

LESSON 34

God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments

EXODUS 19:1 – 20:23



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD DEMANDS PERFECT OBEDIENCE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** 5 MIN
Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** 10 MIN
Read Exodus 20:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 34, “God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** 10 MIN
Impossible to Keep the Law
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ masking tape
 - ✓ tennis ball
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** 10 MIN
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** 15 MIN
Our Real Idols
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper
 - ✓ pencils
 - ✓ crayons or colored pencils
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** 5 MIN
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** 15 MIN
Mount Sinai
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** 5 MIN
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** 15 MIN
Only One Sin
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large plastic drinking straws (one for each child)
 - ✓ large plastic cups (one for each child)
 - ✓ water
 - ✓ hole punch
 - ✓ red electrical tape

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God reveals himself to the people—Moses leads the people to the wilderness of Mount Sinai. There on the mountain, God meets with Moses and tells him to warn the people. God is going to come closer to Moses and the people, and God wants Moses to prepare the people for this. Over and over again, God tells Moses to make sure that people do not come near the mountain where God will meet with him.

God gives the law to the people—This is one of the best known parts of the Old Testament. Here, God gives his law to Moses in the presence of the people.

The people have been summoned to the mountain to hear God himself call out his law. But when the people hear the voice of God, they pull back in fear. God reveals a tiny bit of his awesome might and power so that the people might learn to fear him properly. And, briefly, they do fear him as they should.

In the commandments we have the spoken word of God, so that we might obey it. These Ten Commandments are the foundation for all other laws. But God's laws are not easy to keep. Even keeping the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me," is impossible without the grace of God. No one can claim perfect obedience to God's law. We are all lawbreakers.

God repeats the key commandments—The first two of the Ten Commandments are warnings—prohibitions—against having other gods. You might think that would be enough. But here God tells Moses to give the people a third warning—they are not to make idols (Exodus 20:23). Of course, only a short time later they do exactly that. Throughout their history the Israelites often had a difficult time worshipping God alone. God knew this would be a strong temptation for them. So in his kindness he warned them over and over.

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 purpose of 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.

WHERE IS JESUS?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Galatians 3:19–24.

In this passage, Paul is saying many important things. But we want to focus on how the Old Testament law of God points to Jesus.

God gave Moses the law so the people would know what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Through the law the people would learn they could never satisfy God's demands for holiness for no one can keep God's law. We are all sinners.

This created a problem that God's people could never solve by themselves. We need a Savior. Jesus became our Savior by obeying God's commandments for us and dying on the cross to take away our sin. There is no way our salvation can be earned. It is, as Paul says in verse 22, "the promise by faith in Jesus Christ ... given to those who believe." This is how the law points us to Christ for he is the only one who can keep God's commandments and the only one who can take the punishment away for all the commandments we have disobeyed.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Exodus 20:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 34, “God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

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 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, make two parallel lines on the floor about three inches apart. About a foot past the end of the lines, tape a small “x.” The object of the game is to roll a tennis ball between the parallel lines and have it stop perfectly on the “x.” This is possible but 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—you sin. When you do finally get it correct, soon there is another situation that requires getting it correct yet again. One mistake and you have 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)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Our Real Idols

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ pencils
- ✓ crayons or colored pencils

The object of this exercise is to help the children understand that idolatry does not have to involve a physical object but that we can have idols in our hearts.

Explain to the children that an idol is something that we love more than God. It can be a good thing that we love too much. It can be a person, place, or object. It can also be something intangible like control, power, peace, or ease. If, for instance, someone takes one of their things and they become angry, it might be because they loved that thing more than God. Or it could be that they crave control over 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 worship—love more than God. 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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

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.

ACTIVITY TIME **15 MIN**

Mount Sinai

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper

Have the children draw a picture of Mount Sinai with flashes of lightning and thunder.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Only One Sin

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large plastic drinking straws (one for each child)
- ✓ large plastic cups (one for each child)
- ✓ water
- ✓ hole punch
- ✓ red electrical tape

Pass out the straws and cups with one inch of water. Tell the class that you are going to have a drinking contest to see who can suck up the water the fastest. On the word “Go,” each child

should begin drinking the water through the straw. As soon as they finish the water they should raise their hand high in the air. Congratulate the winner.

Explain to the class that the straw represents the lives of Adam and Eve before they sinned. One by one, using the hole punch, punch a hole in the center of each child's straw. Tell the class that their hole represents the sin in their lives. None of us has a perfect straw (a sinless life) before God. Talk to them about how we were born with sin and then how we break God's law and sin.

Once all the straws are punched, repeat the contest. No one will be able to suck up the water because of the hole. Use this as an illustration to show how sin has ruined our lives. None of us can get to heaven.

Then pass out a piece of red electrical tape to each child. Tell them that the tape represents the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross to cover our sins. Have them tape over the hole and hold the contest one more time. The straws should work perfectly again if the holes are covered completely.