

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** ..... 10 MIN  
*Teacher Says*
- 6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** ..... 5 MIN
- 7. **ACTIVITY TIME** ..... 10 MIN  
*Coloring Activity*  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ coloring page 34—one copy for each child
- 8. **CLOSING PRAYER** ..... 5 MIN
- 9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** ..... 10 MIN  
*Smoke, Trumpets, Thunder*  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ trumpet and trumpet player (invite a trumpet player from the congregation to join you for this activity)
  - ✓ two large cymbals (metal pot lids can work as a substitute)
  - ✓ wooden matches

**TOTAL 75 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 worshiping God alone. God knew this would be a strong temptation for them. So in his kindness he warned them over and over.

## 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** ..... **10 MIN**

**Teacher Says**

Play this game like the traditional “Simon Says.” Arrange all the children in a line and explain that if you say “Teacher Says” they must do what you tell them, but if you do not use those words they are not to obey. Try to trick the children and get them to make a mistake. If anyone makes a mistake they are out of the game. Keep going until you have a winner; congratulate the last person.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **How easy was it to follow the commands?**  
*(It wasn't easy to follow the commands.)*
- **How easy is it to follow God's commandments?**  
*(It is not easy to follow God's commandments without making a mistake.)*
- **What is it called when we make a mistake and do not follow God's commandments?**  
*(sin)*
- **Who was the one person who was able to keep all of God's commandments?**  
*(Jesus was able to keep all of God's commandments. If we trust in Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus gives us the gift of his righteousness and takes away our sins.)*

**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** ..... **10 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 34—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is Moses holding in his hands?**  
*(the Ten Commandments)*

- **What are the Ten Commandments?**

Have them repeat the Ten Commandments again.

- **Why does God want us to worship him alone?**  
*(He is the one that made us. He is the only true God. All other gods are made up, false gods.)*
- **Who can tell me one of the commandments?**

See how many of the children can remember one of the Ten Commandments.

**CLOSING PRAYER** ..... **5 MIN**

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

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON** ..... **10 MIN**

**Smoke, Trumpets, Thunder**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ trumpet and trumpet player (invite a trumpet player from the congregation to join you for this activity)
- ✓ two large cymbals (metal pot lids can work as a substitute)
- ✓ wooden matches

The object of this exercise is to try to evoke a measure of fear out of the children as you retell the story of God on the mountain.

Share with the children that God came upon the mountain with fire and smoke. When you say this light a match and once on fire wave it close to the children quickly and see if any of them flinch or back up. Then, without a pause, have an assistant crash the cymbals together as you explain that God came in thunder.

Then finally tell the children there was also a loud trumpet blast. With those words, the trumpet player should blast away on the trumpet.

Use this fun exercise to talk about God's holiness and how the people were afraid (Exodus 19:16). Talk with them also about how God used Moses as a man in the middle between God and man. Finally talk about our sinfulness and how we could never be with a holy God for as sinners we would be judged immediately. Only if we trust in Jesus and have our sins taken away will we ever be able to be with God in heaven.



LESSON 34 - GOD GIVES MOSES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

