

Israel at Mount Sinai

Egypt to Canaan
Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe how God gave the law to Moses.
- The students will state one way they can apply God's word to their lives.
- The students will explain one way they are willing to obey God.

Lesson Text

Exodus 19-40

Scripture Memory Verse

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Exodus 33:11

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Got Rules?

Welcome and Singing

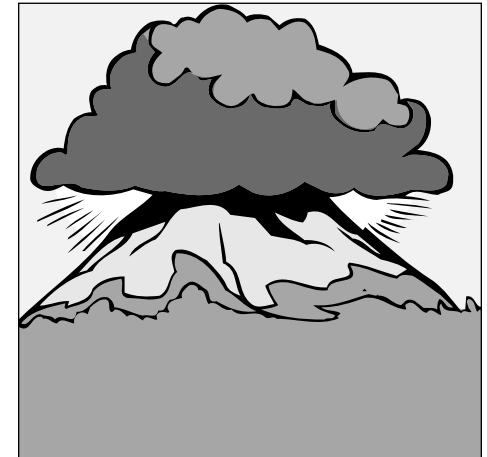
Centers:

Bible Story: Letter from Mount Sinai

Craft: Carry My Heart

Scripture Memory: Face to Face

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



GENERATION
next

3rd and 4th Grades

Israel at Mount Sinai

Got Rules?

The students will create a list of laws and rules that they are familiar with and describe why they think those rules exist.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- 2 pieces of banner paper, each 4' long
- black marker

Preparation

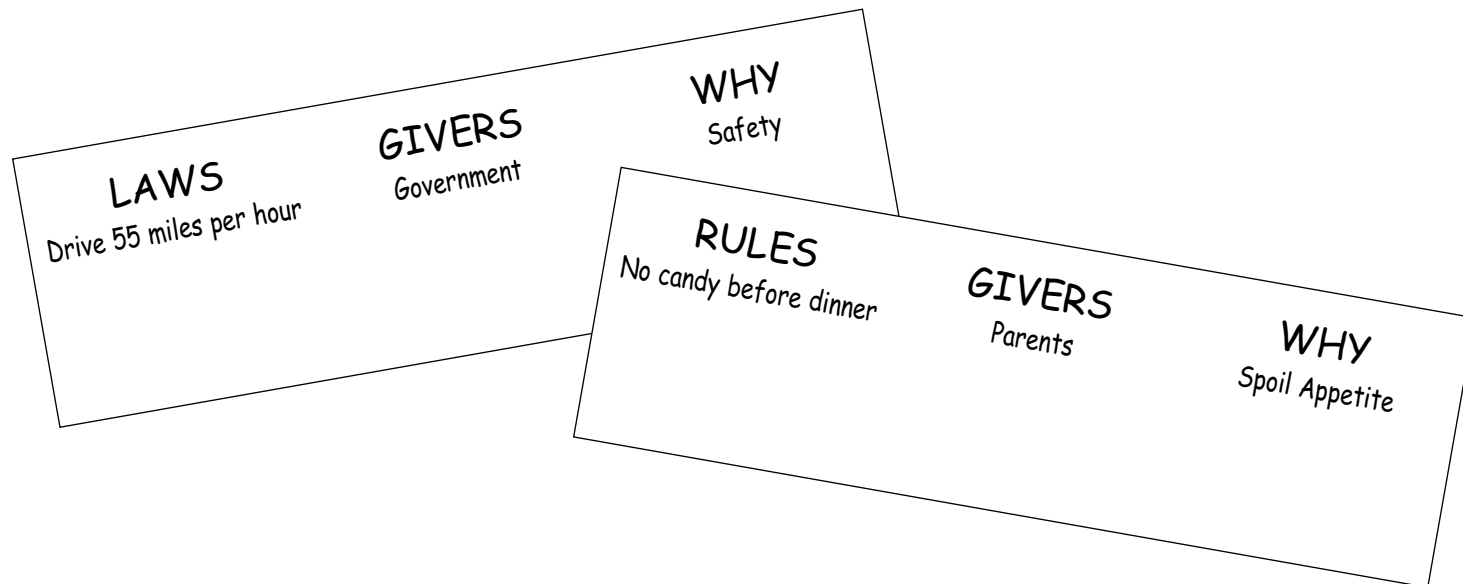
1. On the first piece of banner paper, label three columns: LAWS, GIVERS, WHY.
2. On the second piece of banner paper, label three columns: RULES, GIVERS, WHY.
3. Write one example for each, as shown. Make sure to leave room for the students to write.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Direct them to the two pieces of banner paper. Explain that the students are going to think of as many laws and rules as they can and write them on the paper. Then they will write the "giver" of the law or rule, and the reason "why" the law or rule exists. Tell them that this will help them prepare for today's Bible lesson.
2. Circulate among the students to offer help with ideas and spelling.
3. Tell the students to write their names by the laws and rules that they added.
4. When Preclass is over, display the banners in a place where everyone can see them.

Teacher Tips

- For large classes, increase the number of banner papers to accommodate more students at one time.



Israel at Mount Sinai

Letter from Mount Sinai

The students will learn about Moses' experience on Mount Sinai and how God gave him the Ten Commandments.

Materials

For the teacher:

- a tall, sturdy stick or cardboard tube, 3'

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Prepare the stick or cardboard tube to be used by the students as a staff. They will hold the staff when they read the "Letter from Mount Sinai."
2. Practice presenting the Bible Story and asking the review questions.

Telling the Bible Story

This week you will learn what happened to the Israelites after they went through the Red Sea and into the desert. Othniel, the nephew of Caleb, was a boy whose family loved God and obeyed his commands. Othniel grew up to be a respected leader of God's people. In this week's Bible Story, you will hear another story from Othniel about how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

Distribute copies of Reproducible Page A to the students. Explain that the students will each take turns reading a section from the Letter from Mount Sinai. Although this is not actually taken from the Bible, explain that it is based on chapters 19-40 of Exodus.

Have the students sit in a circle. Stand in the middle, hold the staff and read the first section of the letter on the back of this Lesson Card. When you finish, give the staff to a student and have him stand in the middle of the circle and read the next section. Continue in this way until every section has been read. (Depending on the number of students in your group, some students may read more than once.)

With the students sitting in the circle, review the Bible Story by giving the staff to two students together. Have them stand and answer one of the following questions. Continue in this way until all the questions have been asked.

- *Describe what happened when Moses went up on the Mount Sinai.* (thunder; lightning; trumpet blast; people afraid; God spoke to Moses)
- *Describe what God told Moses on the mountain.* (Ten Commandments; laws about how to treat people, etc.)
- *Describe what happened after Moses had been gone forty days and nights.* (people turned away from God; worshiped idols)
- *Describe what happened when Moses came down and saw the people.* (he was angry; he made them drink the dust of the idol; he called people to live for God; people died)
- *Describe what God told Moses to build for him.* (a tabernacle where God could live among the people; a place to keep the commands; a place where the priests must wear special clothes)

Sharing with Others

Remind the students that God is very serious about his rules and laws. He really cares if we follow them because he loves us. We need to tell others about God's love and his laws that we find in the Bible. God never wants us to forget his laws or to stop telling others about them. Ask the students who they can tell about this week's Bible Story. Close with a prayer.

Teacher Tips

- Be aware of the students who are not comfortable reading aloud or in front of a group. Give every student an opportunity, but do not force a student to read. Encourage all efforts to participate. Do not permit other students to make fun of those who do not read well.

Israel at Mount Sinai

Letter from Mount Sinai

My name is Othniel. Last time, I told you the story of how my family crossed the Red Sea to escape from Egypt. Now I am writing to tell you the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. It all began when Moses led our people through the desert to a mountain called Mount Sinai. While we were there, we heard something incredible! God spoke to Moses! He told him to come up to the top of the mountain. We saw Moses go up. And then, God came down in a cloud—to talk to him! Only Moses was allowed to talk with God. No one else could come up or they would die. We heard thunder and saw lightening. The mountain was covered in smoke and we heard the blast of a trumpet. Everyone was afraid.

While Moses was on the mountain, God gave him the Ten Commandments. He gave him other laws about how to treat people, what to do when someone hurts another person, and special times to worship God. Moses came down the mountain and told the people everything God had said. The people told Moses, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do."

Moses went back up to the top of Mount Sinai. This time, God told Moses that he wanted the people to build him a tabernacle—a place where God could live among the people. God told Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle. God commanded that special clothes be worn by the priests before they could go inside. God told Moses to keep the Ten Commandments in a special chest called an "ark." The ark would stay in the tabernacle.

Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days and nights. When the people saw that Moses had been gone such a long time, they wondered what happened to him. They thought that he was not going to come back and so they decided to do something—it was something terrible! They decided to make an idol.

Moses' brother Aaron was in charge while Moses was gone. The people told Aaron to make them a statue that they could worship. Aaron ordered everyone to take off their gold jewelry. He melted the gold and made a statue of a cow. It was an idol—the very thing that God commanded the people not to do! The people worshiped the idol and danced around it. They committed terrible sins and God was watching.

God told Moses what the people had done and how they had turned away from God. God was very angry. He was going to destroy all the people. Moses pleaded with God and asked him to spare the people—and God did. Moses went down the mountain. When he saw the people, his anger burned. He took the two stone tablets on which God had written the commandments, and he threw them on the ground. Moses took the golden idol and burned it in the fire. Then he ground it into powder and made the people drink it. Moses called out to the people and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." Some people, called the Levites, came quickly to Moses. But many others, about three thousand, died that day because they did not want to live for the LORD.

Moses went back up the mountain for forty days and nights. Again God wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. When Moses came down the mountain, he was very different. His face was as bright as the sun. It was so bright that people could not look at him unless he covered his face. We knew that Moses had been with God. We had a lot of work to do. My family and all the other Israelites built the tabernacle where God would live. Inside we put the ark, a special table, a lampstand and altars. A cloud came and covered the tabernacle. God was in the cloud. The people knew that God would be with them if they always followed the laws he gave Moses. I'll write again soon. Don't forget these things! Your friend,

Othniel

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Carry My Heart

In this craft, the students will make a simplified model of the Ark of the Covenant.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 small box with removable lid, 2" x 4" x 2" (size may vary)
- 1 piece of gold color foil or wrapping paper, 8" x 8"
- scissors
- glue stick
- tape
- 2 white or clear straws (non-bendable)

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Practice making this craft before class.
2. Make a sample craft to show the students.
3. Prepare gold foil/wrapping paper for each student.
4. Cut out the cherubim and stone tablet figures from the copies of Reproducible Page B for the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's craft by saying: *In our Bible Story this week, we learn that Moses had a very special relationship with God. The Bible says that Moses and God were friends. God cared very much for his people whom he rescued out of Egypt. God gave very important laws to Moses to give to the people. God told Moses that if the people would obey God's laws, God would protect them from their enemies and keep them safe. God told Moses to build a special box called an "ark" to keep these precious laws. This ark was different from the one Noah built. It was much smaller! This ark could be carried on poles by people. After God gave the laws to Moses, Moses kept them in the ark. Today, you are going to make a model of the ark. In it you will place a reminder of God's special laws. These laws came from God's love for his people. So when you carry the laws, you are carrying something that comes from God's heart.*

2. Distribute the boxes, tape and gold paper to the students. Have the students "wrap" the box and lid separately with the gold paper or foil and secure with tape, as shown in Figure A.
3. Distribute the figures from the copies of Reproducible Page B that you prepared. Direct the students to fold the cherubim along the dashed lines, glue it to the top of the box and secure with a piece of tape, as shown in Figure B.
4. Have the students place the stone tablets inside the ark.
5. Distribute the straws. Have the students tape the straws to the bottom sides of the ark, as shown in Figure C.
6. Make sure that the students write their names on their arks.
NOTE: If boxes with removable lids are not available, cover a plain box and then cut a 2 inch hole on one side of the box. The students can then place the stone tablets inside their arks by using the holes. (Be sure to explain to them that the real ark had a lid.) To achieve a larger model, use shoe boxes instead of the small gift boxes and wooden dowel rods instead of straws. Adapt the sizes of the gold paper and dowels according to the size of the shoe boxes.

Conclusion

Ask the students how they would have felt to carry the real ark that had God's laws inside. Tell them to put their arks in a place where they will see them. The arks should remind them to carry God's word in their hearts! Close with a prayer for the students to keep God's word in their hearts the way Moses did.

Teacher Tips

- To make cherubim and stone tablets more sturdy, glue them onto construction paper before cutting them out.
- Ask parents to help by donating boxes in advance for you to prepare; or approach a gift store about donating a supply of boxes to your Bible class for this craft.
- Extra ambitious teachers: invite a carpenter to make a wooden model of the ark, using the Bible dimensions provided in Exodus 25:10-22.



3rd and 4th Grades

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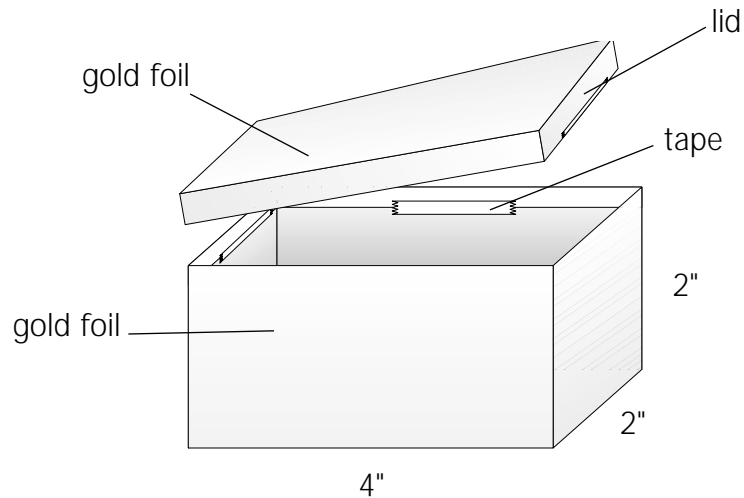


Figure A

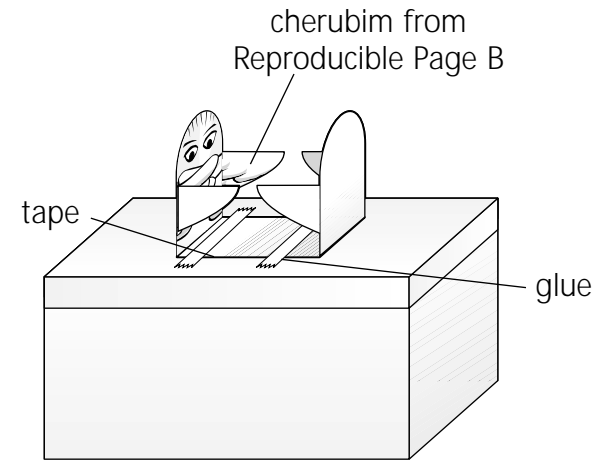


Figure B

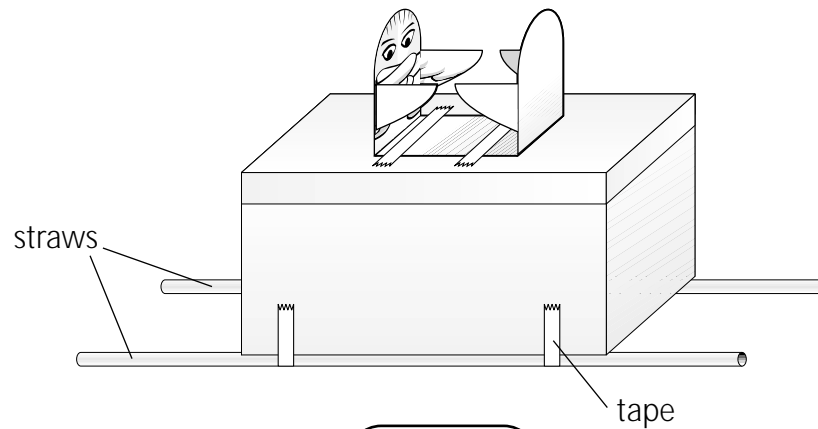


Figure C

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Face to Face

The students will learn and memorize the Scripture Memory Verse by making puzzles.

Scripture Memory Verse

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Exodus 33:11

Materials

For each student:

- scissors
- crayons or markers
- 1 plastic sandwich bag

For the teacher:

- scissors
- Reproducible Pages:*
 - Page C, 1 copy per student

Preparation

1. Learn the Scripture Memory Verse by heart before class.
2. Color and cut out a puzzle from your copy of Reproducible Page C.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity by saying: *In this week's Bible Story, we learn that Moses went to the top of the mountain to meet with God. He was there for forty days and nights. While he was there, God spoke to him and gave him special laws for the people to follow. The Bible says that God told Moses to cut out two stone tablets. A tablet is a large writing surface. Moses cut out the stones and God wrote his commandments on the stones. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as well as other important rules and laws for the people to follow. Do you remember when you thought about different laws during the Preclass? Those are laws that we have to keep us safe and healthy. God gave his people laws so that the people would be safe and live long lives.*
2. Read the memory verse on the back of this Lesson Card to the students. Tell them that it comes from Exodus, the book they have been studying for the past few lessons.

3. Ask the students to read the verse aloud with you. Do this three times.
4. Ask the students to close their eyes and say it aloud with you three times.
5. Ask each student to take a turn reading it aloud with you.
6. Set the Lesson Card down, and ask for volunteers to say it from memory. Give each student a chance. Encourage the students to help each other.
7. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C and crayons to the students. Tell the students to color in the verses on their pages and to write their names on the backs.
8. When they have finished coloring in the verse, distribute the scissors and have the students cut out the puzzle along the lines provided. Encourage them to work together.
9. Have the students put their puzzles together. Distribute the plastic bags and have the students place the puzzle pieces inside. Have them put their names on the bags.

Conclusion

Remind the students that Moses had a very special relationship with God—they were friends! Ask the students if they would like to have a special friendship with God like Moses had. Close with a prayer for the students to have special friendships with God.

Teacher Tips

- This is a unique opportunity for you to model for the students what a friendship with God is like. Let the students see your personal love and appreciation for God and his word.

GENERATION

3rd and 4th Grades

The LORD would
speak to Moses
face to face, as a man
speaks with his friend.
Exodus 33:11

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe how God gave the law to Moses.
- The students will state one way they can apply God's word to their lives.
- The students will explain one way they are willing to obey God.

Lesson Text

Exodus 19-40

Scripture Memory Verse

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Exodus 33:11

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Picture Yourself

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Straight from the Heart

Game: King of Hearts

Bible Skills: Legal Eagles

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Picture Yourself

In this activity, the students will review the main events from this week's Bible Story as they think about what they would have done in the same situation.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Reproducible Pages:
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete this activity before class.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page D and pencils. Tell the students to read each situation and then answer the questions that follow.
2. Circulate among the students to offer help and answer questions.
3. Make sure they put their names on their pages.

Teacher Tips

- This is a great opportunity for the students to help those who did not hear the Bible Story.

Name

Moses led the people through the desert to a mountain called Mount Sinai. God spoke to Moses. He told him to come up to the top of the mountain. God came down in a cloud-in talk to him. Only Moses was allowed to talk with God. No one else could come up or they would die. The people heard thunder and saw lightning. The mountain was covered in smoke and they heard the blast of a trumpet.

- If God called you and told you to go up to talk to him, what would you do?

While Moses was on the mountain, God gave him the Ten Commandments. He gave him other laws about how to treat people, what to do when someone hurts another person, and special times to worship God. Moses came down the mountain and told the people everything God had said. The people told Moses, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do."

- If you were one of the people who heard the Ten Commandments, what would you do?

Picture Yourself

Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days and nights. When the people saw that Moses had been gone such a long time, they wondered what happened to him. They thought that he was not going to come back and so they decided to make an idol. Aaron made a gold cow and the people worshiped it and danced around it. They committed terrible sins and God was watching.

- If you were one of the people waiting for Moses, what would you do?



Moses went down the mountain. When he saw the people, his anger burned. He took the two stone tablets on which God had written the commandments and threw them on the ground. Moses took the gold idol and burned it in the fire. Then he ground it into powder and made the people drink it. Moses called out to the people and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." Some people, called the Levites, came quickly to Moses. But many others, about three thousand, died that day because they did not want to live for the LORD.

- If you were one of the people there, what would you do?

- If you could meet Christ and ask him a question, what would you want to know?

Straight from the Heart

The students will think about what it means to be willing to obey God in their lives.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 8 index cards, 3" x 5"
- glue stick
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the eight "cards" from your copy of Reproducible Page E and glue them to the index cards.
2. Practice this activity before class.

Reviewing the Bible Story

In our Bible Story this week, we learned that Moses had a very special relationship with God. He spoke to God as he would speak to a friend. God met with him on the mountain to give him the commandments. God told Moses that if the people obeyed his commands, God would protect them from their enemies and bless their lives. God wanted the people to be willing to obey. Listen to what the Bible says about being willing to obey:

Read the following verses to the students:

- "From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze." Exodus 35:5
- "All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD." Exodus 35:22
- "All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do." Exodus 35:29
- "Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work." Exodus 36:2

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What do you think it means to be willing to do something? (Take a few responses.) What do you think it means to be willing to obey God? (Do it without grumbling or complaining; do it with a good attitude) Let's look at some of God's commands and see what it means to be willing to obey them today.

Life Application

Divide the students into two groups. Mix up the cards that you prepared and give each group a set of four. Tell the groups to choose one of the commands on their cards and prepare a short skit to show the other group how to be willing to obey that command.

Give the students five minutes to prepare their skit. During that time, circulate between the two groups to offer help and suggestions. Choose a group to go first. After they do their skit, have the other group guess what command they were acting out. Offer additional suggestions and encouragement. Have the second group do their skit in the same way. Repeat this activity, doing as many skits as time permits.

Conclusion

Bring the students together in a circle. Tell them that obeying from the heart is not always easy but it is always the best way to live. Remind the students that God wants to help them obey from the heart. That is why he sent Jesus to show us how to obey God from the heart. Close with a prayer for each student by name to obey God from the heart this week.

Teacher Tips

- When dividing the students, balance those who are quiet with those who will be outgoing in the skit so that both groups are set up for success.



3rd and 4th Grades



King of Hearts

The students will think of ways in which they can obey God willingly—from the heart—as they play this card game.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 deck of regular playing cards
- scorepad and pen

Preparation

Practice playing this game at home.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity, saying: *In our Bible Story this week, we learned about God's love for his people. God gave the people rules and laws that would help them to be happy and safe. He told Moses to teach the people the laws so that they could obey willingly—from the heart. If we love God, we will obey his rules willingly—from the heart! We should want God to be the king of our hearts. Today, we are going to think of ways to follow and obey God's word.*
2. Explain how the game is played: *Each of you will get five cards. I will ask one of you if you have a heart for God. If you have a card with hearts on it, you must place it down for all of us to see. If you have more than one, save the others for later. Then you will tell us one way you will obey God from your heart today. When you give your answer, I will check my "Ways to Obey" list. If your way to obey is on my list, you will earn the number of points on your card. If it is not, you will earn an extra point! For example, if you play the five of hearts and give me a way to obey that is on my list, you will win five points. If your way to obey is not on my list, you will earn six points! The only way to win the game is if everyone gets to play a heart and say a way to obey. So if one of you has an extra heart, you may give it to a student who has no hearts. The winner can only be chosen if everyone can play a heart for God.*
3. Have the students sit in a circle. Deal five cards to each student. Place the remaining cards in a pile, face down in the middle.



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Lesson 3

4. Begin by asking the student to your right: *Do you have a heart for God?* If the student has a "heart," he should put it down and say, *"Yes, I have a heart for God."* Once he plays his card, he must tell the other students one way he will obey the Bible from his heart today. If the student's way to obey is on your list, give him the same number of points as the card he played. If he gives a way to obey that is not on the list, give him the number of points on his card, plus one.
NOTE: The ace is worth one point; face cards are worth 10 points; the king is worth 20 points.
5. If the student does NOT have a heart, he must say: *"No I don't have a heart for God."* That student may then pick a card from the pile, or he may receive a card from another player. If he picks a heart from the pile, he may place it down right away and tell one way he will obey the Bible. If the student is not offered a heart and does not pick a heart, he may place the card in a discard pile.
6. Play moves to the next student and continues until each student has played all their hearts and/or all the cards from the pile have been played.
7. If all the students have played a heart, then total each of the student's points. Make sure that every student has played at least one heart. If any students did not play a heart, then there is no winner. Explain that having a lot of points makes us feel good, but that God looks at the heart. The true winner is anyone who obeys God. Tell the students that they will win if they obey God the way they said they would.

Conclusion

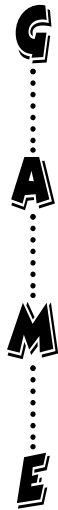
Help the students to see that God looks at our hearts. Close with a prayer for the students to obey God from the heart.

Teacher Tips

- Use the Ways To Obey list as a guide. The wording does not have to match exactly.



3rd and 4th Grades



Ways to Obey

My Life

Read my Bible.
Pray.
Have a quiet time everyday.
Try to be like Jesus.
Clean my room and make my bed.

My School

Listen to and respect my teacher(s) and the principal.
Do my homework everyday.
Be the best student I can be.
Invite my teacher to church or to my house for dinner.
Help other students who are having trouble with their schoolwork.

My Family

Respect (honor) my parents.
Listen to and obey my parents—the first time.
Love my brothers and sisters.
Share with my brothers and sisters.
Do my chores.
Tell my parents and brothers/sisters that I love them.
Do not complain or argue.

My Neighbors and Community

Be polite and respectful.
Do not take something that does not belong to me.
Offer to help with raking leaves or shoveling snow.
Invite them to my home for dinner.
Tell about HOPE worldwide.
Tell them about my faith in Jesus.
Invite them to church.
Offer to help someone who has a lot to carry.
Open the door for someone.

My Friends

Be kind to my friends.
Do not gossip or tell lies about them.
Invite my friends to church or to my house.
Pray for my friends.
Think of ways to encourage them.
Do not judge them by what others say.

My Church

Respect my Bible class teachers.
Come to Bible class with a great attitude.
Help other students who are new or visiting.
Help with projects like HOPE.
Offer to help someone who has a lot to carry.
Open the door for someone.

Legal Eagles

The students will review the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Materials

For the teacher:

- watch or timer
- large writing surface
- black marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Review your copy of Reproducible Page F.
2. Practice leading this activity before class.

Instructions

1. Tell the students that they are going to learn the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses and then use them in a pretend "court room" situation.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page F to the students.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Tell them that they have five minutes to study the Ten Commandments and learn what they mean. When the time is up, you will quiz them. Circulate among the students to offer assistance.
4. After five minutes, choose one team to give the meaning of the commandment "Honor your father and mother" without looking at their papers. They may work together. The wording does not have to be exact. Ask the second team to give the meaning of the commandment "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God."

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5. After both teams have gone, explain that they are going to use these Ten Commandments in a pretend "court" of law. You are going to describe a problem, and they have to tell you which commandment was broken. Tell the students that this is the same thing that lawyers do: they research laws so that they can prove whether a person has broken a law or not.
6. On the large writing surface, write "Problem #1: True Friend? Maybe Not!" Read the problem to the students from the opposite side of this Lesson Card. Tell the students that they have two minutes to decide. (In some cases, more than one commandment may have been broken.) Each team must choose one student to be the "presenting" lawyer to give the answer for the team. The students should take turns presenting their team's answers.
7. Continue in the same manner until all the problems have been solved.

Conclusion

Have the students sit in a circle. Encourage them for their effort in today's class. Remind them that God gives us rules because he loves us. Close with a prayer thanking God for his love for each one of the students.

Teacher Tips

- Have pencils on hand for students.

Legal Eagles

Problem #1: True Friend? Maybe Not!

John saw his friend's new bike in the driveway. It was the same bike that John wanted for his birthday. He was very angry because he did not get one. John knew his friend was not home so he took the bike for a ride. He decided to hide it in his shed. John told his friend that some kids from the neighborhood stole it.

Commands broken: Do not covet, do not steal, do not give false testimony.

Problem #2: Me First!

Your parents ask you to help them clean out your games from the garage. They are getting ready to have a garage sale to raise money for the poor. Your friend comes over and asks you to play. You tell your friend that you can't come out because your dumb parents are making you do work for some stupid yard sale. Your friend tells you to do it later. You leave with your friend and don't tell your parents where you are going.

Command broken: Honor your mother and father.

Problem #3: Watch That Mouth!

You are eating lunch with your friends. One of them is always saying "Oh my God!" every time she opens her mouth. You know this is not right. What will you tell her?

Command broken: Do not misuse the name of the LORD.

Problem #4: Turn It Off!

Your cousin loves to watch TV. It is all he ever does. He never plays with other kids and he won't eat meals with his family. He refuses to go to church on Sunday with his parents because he says that TV is his god. He says that he wishes he could live alone so that he would not have to go to school or do anything except watch TV. You are sad because he did not even come to your birthday party because he wanted to watch TV.

Commands Broken: Do not have any other gods, do not worship any idols, honor your mother and father.

Letter from Mount Sinai

My name is Othniel. Last time, I told you the story of how my family crossed the Red Sea to escape from Egypt. Now I am writing to tell you the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. It all began when Moses led our people through the desert to a mountain called Mount Sinai. While we were there, we heard something incredible! God spoke to Moses! He told him to come up to the top of the mountain. We saw Moses go up. And then, God came down in a cloud—to talk to him! Only Moses was allowed to talk with God. No one else could come up or they would die. We heard thunder and saw lightening. The mountain was covered in smoke and we heard the blast of a trumpet. Everyone was afraid.

While Moses was on the mountain, God gave him the Ten Commandments. He gave him other laws about how to treat people, what to do when someone hurts another person, and special times to worship God. Moses came down the mountain and told the people everything God had said. The people told Moses, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do."

Moses went back up to the top of Mount Sinai. This time, God told Moses that he wanted the people to build him a tabernacle—a place where God could live among the people. God told Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle. God commanded that special clothes be worn by the priests before they could go inside. God told Moses to keep the Ten Commandments in a special chest called an "ark." The ark would stay in the tabernacle.

Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days and nights. When the people saw that Moses had been gone such a long time, they wondered what happened to him. They thought that he was not going to come back and so they decided to do something—it was something terrible! They decided to make an idol.

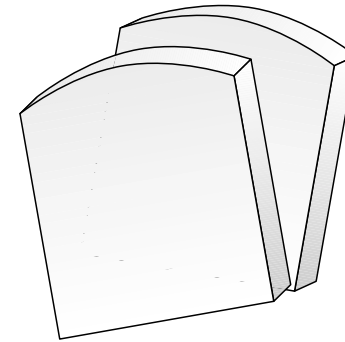
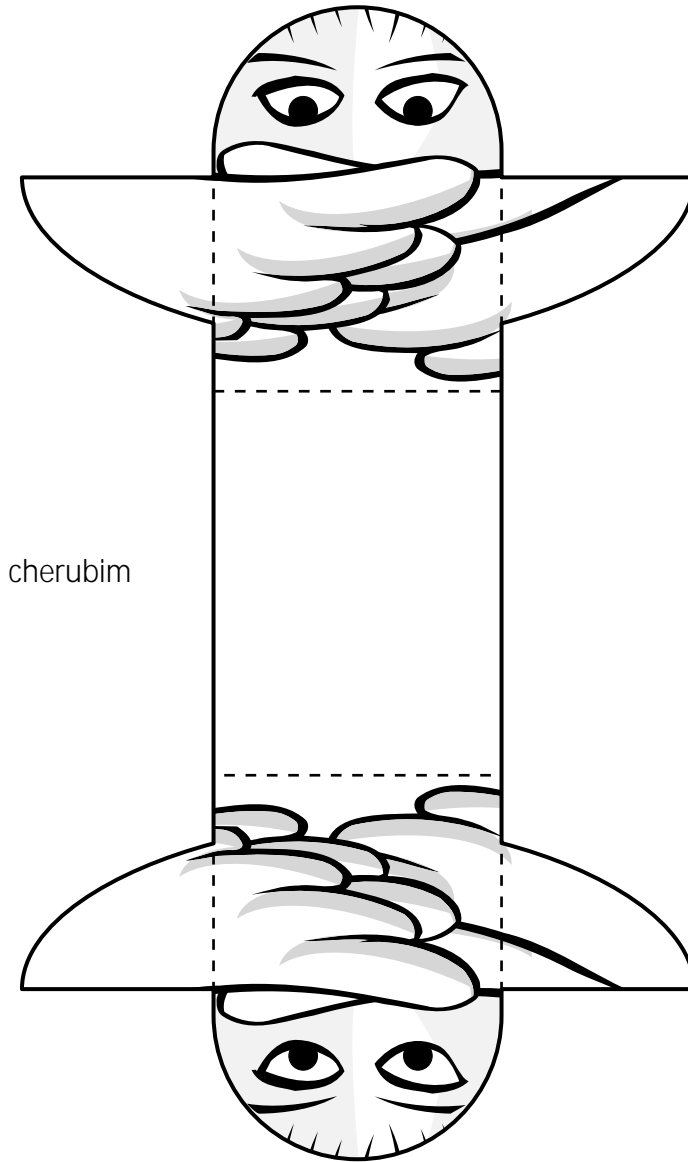
Moses' brother Aaron was in charge while Moses was gone. The people told Aaron to make them a statue that they could worship. Aaron ordered everyone to take off their gold jewelry. He melted the gold and made a statue of a cow. It was an idol—the very thing that God commanded the people not to do! The people worshiped the idol and danced around it. They committed terrible sins and God was watching.

God told Moses what the people had done and how they had turned away from God. God was very angry. He was going to destroy all the people. Moses pleaded with God and asked him to spare the people—and God did. Moses went down the mountain. When he saw the people, his anger burned. He took the two stone tablets on which God had written the commandments, and he threw them on the ground. Moses took the golden idol and burned it in the fire. Then he ground it into powder and made the people drink it. Moses called out to the people and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." Some people, called the Levites, came quickly to Moses. But many others, about three thousand, died that day because they did not want to live for the LORD.

Moses went back up the mountain for forty days and nights. Again God wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. When Moses came down the mountain, he was very different. His face was as bright as the sun. It was so bright that people could not look at him unless he covered his face. We knew that Moses had been with God. We had a lot of work to do. My family and all the other Israelites built the tabernacle where God would live. Inside we put the ark, a special table, a lampstand and altars. A cloud came and covered the tabernacle. God was in the cloud. The people knew that God would be with them if they always followed the laws he gave Moses. I'll write again soon. Don't forget these things! Your friend,

Othniel

Core/Craft
1 copy for each student



stone tablets

The LORD would
speak to Moses
face to face, as a man
speaks with his friend.
Exodus 33:11

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Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each student

Picture Yourself

Name _____

Moses led the people through the desert to a mountain called Mount Sinai. God spoke to Moses! He told him to come up to the top of the mountain. God came down in a cloud—to talk to him! Only Moses was allowed to talk with God. No one else could come up or they would die. The people heard thunder and saw lightening. The mountain was covered in smoke and they heard the blast of a trumpet.

- If God called you and told you to go up to talk to him, what would you do?

While Moses was on the mountain, God gave him the Ten Commandments. He gave him other laws about how to treat people, what to do when someone hurts another person, and special times to worship God. Moses came down the mountain and told the people everything God had said. The people told Moses, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do."

- If you were one of the people who heard the Ten Commandments, what would you do?

Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days and nights. When the people saw that Moses had been gone such a long time, they wondered what happened to him. They thought that he was not going to come back and so they decided to make an idol. Aaron made a gold cow and the people worshiped it and danced around it. They committed terrible sins and God was watching.

- If you were one of the people waiting for Moses, what would you do?



Moses went down the mountain. When he saw the people, his anger burned. He took the two stone tablets on which God had written the commandments and threw them on the ground. Moses took the golden idol and burned it in the fire. Then he ground it into powder and made the people drink it. Moses called out to the people and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." Some people, called the Levites, came quickly to Moses. But many others, about three thousand, died that day because they did not want to live for the LORD.

- If you were one of the people there, what would you do?

- If you could meet Othniel and ask him a question, what would you want to know?

Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for the teacher

You will have no other
gods but the LORD.
(Exodus 20:3)

Do not lie.
(Exodus 20:16)

You will not misuse the
name of the LORD.
(Exodus 20:7)

Do not talk badly about the
leaders of our country.
(Exodus 22:28)

Honor your father
and mother.
(Exodus 20:12)

Do not spread rumors.
(Exodus 23:1)

Do not steal.
(Exodus 20:15)

Do not follow the crowd
in doing wrong.
(Exodus 23:2)

Supplement/Bible Skills

1 copy for each student

The Ten Commandments

What do they mean?

1) You shall have no other gods before me.



Do not worship or call anything else "god" except the LORD God.

2) You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.



Do not worship a thing (e.g., computer or car), a person (e.g., boy or girlfriend), or animal. Do not bow down before a statue.

3) You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.



Do not swear or use the name of God or Jesus in swear or other expression.

4) Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.



Remember that God has a day that is set aside to think about and worship him.

5) Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.



Respect and obey your parents with a good attitude. Make your parents feel special and important. Tell others about your love for your parents.

6) You shall not murder.



Do not kill another person. Jesus said that this command means that we should not think of killing or even hating another person.

7) You shall not commit adultery.



Do not be unfaithful to your husband or wife. Jesus said that this commandment means do not even think of being unfaithful to your husband or wife.

8) You shall not steal.



Do not take something that does not belong to you.

9) You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.



Do not lie or tell "part of the truth" about someone else.

10) You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



Do not be unhappy or complain because you want something that someone else has.