

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19; 20; 24

LESSON 1



Old Testament 4
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Exodus 19; 20; 24; Deuteronomy 5; 6:24; 9; 10

MEMORY WORK:

The Ten Commandments

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“The Ten Commandments”](#)
- [“The Ten Commandments”](#)
- [“Moses Receives the Commandments”](#)
- [“Deuteronomy 6:24”](#)
- [“Deuteronomy 10:12-13”](#)
- [“Deuteronomy 11:18-20”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- A Beka Flash-A-Card Series: Journey to Sinai (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- Pictures of idols
- Pertinent sections of “Ten Commandments” movie (with Charlton Heston)
- Large number cutouts with stickers or drawings on them to represent what the Ten Commandments say

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God gives us rules (laws, commandments) in the Bible that He expects us to obey. He knows that we need His rules to help us get along with others and to be happy.



LESSON STARTS HERE

TEACHING ALERTS:

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- Note that the Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments, was God’s law for the Jews between roughly 1,500 B.C. and the cross of Christ. All humans—Jews and Gentiles—are now under the New Covenant: living in the “Christian era” (Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 7:12; 8:7-13; 9:11-17; Galatians 3:28; 5:1-4; Romans 7:6; 10:12; Ephesians 2:14-16). Each of the Ten Commandments was restated in the New Testament for Christians with the exception of keeping the Sabbath holy. There is no New Testament equivalent to the Sabbath observance that is described by Moses (e.g., the Sunday Christian worship period is not a parallel to that command, and Sunday is not designated a day of rest like the Jewish Sabbath).

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

What do you think would happen if we didn’t have rules? It would be terrible! If we had no rules at home, everyone in the family would be ugly to each other, maybe even hurt each other. If there were no rules about driving, there would be lots of wrecks, and many people would be hurt. If there were no rules at school, you would not have a safe place to learn. When God guided the Israelites out of Egypt, He knew that they would need rules to help them get along and to stay safe. Today we’re going to talk about how God gave His rules to the Israelites.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

What are some rules you have to follow at home? What are some rules you have to follow at school? Why do you think your parents/teachers have made those rules? What would happen if there were no rules at school? No rules for driving? No rules at home? When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt after many years of slavery, He knew that without rules they would not treat each other as they should, and they would forget how to worship Him. These rules to live by (laws) are in the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Today we’re going to talk about some of these laws, which we call the Ten Commandments.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly remind the children how God delivered the Israelites (i.e., Hebrews or Jews) from being slaves in Egypt, and how He guided them through the desert, providing everything they needed.
2. The Bible tells us that there were 600,000 Israelite men, not counting women and children. (It has been estimated that there were two or three million Israelites all together, traveling from place to place in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land of Canaan.) So many people traveling together and living close to one another in tents! God knew that the people had to have some rules to help them get along with each other. They also needed to be reminded how to worship God and show Him respect. (Remember that they had been in Egypt with no apparent communication from God for several hundred years.)

3. After three months of traveling, the people came to Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb and “the mountain of God”). This was the same mountain where God had spoken to Moses through the burning bush and told him to go to Egypt to lead the Israelites out of slavery. This time, God called Moses up on the mountain. God told him that this large group of people would be a great nation (just as He had promised Abraham hundreds of years earlier)—but only if they obeyed Him! He told Moses to bring the people around the foot of the mountain in three days, with their bodies and clothes washed and their minds ready to listen to His words.
4. Moses went down from the mountain to tell the people what God had said. They promised to obey—to do everything God commanded. On the morning of the third day, there was a great deal of thunder and lightening around Mount Sinai, and a thick cloud came down on the mountain. The ground shook! There was fire on the mountain! A loud trumpet sounded! And God Himself spoke to the people from a great cloud (Deuteronomy 4:11-13 and 5:22), telling them ten special laws that would help the people know how to get along, to know how to be happy, and to know how to be the God-fearing nation that He wanted them to be. These were the Ten Commandments. But the people were so frightened that they did not want to go any closer to the mountain or directly hear the voice of God (Deuteronomy 5:23ff.; Exodus 20:18ff.). So Moses went to hear God while the people stood far away.
5. God gave Moses other commands which he told the Israelites. Exodus 24:3 tells us that the Israelites said they would obey God’s commandments. Then Moses went up on Mount Sinai again, this time for 40 days and 40 nights. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone that He had written down for the Israelites Himself, and gave them to Moses, along with many other commands.
6. The first four of the Ten Commandments told the Israelites how they should show respect and love for God. They were not to make **idols** to worship like the Egyptians or other people did. God also told them not to worship anything that He had made—not the Sun or Moon or stars or anything else, like other people were doing. (Remember that the Israelites had been in Egypt for many years, surrounded by idols and all kinds of idol worship.)



NOTE: You need to explain to preschoolers that an **idol** can be a man-made object or something in nature that people choose to worship. Older children should also be reminded that an idol can also be anything or anyone that becomes more important to us than God (i.e., movie stars, sports, money, etc.).

7. The Israelites, as God’s chosen people, were to be very respectful and reverent when using God’s name. We should be just as reverent and respectful about God’s name and not use it in slang. A lot of people today use His name in ways that make Him very unhappy, such as, “Good Lord” or “Oh, my G—,” etc. God’s name is **holy**, and we should only say His name when we are thinking about Him.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article titled “[Taking the Lord’s Name in Vain](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on that subject.



NOTE: Explain that to be “profane” is to be disrespectful about something that should be treated respectfully or taken seriously. Esau was described as “profane” in Hebrews 12:16, because he sold his birthright—which should have been taken seriously—for a simple bowl of stew. We are to be respectful of things that should be taken seriously (1 Timothy 1:9), or we will be guilty of being profane, like Esau. This means that we should not say the Lord’s name without thinking about Him, and we should not say other words that represent things that should be taken seriously as well (like saying “hell” when we are not talking seriously about this place or words that tell others to go there or bad words that represent sinful things that should be taken seriously).

8. The Israelites were commanded to set aside one day every week to rest, to worship, and to remember what great things God had done, and continued to do, for them. The 7th day of the week, also called the Sabbath (Saturday), was set aside for the Israelites as their day of worship to God. There is no Sabbath command under Christianity, but the first day of the week, Sunday, is a special day for Christians. We gather to worship and take the Lord’s Supper on that day (Acts 20:7), because that is the day Jesus was raised from the dead and the Church was established.
9. The last six of the Ten Commandments told the Israelites how they were to treat each other. They were to honor and respect their parents; God knew that if they didn’t show honor and respect to people they **could** see, they would never show honor and respect to Him Whom they **could not** see.
10. God told them not to murder, not to steal from one another, and not to lie about each other. He told them to love their own husbands and wives—not someone else’s. He told them to be happy with what they had and not **covet**. (Discuss each of these as much as is appropriate for your age group.)



Covet: to be jealous of what others have and to want what they have.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

The Ten Commandments were part of the Old Law or Old Testament, which God gave **only** to the Israelites. The laws He gave them through Moses would prepare the nation for the coming of the Savior (the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus) hundreds of years later. The Old Law was **only** to be used by the Jews until the death of Jesus. After His death, the New Testament was to be used by **everyone** who follows Jesus, i.e., Christians. All of the Ten Commandments, except the fourth (“Remember the Sabbath”), are repeated in some form in the New Testament. So today, we follow only the laws/rules God has given to us in the New Testament.

This would be a good time to introduce or remind older children about the three dispensations of time, i.e., the three different systems of law that have governed Man:

The Patriarchal Age: The patriarch of a family was also the spiritual leader of the family; he offered the sacrifices and prayed for himself and for his family. This began at Adam and lasted until the institution of the Law of Moses for the Jews and until Christ’s death for other nations.

The Mosaical Age: This period began when God gave a system of government and laws to Moses on Mount Sinai, including the Ten Commandments. It was also a sacrificial system, with a select

group of priests whose job it was to offer the sacrifices and lead the nation of Israel in worship. The Mosaic Law was **only** for the Jews (and immigrants and those Gentiles that converted to Judaism—i.e., proselytes); the Gentiles were still under the Patriarchal system until the death of Christ.

The Christian (or New Testament) Age: This period began when Jesus died on the cross and will be in effect until His Second Coming. It is also a sacrificial system, with Jesus, our High Priest, making the ultimate sacrifice: Himself. It is for all men everywhere.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles titled “[Which Law Was Abolished?](#)” and “[Did Paul want Christians to Come Together on Saturday or Sunday?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on whether or not the Ten Commandments are binding today.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5

- “[The Ten Commandments Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Show pictures of children demonstrating different behaviors, and ask the class if the kids in each picture are doing what they should be doing (i.e., if they are obeying the rules that their parents, teachers, grandparents, and other adults make for them). Emphasize that we show our parents, etc., that we love them when we do what they say. God has rules, too, and if we love Him, we will obey them because He knows what is best for us.
- Encourage the children to talk about rules that they have in their homes and why rules are important (e.g., they are for our protection; they help us learn right and wrong, etc.). Emphasize that we show our parents (and other grown-ups) love and respect when we do what they say. God has rules, too, and if we love Him, we will obey His rules in His Word, because He knows what is best for us.
- Have the children read *If Everybody Did*, by Jo Ann Stover

1st-2nd Graders:

- Top Ten Problems Game: ([Cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets) Cut ten 9 x 12 sheets of construction paper in half sideways. Write a commandment on ten of the half sheets. On the other ten write a “modern day” situation to go with each commandment. Examples: Sally talks back to her mom. John did not pick up his toys like his mom told him to. Billy often says, “Oh, my G__.” Luke and his family seldom attend Bible class or worship services. Matt took a package of gum (or video game, or something else of particular value to kids) from a store without paying for it. Put the commandment “cards” on the board. Put the situation “cards” upside down in a stack. Then let the children take one “card” at a time, decide which of God’s rules applies to that situation, then put the situation card on the board beside that commandment. **Or** instead, turn the cards over in a random order and use them as a “memory” game.
- Encourage discussion about rules that the kids have at home. (You might want to write them on the board and number them until they come up with ten.) Then compare those rules to each of the Ten Commandments.
- “[The Ten Commandments Fill in the Blank](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[The Ten Commandments Maze](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

- [“The Ten Commandments Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Top Ten Problems Game: ([Cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets) Cut ten 9 x 12 sheets of construction paper in half sideways. Write a commandment on ten of the half sheets. On the other ten write a “modern day” situation to go with each commandment. Examples: Sally talks back to her mom. John did not pick up his toys like his mom told him to. Billy often says, “Oh, my G__.” Luke and his family seldom attend Bible class or worship services. Matt took a package of gum (or video game, or something else of particular value to kids) from a store without paying for it. Put the commandment “cards” on the board. Put the situation “cards” upside down in a stack. Then let the children take one “card” at a time, decide which of God’s rules applies to that situation, then put the situation card on the board beside that commandment. **Or** instead, turn the cards over in a random order and use them as a “memory” game.
- Encourage discussion about rules that the kids have at home. (You might want to write them on the board and number them until they come up with ten.) Then compare those rules to each of the Ten Commandments.
- [“The Ten Commandments Fill in the Blank”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“The Ten Commandments Maze”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“The Ten Commandments Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the children read Exodus chapters 19-20, as well as chapters 16-18 if they did not do so last quarter. Also have them read Deuteronomy chapters eight and nine as well as 6-10 if they did not do so last quarter. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Exodus chapters 16-20 and Deuteronomy 6-10 quizzes from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- Have the children read the following:
 - Exodus 24 and Deuteronomy 5
 - [“What God Says About Lying,”](#) [“What God Says About Obeying Your Parents,”](#) [“What God Says about Sex Before Marriage,”](#) and [“What God Says about Stealing”](#) from the Apologetics Press Morality Tract series
 - *Discovery* magazine articles (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): [January, 2012](#)
 - *When God Laid Down the Law* Arch book, by Evelyn Marxhausen
 - *The Story of Moses*, Maissa Bessada, Creative Publishing

SONGS:

“THE TEN COMMANDMENTS”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See [“Kids Prep”](#) CD)

No other gods before Me;
 No carved images to bow down and serve;
 Don’t take the name of the Lord your God in vain;
 Remember and keep the Sabbath holy.

Honor your father and your mother;
No murder, no adultery, and you shall not steal;
Don't lie against your neighbor;
Or covet what is his.

These are the Ten Commandments.

“THE TEN COMMANDMENTS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Ten Little Indians”)

You shall have no gods before Me. (3X)
This is commandment one.

You shall not, worship idols. (3X)
This is commandment two.

Do not take God's name in vain. (3X)
This is commandment three.

Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy. (3X)
This is commandment four.

Honor your father and mother. (3X)
This is commandment five.

God said, “You, shall not kill.” (3X)
This is commandment six.

You shall not, commit adultery. (3X)
This is commandment seven.

God said you, shall not steal. (3X)
This is commandment eight.

Never, never tell a lie. (3X)
This is commandment nine.

God said, “You, shall not covet.” (3X)
This is commandment 10.

“MOSES RECEIVES THE COMMANDMENTS”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “Up on the Housetop”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“DEUTERONOMY 6:24”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“DEUTERONOMY 10:12-13”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“DEUTERONOMY 11:18-20”

Author: Jeff Miller

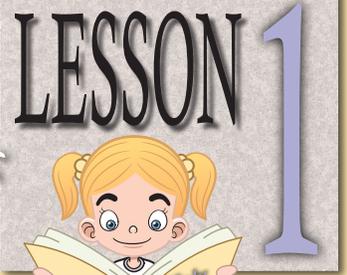
(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

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The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19; 20; 24



Old Testament 4
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Exodus 19; 20; 24; Deuteronomy 5; 6:24; 9; 10

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

OLDER CHILDREN: The Ten Commandments

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Ten Commandments"](#)
- ["The Ten Commandments"](#)
- ["Moses Receives the Commandments"](#)
- ["Deuteronomy 6:24"](#)
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- Pictures of idols
- Pertinent sections of "Ten Commandments" movie (with Charlton Heston)
- Large number cutouts with stickers or drawings on them to represent what the Ten Commandments say



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God gives us rules (laws, commandments) in the Bible that He expects us to obey. He knows that we need His rules to help us get along with others and to be happy.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Review the Ten Commandments and their application today. Work on memorizing the commandments.

OLDER CHILDREN:

What the Ten Commandments Mean to Us Today

“[The Ten Commandments Matching Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

(Put the matching activity, provided in the activity sheets, in a Power Point presentation and project it on a screen or the wall to do as a group activity, or put it on worksheets for the individual children.)

The Ten Commandments were very special laws of God given to the Israelites (i.e., the Hebrews or Jews). These laws, as well as all the others in the Old Testament, lasted only until Jesus died, and then the New Testament became the law for **all** people. On the next page are some of the New Testament passages that tell us God still wants us to follow the principles of the Ten Commandments. Match each of the Ten Commandments with one or more New Testament passages.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning lesson

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