



UNIT 5 | SESSION 2

# GOD GAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 19-20

**KEY PASSAGE:**

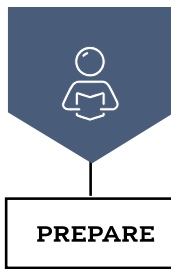
Psalm 95:6-7

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

God's law shows us what He requires. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

As the rescued people of Israel traveled toward the promised land, God met with Moses at Mount Sinai and made a covenant with the Israelites. We refer to this covenant as the Mosaic covenant. God promised five things in this covenant: 1) Israel will be God's own possession; 2) Israel will be God's kingdom of priests; 3) Israel will be a holy nation; 4) God will defend Israel from her enemies; and 5) God will be gracious, merciful, and forgiving to Israel.

Unlike His covenant with Abraham, God's covenant with Israel was conditional: "Carefully follow every command I am giving you" (Deut. 8:1). "Be careful that you don't forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commands" (Deut. 8:11). "If you ever forget the LORD your God ... you will certainly perish." (Deut. 8:19). Isn't it interesting how remembering God and obeying Him are so closely linked? You spend the most time thinking about that which you most care about. What occupies the most space in your mind? If we aren't thinking about God, we aren't loving Him. And if we aren't loving Him, we aren't obeying Him.

We can group the Ten Commandments into two categories: The first four deal with a person's relationship with God (love God), and the last six deal with a person's relationship with others (love others).

These laws encompassed every part of the Israelites' lives and showed what righteous living looks like.

Some people think of the Ten Commandments as a burden, but God's rules are good and are meant to help us. The Bible is clear that we are all sinful and fall short of God's standard for holiness. Why should we seek to obey God? Consider Jesus' words: "If you love me, you will keep my commands" (John 14:15).

Read the Ten Commandments with Jesus in mind. When we are in Christ, our obedience cannot earn us God's favor, and our disobedience does not separate us from Him. God is pleased with us because He looks at Jesus, who never sinned.

Because of Christ, we have a right relationship with God. He gives us power through the Holy Spirit to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37,39).

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Mosaic Covenant:** the conditional covenant God made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai. God's promises in Exodus 19:3-8 were dependent on Israel's obedience. Israel failed to keep the covenant.

# WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “What are some of your favorite games to play? Do those games have directions? Have you ever tried to play a game without the instructions? What happened?”

## 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: YOU MAKE THE RULES



Give each kid a piece of paper. Instruct kids to number their papers from 1 to 10. Prompt them to imagine they are in charge of their school or town. What rules would they enforce?

Give kids a few minutes to write, and then call on volunteers to share their lists. Let the other kids discuss whether or not they agree the rules kids thought of are good rules.

**SAY** “How did you decide what rules to make? How did you decide if a rule was good or bad? In today’s Bible story, we will hear about some rules God gave to His people, the Israelites. Listen carefully to find out why God gave them rules.”

### OPTION 2: TARGET PRACTICE

Before the session, create a target (graduated circles) on the floor with masking tape. Challenge kids to stand at a distance and toss beanbags at the target.

Allow kids to toss the beanbags at least five times each. Instruct them keep track of how many times they hit the bull’s-eye.

**SAY** “Did anyone hit the bull’s-eye every time? No. No one is perfect, right? In today’s Bible story, we will hear how God gave His people rules to show that He is holy. He wants us to be holy too. There’s just one problem. We can’t obey all the rules God gives us. No one can keep God’s law perfectly except Jesus.”

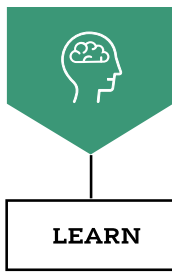
# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

## 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hi, there! I’m [your name]. I’m glad you came today. If you brought your Bible, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. Have you ever heard of the Ten Commandments? Can anyone name one of the commandments? [Allow kids to respond.] The Ten Commandments show us what God requires. God is our Creator, and He knows what is best for us. Our Bible story today will help us understand why God gave His people the Ten Commandments.”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### **LEARN** the Bible Story

#### **1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)**

Open your Bible to Exodus 19–20. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Gave the Ten Commandments.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### **GOD GAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

“ Three months after **the Israelites** left Egypt, they **came to Mount Sinai** (SIGH nigh). **God had chosen the Israelites as His special people and wanted them to understand what that relationship should look like.** He planned to make a covenant, or agreement, with them.

**Moses went up the mountain. God told him, “This is what you should tell the Israelites: ‘If you listen carefully to Me and you keep My covenant, you will be My people.’ ”**

Moses went back to the people and told them what God had said. **All the people responded, “We will do all that the Lord has spoken.”** So Moses went back up the mountain. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I am going to come in a thick cloud. I want the people to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you.”

Moses went back down the mountain and got the people ready to meet God. He brought them out of the camp, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

**God came down on Mount Sinai in a fire. Smoke covered the mountain. God said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”**

**Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.** The first four commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with God: **“Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”**

The last six commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with one another: **“Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Keep your marriage promises. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not want what belongs to someone else.”**

**When the people heard God talking to Moses, they were afraid. “Do not be afraid,” Moses said. “God wants you to fear Him so that you will not sin.”**

Moses went further up the mountain. For 40 days, **God gave Moses many more laws.** When God was finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two stone tablets that He had written on with His own finger.

Christ Connection: God’s law shows us what He requires. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness. ”

#### **STORYTELLING TIPS**

**Display pictures:** Display pictures or drawings of Mount Sinai from a study Bible or online. Show modern-day pictures of Mount Sinai to help kids realize that it is a real place.

**Use dramatic voice:** As you tell the story, differentiate your voice for each person speaking.

## Small Group Discussion/Questions

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Open your Bibles to Exodus 19. Look at verses 4–6. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] In these verses, God told Moses what to say to His people. In verse 4, what did God want His people to remember? [Allow kids to respond.] God wanted His people to remember how He had cared for them. When we remember God’s power and how He has worked in our lives and the lives of others, we begin to learn more about His character. God is trustworthy and worthy of our obedience. His plan is always the best plan because He loves and cares for His people.

The Israelites continued to disobey God, but each time God brought them back to Himself. Verses 5 and 6 tell us that God wanted to form a relationship with the Israelites. He wanted the people to listen to Him and be His chosen people.

Moses took the message from God to the Israelites and the Israelites agreed that they would listen to God and be His people. So, God gave them His law. God’s law is not just a set of rules people should obey, but it is a picture of the way God designed things to be. The law is like a mirror; it shows us our sin that separates us from God. Because of God’s love and mercy, He provided a way to bring us back to Him. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ God’s law shows us what He requires. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What covenant did God make with His people? ”

Remind kids that a covenant is an agreement. When God made a covenant with His people, He expected them to listen and obey what He said and, in turn, God would make the Israelites His people. The Israelites did not keep their side of the covenant agreement with God. But God, in His mercy and grace, established a new covenant through Jesus. When we trust Jesus we can be saved from our sins and be God’s children forever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 7:22.)

| **SAY** “ Can we ever satisfy the requirements of God’s law? Why? ”

Prompt kids to go through each of the Ten Commandments God gave to His people and consider whether they have ever broken any of them. Explain that in the New Testament, Jesus taught that even those who are angry are guilty like those who murder. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and if people say they have never sinned, they are lying.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 3:10.)

| **SAY** “ How is the gospel good news for lawbreakers? ”

Help kids recognize that God provided a Rescuer: His Son, Jesus. Jesus is our hope. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Salvation from sin and eternal life come only through Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)