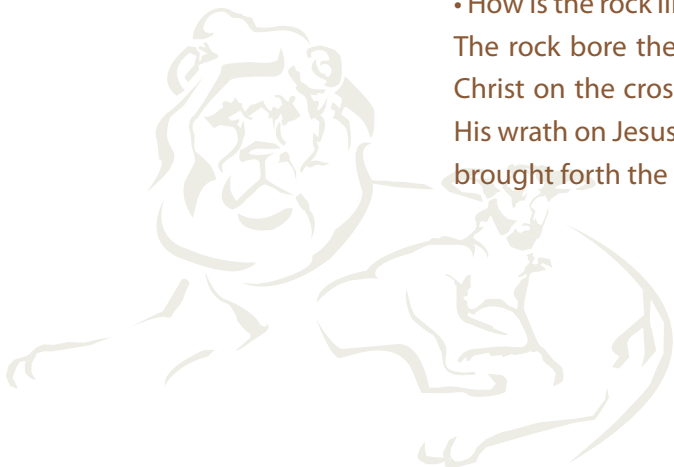
Supplies

- Moses costume
- large rock with a red cross painted on it
- large wooden stick or staff

Tell the story of Israel's complaining to the class. Their charge was more than grumbling. Explain to the class that when the Israelites got thirsty they charged Moses with a crime. Act out the role of Moses dialoging with God and then have him strike the rock. Read 1 Corinthians 10:4, which identifies the rock as Christ. Then, still in character as Moses, tell the class what the meaning of the rock is. (See Where is Jesus section for more detail.)

Lift the rock and show the class the red cross painted on it. Then ask the class the following questions:

- When God saw the rock, what did He see? (God could see into the future to a day when the grumbling and all of Israel's sins would be paid for by the death of Christ.)
- How is the rock like Jesus? (In 1 Corinthians 10:4, we are told that the rock is Christ. The rock bore the brunt of the blow by the hand of Moses for the sins of Israel. Christ on the cross bore the brunt of the blow of our sins when God poured out His wrath on Jesus. The rock brought forth the blessing of water and life. The cross brought forth the water of the Spirit poured forth onto sinners for eternal life.)



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IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THE LAW

Supplies

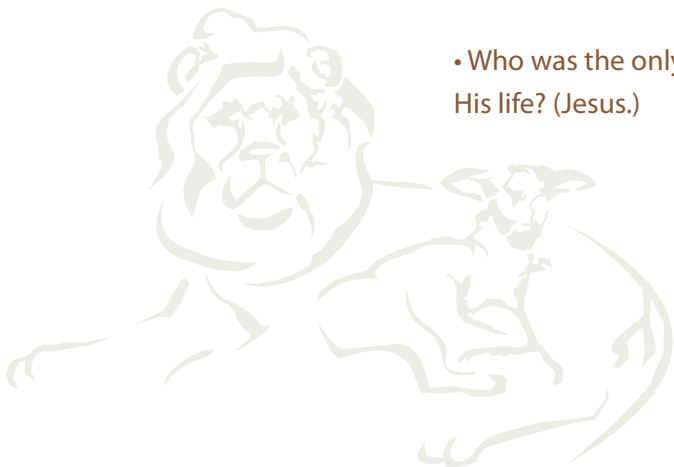
- masking tape
- tennis ball

The purpose of this activity is to show the children how impossible it is to keep the law. We can want to keep the law. We try to keep the law, and even come close to keeping part of the law, but in the end only Jesus could keep the law.

Using the masking tape to make lines on the floor, make two parallel lines about three inches apart. About a foot pasted the end of the lines, tape a small "x". The object of the game is to roll the ball between the parallel lines and have it stop perfectly on the "x". This, of course, is not impossible, but very, very difficult. Give the children several turns and disqualify them for touching the lines, or falling short, or going long. If a child does get the ball to land on the mark, celebrate and say, "Now if you can do that ten more times in a row, you are a winner!" Of course, that is impossible.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Was it difficult to keep the ball in the lines and land on the mark? (Yes, it was very difficult.)
- Do you think anyone could do it ten times in a row? Twenty? One hundred? (Keep going until they all say no.)
- How is trying to keep the ball in the lines like trying to keep from sinning and breaking God's commandments? (The ball challenge was very much like trying to live a sinless life. You have the desire to live according to God's law but you seem to cross the lines frequently (sin). When you do finally get it correct, there is another situation or another day where you have to do it again. One mistake and you failed to keep all of the law.)
- Who was the only person who was able to keep all of the law for all of the days of His life? (Jesus.)



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TEACHER SAYS

Play this game like the traditional "Simon Says". Place all the children in a line and explain that if you say "Teacher Says" they must do what you tell them, but if you do not use those words they are not to obey. Try to trick the children and get them to make a mistake. If anyone makes a mistake they are out of the game. Keep going until you have no one left, and congratulate the last person.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- How easy was it to follow the commands? (It wasn't easy to follow the commands.)
- How easy is it to follow God's commandments? (It is not easy to follow God's commandments without making a mistake.)
- What is it called when we make a mistake and do not follow God's commandments? (Sin.)
- Who was the one person who was able to keep all of God's commandments? (Jesus was able to keep all of God's commandments. If we trust in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus gives us the gift of His righteousness and takes away our sins.)

PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of Mount Sinai with flashes of lightning and thunder.



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FOR OLDER GRADES

Supplies

- paper
- pencils
- crayons, or colored pencils

The object of this exercise is to help the children understand that idolatry does not need to be limited to making a physical object and that we can have idols in our hearts.

Explain to the children that an idol is something that we love more than God. This can be a good thing that we love too much. It can be a person, place, or object. It can also be something we want like control, power, peace, or ease. If, for instance, someone takes one of their toys and they become angry, it might be because they loved that toy more than God. On the other hand, they may not care for the toy very much but crave to control all their things.

Ask the children what makes them angry when they do not get what they want. Help them understand that in those moments of anger we are loving something more than God. If we loved God more we would be loving, not angry.

Have the children draw a large heart on their papers and then inside the heart draw a picture of something they are tempted to make an idol in their lives. When the children are finished, ask some of them to share what they drew and why.

Take time to bring in the Gospel. The law was given to help us to see that we cannot obey. Jesus was able to obey perfectly. When we trust in Him, we get the benefit of His righteousness given to us in exchange for our sin.



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A LITTLE BIT MORE

Law – The law of God was given as a blessing to Israel to protect them and lead them into righteousness. Because no man can keep the law, it condemned all men. The law, however, did not stop there. The law is to help people see that we all fall short of God's perfection. God declared that all of the law must be perfectly kept.

In James 2:10 we read that if we are guilty of breaking one part of the law we are guilty of breaking all of it. Jesus came to keep the law, and was the ultimate sacrifice for sins. Now we no longer need to keep the ceremonial or sacrificial law. The moral law, however, we still keep.

To help us, the Spirit writes the law on our hearts so that we can obey the very law we once disobeyed. Even as Christians we fall short, but the blood of Jesus covers our sins.

