

Bible Discovery

Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time simply getting to know each other in smaller groups called **Connect Crews**.

- Arrange kids into Connect Crews with one helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
- Invite everyone to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
- Have kids give their Crew Guides and each other two-handed high-fives.
- Let kids take turns saying their names and answering this question. Crew Guides go first.

? If you could make one rule for all people to follow, what would it be?

The Heart of the Matter

Give Crew Guides paper (1 piece per person) and marbles (1 per Crew).

Those sound like some good rules! Today in our Bible story, we're going to learn about the Ten Commandments. Those are rules in the Bible that God gave his people, the Israelites, and they're rules to guide our lives today, too. But first, I have a challenge for you.

Crew Guides, stand up and hold your marbles straight out in front of you. The challenge is for each Connect Crew to create a paper pathway that guides the marble safely onto the ground from where each Crew Guide is holding it right now—without letting it fall. Here are the rules.

- Each person gets one piece of paper.
- You'll work together to create a paper path to guide the marble and move it safely to the ground—without letting it drop or fall.
- If the marble falls, you must start over.
- Once your Connect Crew is successful, sit on your paper.

Supplies

- Bible
- "God Gives the Ten Commandments" Bible Story poster
- marbles (1 per Crew)
- paper (1 piece per person)
- markers
- index cards (1 per person)
- beach ball

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!



When Connect Crews are successful, have Crew Guides collect the marbles and papers.

- ? How did your paper guide and protect the marble?
- ? How is the way you guided the marble like following rules in your life?

In our challenge, you guided the marble to keep it from falling. In life, we have rules that guide and help us. In today's Bible passage, we're going to hear the special rules God gave us because he loves us.

Experience the Bible Story

The Bible passage we'll explore today is from the book of Exodus in the Bible. Are you ready? Stand up and follow my lead.

One day a man named Moses, who was the leader of God's people, climbed a mountain so he could meet with God away from the Israelite people. Walk in place, facing one direction.

On the mountain, God talked to Moses. He gave Moses important rules to take back down the mountain to the people. Walk in place, facing the opposite direction. We often call these rules the "Ten Commandments."

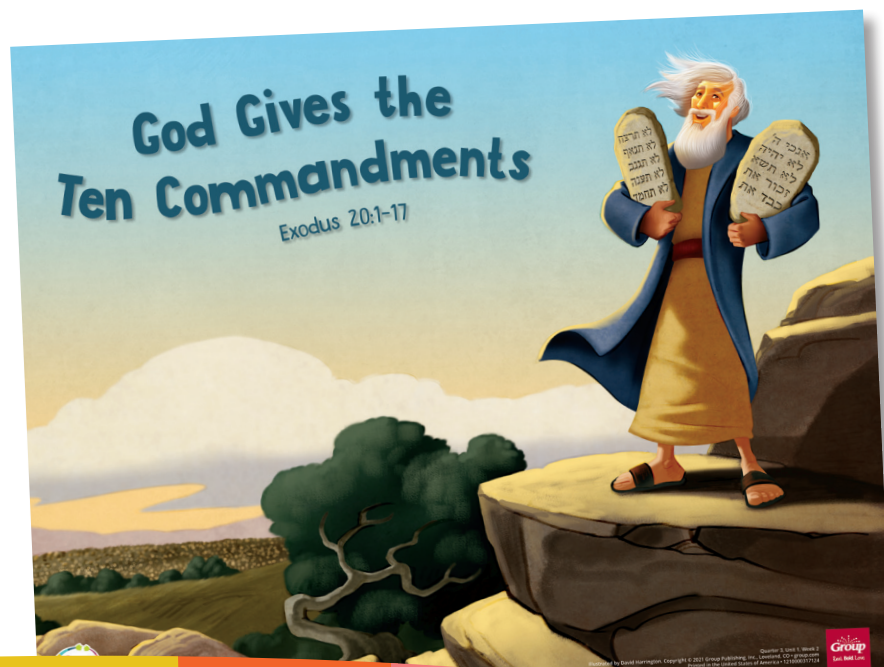
Welcome kids' responses. Be sure to repeat what they say so you're sure to understand and so everyone can hear and be a part of the conversation.

- ? Why do you think God gave the Israelites these rules? Invite responses from the whole group.

God guides us. (Follow God!) God loved his people! He wanted them to live differently so other people would know they belonged to him. And he wanted them to live in loving ways and show the world how special God is.

So there was Moses, on the mountain, talking with God! Whoa! Later God wrote these special rules for his people on stone tablets, so they could remember what was important.

Show the Bible Story poster, identifying Moses, the mountain, and the stone tablets.



Let's learn more about God's Ten Commandments. We won't go up a mountain, but we *will* go on a journey around our room.

These directions will guide you to our first stop. Tell everyone where to go and how to get to a different part of your room. For example, "Take giant steps toward the back wall!" Have everyone sit down in the new location.

God guides us. *(Follow God!)* **Let's find out what God told Moses first.**



Read aloud Exodus 20:1-4, 7.

We worship only God, and we respect God's name.

Let's try something. Turn to a partner, and say that person's name in a really grumpy, mean voice. Allow time for partners to say each other's names.

I have a question for you.

- ? What was it like to say someone's name that way?** Invite responses from the whole group.

Okay. Let's flip the question.

- ? How did you feel hearing your name spoken that way?** Invite responses from the whole group.

Now turn to your partner again. This time, say each other's names in loving, friendly voices. Allow time for partners to say each other's names. **Let's talk about this again.**

- ? How did it feel to say someone's name that way?** Invite responses from the whole group.
- ? How did you feel hearing your name spoken that way?** Invite responses from the whole group.

It doesn't feel very good to hear someone say your name in a mean way, does it? And God's name is the most special name of all! God is holy. *Holy* means special and set apart—unlike anyone else. God is special. So we treat him that way and respect his name!

Now let's head to our next destination. These directions will guide you. Tell everyone where to go and how to get to another part of your room. For example, "Grapevine toward the window!" Have index cards and markers handy at the new location. When everyone reaches the new location, have everyone sit in Connect Crews.

God guides us. *(Follow God!)* **Let's read a rule about families.**



Read aloud Exodus 20:12.

When we honor our moms and dads, we're loving our families!

We can honor our parents or caregivers in lots of ways. Maybe it's helping Mom fold laundry or helping Dad with the dishes. Maybe it's as simple as giving someone a hug. God wants us to show his love to the families he's given us.

Let's put love into action! Think of one way you can show a parent or caregiver that you honor and love them. Be creative, and try to think above and beyond your usual chores.

Now let's create a coupon for that person! Share what you'll write on your coupon. For example: "Good for one custom-made ice cream sundae—cleanup included!" **Can you make your coupon in five minutes? Let's find out. Ready, set, go!** Allow time for kids to use index cards and markers to create their coupons.

Great work! Be sure you give your coupon to your parent or caregiver sometime today. Now let's find our next destination. My directions will guide you. Tell everyone where to go and how to go back to where you all began. For example, "Crabwalk to the center of the room!" Have everyone remain standing when they get there.

God guides us. *(Follow God!)* **Let's read God's rules about how we should treat other people.**



Read aloud Exodus 20:13, 15-17.

These rules all guide us to avoid doing wrong things that hurt others. God wants us to show his love to everyone! Speaking of avoiding, let's do something to help us understand these commandments a bit more.

Let's try to keep this ball away from [name of a Crew Guide]. Everyone stand up, and try as he [she] might, don't let him [her] get the ball. Ha-ha! It'll be fun!

Toss the beach ball around the room while the Crew Guide tries to get it. Try to make it impossible for that person to get the beach ball. After about a minute, keep the ball and have everyone sit down again.

? [Crew Guide's name], **how did that make you feel?** Invite a response.

We tried to keep the ball away from our friend. In real life, when we exclude people, that's hurtful. It doesn't feel very good when people do things that hurt us. Stealing, lying, cheating, and being mean can really hurt others. That's why God tells us not to do those things. When we do them, we aren't valuing and loving people like God does.

God guides us. *(Follow God!)* **And God loves us and wants us to love others. His rules are important because they guide us and show us how to live in a way that honors him.**

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one—or both—of the following reinforcement activities to support today's Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.