

Unit 5 • Session 3  
**The Ten Commandments**

Bible Passage:  
Exodus 19–20

Story Point: God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.

Key Passage:  
Matthew 22:37

Big Picture Question:  
What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving..

Introduce the Story  
(15–20 minutes)

Teach the Story  
(10–15 minutes)

Experience the Story  
(20–25 minutes)

**2/10/2019**

**Early Childhood**

**Preschool Tip:** For preschoolers, be sure to spend time talking about the content of the commandments. But as you talk about each commandment, strive to show your preschoolers how they each are for God’s glory and our good. For example, God tells us not to covet because He has provided all we need. He is our great and perfect provider so we can be content in what He has given us knowing it is just what we need.

# The BIBLE Story

## The Ten Commandments

*Exodus 19–20*

After **the Israelites** escaped from Egypt, they came into the wilderness and **set up camp at the base of a mountain** called Mount Sinai. **God wanted to make a covenant, or special agreement, with His people.**

**Moses went up the mountain. God said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites these words: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I rescued you. If you listen carefully to Me and keep My covenant, you will be My people.’”**

**Moses went back to the people and told them what God said. The Israelites said, “We will do everything the Lord said.”**

Moses went back to the Lord. **God said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a thick cloud. Get the people ready to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you.”**

Moses got the people ready. Three days later, Moses brought the people to the bottom of the mountain. God came down the mountain in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. The mountain shook, and they heard a loud trumpet sound.

God said, “I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt. I set you free from slavery.”

**Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.** The first four commandments told the Israelites how 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 how to have a right relationship with other people: **“You must honor your father and mother. You must not murder. You must keep your marriage promises. You must not steal. You must not lie. You must 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.”

The Israelites stood back, and Moses went up the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for many days. God gave Moses more laws. **When God was finished speaking to Moses, He gave Moses two stone tablets. God had written on the tablets with His own finger.**

*Christ Connection: God gave us rules to show that He is holy. Our sin keeps us away from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to Him. Jesus is holy; He never sinned. We can trust Him to forgive our sin.*

## Introduce the Story

SESSION TITLE: The Ten Commandments

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Big Picture Question: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

## Welcome time

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### Activity page

Guide preschoolers to connect the dots in order to form two stone tablets. Read the Ten Commandments.

Say • The Ten Commandments are rules that show us how to love God and other people. We will hear how God gave the Ten Commandments in today's Bible story.

### Climb the mountain

Lead children in playing out climbing a mountain. Act out the following directions and encourage children to join in.

“Let's go climb a mountain. We're walking up the hill. [*Take high steps.*]

Watch out for branches. [*Pretend to push them out of the way.*]

It's muddy here, watch your step. [*Pretend to step carefully.*]

Duck under this rock. [*Duck your head.*]

Here's a rock wall, let's go up it. [*Pretend to rock climb, reaching high with your hands and feet.*]

Just a little farther. [*Walk like you are really tired.*]

Oh, look at this view. [*Shield eyes with hand. Look around.*]

Time to go home. [*Walk a few steps.*]

Down the rock wall.” [*Pretend to climb down.*]

Reverse all the motions. End with “Home!”

Say • We pretended to climb a mountain. In our Bible story today, Moses and the Israelites camped at the base of a mountain. Moses climbed a mountain to hear from God. God wanted to make a special agreement with His people.

### Play hopscotch

Make a hopscotch grid with tape. Place the key passage poster in the final square. Direct a child to toss a beanbag on a square.

Guide her to hop in each square, skipping the square with the beanbag. When she reaches the final square, help her repeat the key passage.

Say • Our key passage is what Jesus said when some teachers of the law asked Him which commandment was most important. Today we will learn about the Ten Commandments God gave Moses many years before the teachers asked Jesus that question.

### Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Guide preschoolers to hold up 10 fingers as they move to Bible study.

## Teach the Story

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Big Picture Question: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

### Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Exodus 19–20 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

Say • Our Bible story today comes from the Book of Exodus. Exodus is the second book in the Bible. The Bible is God’s words.

God’s words are true. Today’s Bible story is about when God gave the people the Ten Commandments.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### Tell or watch the Bible story

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Say • **God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.** God’s rules show us that He is holy. When we break God’s rules, we sin. Our sin keeps us away from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to Him. Jesus is holy; He never sinned. We when turn from our sin and trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and looks at us as if we never sinned—like Jesus!

### Practice the key passage

Cut out the key passage marker and place it at Matthew 22:37. Invite a volunteer to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Repeat the key passage several times with the motions you chose. Allow preschoolers to try saying the key passage from memory.

Say • Where is your mind? [*Point to your head.*] You use your mind to think. God wants us to love Him with everything we think and do. The greatest and most important rule God gave us is to love Him. We show we love God when we follow His commands.

Sing the key passage song, “Your Heart, Soul, and Mind,” and the theme song “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”

### Learn the big picture question

Say • Our big picture question asks, ***What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.*** God is holy. That means that He is different from everything else. God gave us rules to show that He is holy. Jesus is holy too. He never sinned. God is loving and good. He forgives our sin when we trust in Jesus.

### Missions moment

Say • When Demaj (dih MAH jay) went to a church in his neighborhood for help with his school work, he also learned about God. God gave rules to show how to love Him and others. Now, Demaj loves Jesus. Watch this video to see how he is loving his neighbors by inviting them to worship with him.

Show the “My Neighborhood” missions video.

### Pray and transition to experience the story

# Experience the Story

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## Option 1: Make clay tablets

Give each child a ball of air-dry clay and a piece of waxed paper. Guide a child to flatten her clay and use a pencil or craft stick to draw a cross. Use a permanent marker to write the child's name on the corner of her waxed paper. Let parents know the clay tablets will dry in about two days.

Say • **God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.** God wrote His rules on the stone tablets with His own finger. Sadly, God's people did not keep His commandments like they said they would. Later, God promised to put His commandments in their hearts. When we turn from sin and follow Jesus, God changes our hearts so we want to and are able to keep His commandments.

## Option 2: Sort the commandments

Print the "Ten Commandments" printable and cut out the cards or write each commandment on a strip of paper, using the language from the Bible story. Write **God** on a sheet of paper. Write **Others** on another sheet of paper. Gather two hula hoops. Place each sheet in a hula hoop. Mix up the commandments in a bag or basket. Invite preschoolers to take turns pulling a commandment from the bag. Read each commandment. Work together to decide if God is giving a rule about having a right relationship with Him or with others. Place the commandment in the correct hoop.

Say • **God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.** God's rules show us that He is holy. Our sin keeps us away from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to Him. Jesus is holy; He never sinned. We can trust Him to forgive our sin.

## Additional Activity: Follow paths

Use different colors of tape to make winding paths along the floor. Make one or more paths intersect at several places. Assign each child a path to follow and a way to move such as tiptoe on the blue path or walk sideways on the green path. After a few turns, allow children to give other children directions.

Say • Good job obeying commands! Was it easy or hard to obey? **God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.** Keeping God's commands are not easy. We are sinners. When we have trouble obeying a command, we can ask God to help us and He will. When we sin by breaking a command, we can ask God to forgive us, and He will. God forgives us because Jesus obeyed God perfectly.

## Review

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

What is the word for the special agreement God made with the Israelites? (*a covenant*)

Who went up the mountain to hear what God said? (*Moses*)

What did the first four commandments tell the people? (*how to have a right relationship with God*)

What did the last six commandments tell the people? (*how to have a right relationship with people*)

Who wrote on the two stone tablets? (*God*)

**What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.**

## Transition

When children finish they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.