

February 16, 2020

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Wandering: The Ten Commandments, Part 1*

Lesson Objective:

This week we study the first four commandments from the 10 Commandments and what God desires from His people...”who love me and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:6b). The Ten Commandments reveal to us who God is (holy, perfect, love), what He wants us to be (holy, love), but also where we are right now (broken, sinful). The Ten Commandments were rules to help the Israelites living in the Wilderness and journeying towards the Promised Land. It was meant to show them how to live lives that honored God after living in Egypt for a very long time. God’s people probably picked up a few things that oriented their hearts to false gods and idols instead of the One True God. Make no mistake, we see throughout this journey why the Promised One is a BIG promise that we all need. We cannot keep God’s law, we cannot even love God rightly, we need His help to do so, we need the Promised One – Jesus Christ – to come and rescue us.

Teaching Points:

- God is faithful and never changes. God keeps His promises.
- God is sovereign (or in control).
- Man is sinful.
- God is kind and merciful.
- God is everywhere all the time.
- God communicates with man.
- God wants people to know He is a great God.
- God is holy. God wants His people to be holy.
- God is all knowing.
- God does not need any help.
- God saves His people.
- God provides for His people.

Scripture: Exodus 16; 19-20:7

Story: *Vos Child’s Story Bible, Pages 77-79; Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 66-69; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 100-107; The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 120-127*

Scripture Memory for February:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel (*cup your hands around your ears*)

The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (*point up towards the sky*
index finger extended up signaling a “1”)

You (*point towards kids or audience*)

shall love (*cross hands and arms across the middle of your chest*)

the Lord your God (*point upwards*)

with all your heart (*make a heart sign in the middle of your chest*)

with all your soul (*take both hands, fingers straightened and point back to yourself*)

and with all your might (*flex arms out to the side*).

Craft: 1 God

Supplies: Cardstock hand (front), colored cardstock hand (back), circle sticker, crayons/marker, stapler

Instructions: 1. Color hand.

2. Place sticker below fingers.

3. Staple front and back hands together leaving bottom open for child’s hand.

4. Have children place their hand inside and wave.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

Story

Review

The Lord had saved His people from Pharaoh and the Egyptian army. Crossing the Red Sea on dry ground was a miracle and only God was powerful enough for it to happen. God's people saw the great work God had done. They knew God had saved them. The Bible says after the Red Sea closed and Pharaoh's army was defeated, the Israelites had a great big celebration. God saving His people would change them forever.

Quail and Manna

The Israelites looked back at the sea they had just crossed. The sea had come back down on top of the Egyptian army and the Israelites, God's people, were safe. God's people began their journey to the Promised Land. The Israelites traveled for quite a while, and soon they became upset with Moses. They said to him, "We wish we had stayed in Egypt and had died there instead of coming into this desert! We had all the bread we wanted to eat there, and here we will probably die of hunger!" God heard their cries just as he did in Egypt when they were slaves. God brought them quail and manna (a type of grain) for them to eat each day. God would take care of His people as they journeyed back to the Promised Land.

God Speaks to Moses

Two months had gone by since the Israelites had left Egypt (two months is about 60 whole days). God's people had been walking in the desert. Finally, they came to a mountain called Mt. Sinai. The Israelites camped at the bottom of the mountain. Then Moses went up on the mountain to God. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "Say this to the family of Jacob. And tell this to the people of Israel: 'Every one of you has seen what I did to the people of Egypt. You saw how I carried you out of Egypt.'" The Lord went on, "So now obey me and keep my covenant." The Lord promised the Israelites, His chosen people, would have a special job to do for Him; to tell the whole earth about God. All the people answered together, "We will do everything God has said."

Moses Goes Up A Second Time

So, Moses went back up the mountain and told God what the people had said. Then God told Moses something very, very special. He said, "I will come down to Mt. Sinai. I will come in a thick cloud." God was going to come to the mountain. God did not live on Mt. Sinai, but He was going to meet the Israelites there. God told Moses, "Tell the people they have to get ready. Tell them to wash themselves and to wash their clothes. They need to be ready because three days from now I will come down to Mount Sinai." But make sure, Moses, that nobody goes up the mountain or even touches it. Even the animals can't touch the mountain. The people need to stay at the bottom." Then God said, "If they even touch the mountain, they will die." One day went by. Two days went by. It was the third day. Early in the morning the people heard a loud noise. It was the noise of thunder. And they could see lightening and there was a thick cloud on the mountain. There was the sound of a trumpet, too. A trumpet is a big horn that people blow. But this was not like a regular trumpet. It was very, very loud. The people were so afraid. The Bible says, "they trembled". That means they started to shake with fear (demonstrate). Moses brought the people out of the camp right to the bottom of the mountain so they could hear God speak. Now the mountain was completely covered in gray smoke. The Bible says God had come down in fire; the Israelites had not seen this before. Black smoke was blowing up from the mountain like it was coming from a furnace (that's something that has fire in it and is very, very hot). The mountain was shaking. And that trumpet kept getting louder and louder and the sound it made was going on and on.

Then Moses spoke, and the voice of God answered him. Then the Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai. The Lord called Moses to come up to the top of the mountain. So, Moses obeyed and climbed up the mountain. The Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people. They must not force their way through to see me. If they do, many of them will die. Even the priests, who may come near me, must first prepare themselves. If they don't, I, the Lord, will punish them."

Moses told the Lord, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai. You yourself told us to set a limit around the mountain. We made it holy."

The Lord said to him, "Go down and bring Aaron with you. But don't allow the priests or the people to force their way through. They must not come up to the Lord. If they do, I will punish them." Moses did exactly as the Lord had commanded.

God Gives His People His Laws

God wanted to make sure His people knew how they should live. They had been in Egypt for a very long time, and they were used to living and behaving like the Egyptians. God wanted His people to remember His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, "I will be your God, you will be My people, and I will be with you for forever." To be God's people and to remember His promises, God wanted them to know how to live. God gave Moses some commandments or rules for His people. These commandments would make God's people special because they would have to live differently. The first four commandments are about the way we should love and obey God.

God spoke these words to His people, "I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves."

Commandment 1: "You must not have any other gods except me." God alone wanted His people, and us, to worship Him. This means nothing and no one else is more important than God.

Commandment 2: "You must not make for yourselves any idols. Don't make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. You must not worship or serve any idol." In Egypt, the Egyptians worshipped things that looked like different animals; these were called idols. They were statues, and they were not alive. But God is alive and real! God only wants us to worship Him.

Commandment 3: "You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly." God's name is special. To pray or talk to God is something that only God's people get to do. God does not want His name to be used like it does not matter.

Commandment 4: "Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day. You may work and get everything done during six days each week. But the seventh day is a day of rest to honor the Lord your God. On that day no one may do any work: not you, your son or daughter, or your men or women slaves. Neither your animals nor the foreigners living in your cities may work. The reason is that in six days the Lord made everything. He made the sky, earth, sea and everything in them. And on the seventh day, he rested. So, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." To rest on the Sabbath day is to do what God had done. God worked and created a wonderful world full of beautiful things, but he rested. As God's people, they were commanded to work hard, but to reserve time to rest and think about all the wonderful things the Lord had done.

Next week, we find out the next six commandments God gave the Israelites. And we will find out what the Israelites did once they received all of God's commandments.

God loved His people. He loved them by taking them out of the land of Egypt so they could worship Him. Now God wanted His people to worship Him and obey Him. God had a special job for His people to do in the world. For them to do this special job, God's people would have to act and live differently. This all starts with obeying and trusting God.

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- God’s people were in bondage in Egypt. (Yes)
- God left His people in Egypt. (No! God rescued them and took them out of Egypt).
- The Israelites traveled to Houston, Texas. (No! They traveled to Mount Sinai.)
- The Israelites were told not to go up the mountain. (Yes)
- A thick cloud full of lightening and fire came down on the mountain. (Yes)
- A loud drum kept playing while the thick cloud came down the mountain. (No! A mighty trumpet was played.)
- God told Moses to tell the people to obey His commandments. (Yes)
- God told Moses that He had a special plan for His people. (Yes)
- God gave Moses 95 rules for this people to obey. (No! Only 10.)
- The first commandment was not to worship any other gods. (Yes)
- The second commandment was no pinching. (No! A person could not make an idol.)
- The third commandment was not to use God’s name thoughtlessly. (Yes)
- The fourth commandment was to keep the Sabbath holy. This means to remember what God did after He created the world and to rest from our hard work and to worship God. (Yes)