

Bible Point ▶

God loves us and wants us to love others.

Bible Verse

“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that God gave us special rules to follow,
 - discover how God wants us to treat others,
 - understand how following God’s rules shows him our love, and
 - express their thanks for God’s commandments.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God gives us rules on how to love others.

**Exodus
20:12-17**



This is the last lesson that focuses on the Ten Commandments—the words that God spoke directly to Moses. The commandments focused on the law God gave to Moses for the Israelites.

The commandments were not given to the Israelites to force them to follow an arbitrary set of rules. Instead, they were intended to help the people live holy lives that honored God and resulted in appropriate, compassionate relationships with each other.

The rules aren’t meant to hinder us but rather to help us love God and love others. Even though through Jesus we no longer live under the law but under grace, the Ten

Commandments help us honor and love God and respect and love others.

Prayer

- Read Exodus 20:12-17.
- Why do you follow God’s commandments? How can you teach your children about the importance of following the commandments?
- **Pray:** Dear God, thank you for giving me standards to live by. Please help me teach my children how to love others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	Basket name tags made in Lesson 1	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Buddy Bags —Decorate lunch bags to share with others.	Paper lunch bags, crayons, yarn, glue sticks, scissors	
	Option 2: Loop-the-Loop —Play a game and share treats with their friends.	Fruit-flavored cereal loops, wet wipes, paper bag, CD player, music CD	
	Option 3: Heart Hugs —Match paper hearts and give each other hugs.	Colored construction paper, scissors	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Learn ways to show love to others.	Licorice rope, wet wipes, napkin	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Learn more about the Ten Commandments, and identify ways to show love for others.	Bible, "Story Cards" handouts (p. 124), scissors, envelopes, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Find partners and sing about the Ten Commandments.	CD player, lunch bags from Option 1	
	Showing Love to Others —Make crafts that will help them show their love to others.	Red construction paper, envelopes, crayons, glue sticks, decorative craft items	
Closing 	We Love You, Whiskers! —Express their love to Whiskers and teach him that God wants us to love others.		
	Thanks in Action —Learn an action prayer and express their thanks for God's love.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: basket name tags made in Lesson 1

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "What do you like best about learning the Ten Commandments?" and "How did you and your family show God that you love him?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► God loves us and wants us to love others.**
- Hand out the basket name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help the children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class the first week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout on page 22. You can find the directions for making the name tags on page 13.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



BIBLE POINT



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward the point of today's lesson. Ask questions such as "How do you show your mom you love her?" and "How do you feel when your friends share their toys with you?"

■ Option 1: Buddy Bags

SUPPLIES: paper lunch bags, crayons or washable markers, yarn, glue sticks, scissors

Before class, draw simple faces on paper lunch bags. Set out the paper lunch bags, crayons or washable markers, yarn, and glue sticks. Help children glue yarn hair on their bags and then have them color the bags. As children work, mention that they'll share the "buddy bags" with their friends. Tell children that sharing with our friends shows that we love them. Explain that today they'll be learning about God's love and our love for others. The buddy bags will be used during the "Do the Bible Story" activity.



■ Option 2: Loop-the-Loop

SUPPLIES: fruit-flavored cereal loops, paper bag, wet wipes, music CD, CD player

Before class, pour fruit-flavored cereal loops into a paper bag. Ask children to clean their hands with wet wipes. Have children sit in a circle and pass the bag of cereal as you play a recording of a favorite song. When you pause the music, have the child holding the bag pour a few cereal loops into each other child's hands to munch. Then




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begin the music and have children pass the bag again. Mention that it's fun to give treats to our friends and to play games together. Point out that being kind shows people that we love them. Tell children that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love others.

■ Option 3: Heart Hugs

SUPPLIES: scissors, colored construction paper

Before class, cut pairs of hearts from construction paper in several different colors. Hand out the paper hearts, making sure that you distribute two hearts of each color. Lead children in saying, "God loves us!" and tossing their paper hearts in the air. Have each child hop to pick up one heart, find the person holding the matching heart, and give that person a gentle hug or pat. Tell children that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love others.


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When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.


SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: licorice rope, napkin, wet wipes

Set a licorice rope on a napkin behind you.

Tell the children you'll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Made funny lunch bags to share; shared cereal loops; played with paper hearts.)

Say: **If you made a buddy bag, jump up and say, "Buddies!"** Pause. **If you**



shared cereal loops, rub your tummy and say, “Yum, yum!” Pause. If you played with paper hearts, hug yourself and say, “I love God.” Pause. You were all learning important things about today’s Bible story. Last week we learned that God wants us to love him. Today we’ll learn that **▶God loves us and wants us to love others.**

Ask: • **How do you show your mommy and daddy that you love them?** (Give them kisses; tell them I love them; hug them; draw them pictures.)

Say: **Let’s play a fun game. If I tell a good way to show someone your love, gently pat your heart and say, “Love pat, love pat.” But if what I say isn’t a good way to show your love, shake your finger and say, “No way, no way!”**

Use the following phrases as good and bad ways to show love. Pause for children’s responses.

- **hugging someone** (*Pat your heart.*)
- **doing nice things for people** (*Pat your heart.*)
- **arguing** (*Shake your finger.*)
- **fighting** (*Shake your finger.*)
- **helping someone** (*Pat your heart.*)
- **pushing someone** (*Shake your finger.*)
- **saying, “I love you”** (*Pat your heart.*)

There are lots of good ways to love others! Let’s discover another way we can show our love. Ask children to clean their hands with the wet wipes. Then bring out the licorice rope.

Ask: • **How many of you would like a piece of this candy?** Give children a chance to respond.

• **What if there’s not enough licorice?** Lead children to suggest sharing the candy.

Say: **Sharing is a good way to show others our love. I’ll hold this licorice, and help each of you pull off a piece. When you have your piece, say, “I can love others.”** Help children divide the licorice and say, “I can love others.”

When everyone has a piece of candy, say: **It’s fun showing our love to others. Now let’s listen to the rest of our Bible Big Book and learn that **▶God loves us and wants us to love others.****



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3 & 4

Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” with the CD (track 3) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 I'm so glad for God's book today.
 I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
 Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *burning bush stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show the children the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the CD (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, "Story Cards" handout (p. 124), scissors, envelopes, CD player



Before class, photocopy the "Story Cards" handout. You'll need one set of story cards for each child. Cut the cards apart, and put each set of cards in a separate envelope.

Gather children in a circle on the floor. Open the Bible to **Exodus 20:12-17**, hold it up, and say: **Our Bible story**

teacher tips

Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you are finished using them so the items can be used in future lessons.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. We've been learning a lot about Moses and how God helped him. And we've learned that God gave Moses special rules for us to live by. Our *Bible Big Book* shows us pictures of our Bible story. Let's listen to our *Bible Big Book* the whole way through today. You can use these story cards to help tell the Bible story.

Hand out the story-card envelopes, and have children spread the cards on the floor in front of them. Say: **When you hear the storyteller talk about a picture that's on one of your cards, hold up that card. Let's see what's happening in each picture.** Go through the story cards, and help children identify the burning bush, the frogs, the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments. Open the *Bible Big Book* to the first page, and play the "Life of Moses" segment on the *CD* (track 14). Chimes will indicate page turns. Cue children to hold up their cards at the appropriate times during the story.

Be ready to pause the *CD* at a little after five minutes to allow responses to questions that are asked. ("Tell me about a time someone was kind to you. How did that make you feel? Now tell me about a time when you were kind to someone. How did that person feel?") When the story is finished, turn off the *CD*.

Ask: • **Why does God want us to love other people?** (So everyone will be happy; so no one fights; because God loves us.)

• **How can we show others our love?** (By being nice to them; by sharing; by helping them.)

• **How do you feel when you show someone your love?** (I feel nice; I feel happy.)

Say: **The Ten Commandments teach us that *God loves us and wants us to love others*. Let's sing our "Ten Commandments Song" to help us remember God's special rules.**

Have children put their story cards in the envelopes. Then set them aside.



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: buddy bags made in Option 1, *CD* player



Have children find partners. Hand each child a buddy bag from Option 1 to exchange with his or her partner. If you chose not to do Option 1, simply let partners sing the following song and clap together.

Say: **Let's sing this special song with our friends and move our buddy bags in time to the music.** Lead children in singing "The Ten Commandments Song" (Exodus 20:2-17) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians" with the *CD* (track 12).



SING

I'm your only God—it's true. (Hold up one finger.)
Don't worship idols—ooh! (Hold up two fingers.)
Respect my name and don't be rude. (Hold up three fingers.)
Keep the Sabbath holy. (Hold up four fingers.)
Please obey your mom and dad. (Hold up five fingers.)
Don't kill people—oh! how bad! (Hold up six fingers and shake your head.)
Please stay married—you'll be glad. (Hold up seven fingers.)
Don't steal things from others. (Hold up eight fingers.)
Never, ever tell a lie. (Hold up nine fingers.)
Don't wish for things your neighbors buy. (Hold up ten fingers.)
Follow God's rules, and you'll be (clap your hands)
Safe and very happy! (Turn in a circle; then clap one time.)


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Collect the bags, and set them aside until the end of class. Say: **It's fun to sing with our friends, isn't it? And it's also fun to show our friends how much we love them. Remember, ▶God loves us and wants us to love others. I have an idea! Let's take a look at what we can do to show people love.**

■ Showing Love to Others

SUPPLIES: red or pink construction paper, envelopes, crayons or washable markers, glue sticks, decorative craft items such as beads, ribbon, large buttons, and yarn



Before class remove the *heart stencil* from the Learning Lab. You will also need several sheets of red or pink construction paper and one envelope for each child. Use the *heart stencil* as a pattern for tracing and cutting out five heart shapes for each child.

Gather children around a table. Give each child one envelope and five of the heart shapes you prepared before class. Set out crayons or washable markers, glue sticks, and other decorative craft items such as beads, ribbon, yarn, and large buttons.

Say: **Today we learned that ▶God loves us and wants us to love others. Our Bible verse says, ▶“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b). Can you say that verse with me?** Encourage children to put their hands over their hearts while saying the verse with you.

Let's make a craft right now to help us love others this week. We're going to make hearts that we can give away to the people we love!

Tell children they can use the crayons, markers, glue, ribbon, and decorative items to decorate their hearts as well as the outside of their envelopes. Give children several minutes to decorate their hearts and envelopes. Once children are finished decorating, set aside the hearts and envelopes to dry.

Say: **Your hearts are beautiful! You can use these hearts this week to show love to others. Carry your envelope full of hearts with you. When you tell people you love them, give them one of your beautiful hearts! This is one way you can show people you love them.**

Ask: • **What are some other ways you can show love to people?** (By giving them a hug; by helping them; by saying nice things to them.)

• **How does it feel to show love to someone?** (I like to give hugs; it makes me feel good to show love.)

• **Why do you think God wants us to love others?** (Because he loves them; because he wants us to be like him; because it's the right thing to do.)

Say: **We can show love in all sorts of ways! God wants us to love others because he loves everyone in the whole world. ▶God loves us and wants us to love others. Let's tell Whiskers all about this!**


BIBLE POINT ▶


Closing

■ We Love You, Whiskers!

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: *(Shaking his head and mumbling)* I don't think anyone loves me. No one is nice to me. Well, I don't care!

Teacher: Hello, Whiskers. You don't look very happy today. What's up?

Whiskers: I had a fight with my cousin Joey, and I stubbed my toe this morning, and Mom said I was a slowpoke. I don't think anyone loves me, but that's OK because I don't want to be nice to anyone anyway!

Teacher: Well, you've had quite a time, Whiskers. But cheer up! We love you and so does God!

Whiskers: You do? You really love me?

Teacher: That's right, Whiskers. And we've been learning that ► God loves us and wants us to love others. Boys and girls, can you tell Whiskers some different ways to show our love to others? *(Encourage children to tell Whiskers that we can be kind to others, help them, and even pray for them.)*

Whiskers: You mean you really, really, truly, truly love me?

Teacher: Yes! *(Whispering to children)* Let's show Whiskers our love by giving him snuggly hugs, shall we? *(Let children hug Whiskers. Encourage them to say, "I love you" to Whiskers.)*

Whiskers: That was sooo nice! Thank you for showing me your love. I feel all cuddly and warm and wonderful now! I'd better hurry and show Mom and Joey that I love them, too. Thanks for helping me learn that ► God loves us and wants us to love others.



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Say: **God showed us his love when he sent us his Son, Jesus, to love us. In the Bible, Jesus tells us to love one another, and he says that when we are kind to our neighbors, it's just like being kind to him. Let's each think of someone we can be kind to this week.** Let children each name someone they can be kind to in the coming week. **It's good to obey Jesus and show love to others, just as he tells us to do. Let's thank God for sending Jesus to show love to us!**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to love us and to show us how to love others. In Jesus' name, amen.**



■ Thanks in Action

SUPPLIES: none



Gather children in a circle.

Ask: • **Who loves us and wants us to love others?** (God loves us and wants us to love others.)

Say: **God's love is so special. Let's say a prayer and thank God for his wonderful love.** Lead children in the following action prayer.

Dear Lord God (*fold your hands*)
In heaven above (*point upward*),
We thank you for giving (*cover your heart*)
Us your love. (*Hug yourself.*)
In Jesus' name, amen. (*Fold your hands.*)

It's important to remember God's special rules, the Ten Commandments. They teach us to love God and to love other people. Let's pass around the burning bush stamp. You can stamp your hand and tell the name of one person you'll show your love to this week. Be sure all the children have a turn naming someone and stamping their hands. Remind children to take home their buddy bags and envelopes.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Bible Big Book Review



Have children listen to the CD (track 14) as they review the *Bible Big Book*. Choose two children to be the page turners. Remind them to listen carefully for the page-turn signal. Assure the rest of the children that they'll get to turn pages of other *Bible Big Books*. Point out that sharing good books is a nice way to show others our love. Remind children that ► *God loves us and wants us to love others.*

Make to Take: Story-Card Necklaces



Set out the story cards from “Hear and Tell the Bible Story,” washable markers, crayons, and 18-inch lengths of yarn. Help children stack their story cards and then use a hole punch to make holes in the tops of the cards. Ask children to color their cards. Then help the children string the cards onto yarn and tie the yarn to form necklaces. Encourage children to use their story-card necklaces to tell their families about the life of Moses and God’s special rules, the Ten Commandments.

Treat to Eat: Bloomin’ Snacks

Ask children to clean their hands with wet wipes. Then hand each child three round crackers and three M&M’s candies on a napkin. Help children add a bit of strawberry jam to the centers of their crackers and then place M&M’s on the jam to make pretty “flowers.” Tell children to make two flowers to keep and one to give away. Mention that giving treats and flowers is a nice way to show our love. When children have finished making their flower treats, have each child pass one cracker flower to the right. As children enjoy their snacks, teach them this “flowery” rhyme about loving God and loving others.

**Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
I love God,
And I love you!**

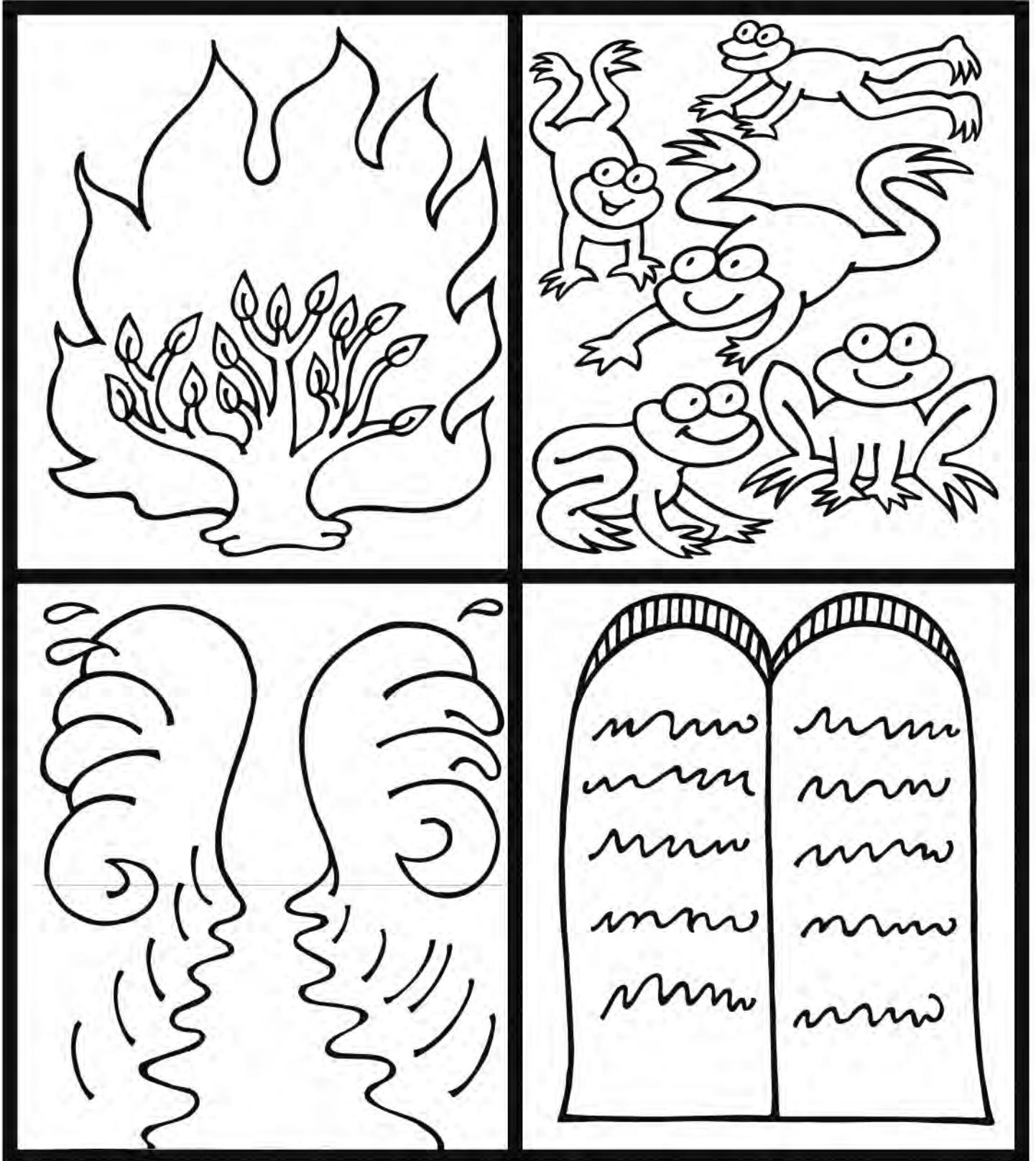


Story Picture: We’re Happy to Help Each Other

Hand each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons, washable markers, glue sticks, and scraps of colored construction paper. Have children color the pictures and then tear bits of colored paper and glue them to the children’s shirts in the pictures. Encourage children to share the crayons, washable markers, glue sticks, and paper. Remind children that sharing is a good way to show others our love.

Story Cards

Photocopy this handout and cut apart the cards. You'll need one set of cards for each child.
Place each set of cards in a separate envelope.



Today i learned..

God loves us and wants us to love others.

Lesson 9
Today children learned that **GOD LOVES US AND WANTS US TO LOVE OTHERS.** They discovered new ways to show their love and expressed their thanks for God's love.

Help me learn this:

"I obey your commandments with all my heart" (Psalm 119:69b).

Ask me:

- Why is it important to love other people?
- What are ways you can show love to people in your family?
- How can our family show love to others?

Family Fun

- Get your family involved in a mini-service project to demonstrate your love for others. Choose someone in your neighborhood, church, or community who might need a helping hand with yardwork, laundry, or meal preparation. Have your family members pitch in to help that person, and then celebrate your family's teamwork with ice cream cone treats.



We're Happy to Help Each Other
(Exodus 20:12-17)

