



God Gives the Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1–21



LESSON GOAL

Students will learn God's standard of perfection.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- List the Ten Commandments in order.
- Divide the commandments into those that pertain to our responsibility toward God (1–4) and our responsibility toward man (5–10).
- State two purposes of the Law of God: to reveal the holiness of God and to reveal the sinfulness of man.

KEY VERSE

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine”
(Exodus 19:5).

APPLICATION

- Apply God's holy standards, the Ten Commandments, to your life.
- Discover God's holiness by observing His law.

NEXT WEEK

God Ordains the Tabernacle
Read Exodus 25–31.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The Lord had given Israel a precious promise: if they listened and obeyed, they would become God’s special people, “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6). With the prospect of such a privilege before them, the people quickly promised to obey all that the Lord had spoken. On the third day of consecration, the Lord revealed Himself with thunder, lightning, fire from heaven, the ground shaking, and loud trumpets (19:16–19). The people were forbidden to touch even the base of the mountain. God instituted a death penalty to keep the people away from His holy presence. Having warned the people yet again to not come up the mountain (19:21–22), God Himself then spoke to the people. He gave them His commandments to show them His holiness, to preserve the nation of Israel, and to reveal their sin. After the commandments were given, the people promised to obey and ratified their covenant with God.

The Giving of the Ten Commandments and Ratification of the Covenant

While Moses was at the base of Mount Sinai, God spoke to the people “face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire” (Deut. 5:4). Later in Exodus, the special name of the “Ten Commandments” (Ex. 34:28) is used to refer to the commandments that God spoke to the people. Seeing the powerful display of God’s holiness was frightening enough for the people; hearing His voice was too much. The people begged Moses to be the mediator between them and God so that they would no longer hear God’s voice. God was pleased with their fear and their request (Deut. 5:25–31). Moses entered the cloud alone.

The Ten Commandments were not the whole covenant God made with the Israelites that day. Exodus 19:24–23:32, which God spoke to Moses, expanded on the basic principles given in the Ten Commandments and applied them to various situations among the Israelites. These additional laws, also called the Book of the Covenant (Ex. 24:7), fleshed out the Ten Commandments for Israel. When Moses came down from the mountain, he told the people all the words of the Lord. The people responded by saying that they would obey. Moses then wrote down all that God had commanded. (The Ten Commandments were not at this time written by God on the stone tablets. It was not until Moses went up the mountain again, this time for 40 days, that he received the Ten Commandments written on stone by God (34:28).)

The next morning, the covenant between God and Israel was ratified (Ex. 24:1–8). Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain. Half of the blood from sacrifices was poured onto the altar, and the other half of the blood was poured into bowls (24:6). Moses again read to the people the Book of the Covenant. The people promised to do all that the Lord had spoken. Moses then sprinkled the people with blood (or perhaps sprinkled the 12 pillars he had built to represent the people). The blood on the altar and the people demonstrated that God and the people had

Additional Reference Materials

*Moses and the Gods of
Egypt: Studies in Exodus*
by John J. Davis

*The MacArthur Study
Bible* by John MacArthur

entered into a covenant. Israel had entered into a covenant relationship with God. The ratification of the covenant was celebrated as Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu (two of Aaron's sons), and 70 of the elders of Israel "saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank" (Ex. 24:9–11). God had faithfully kept His promise. He had graciously made Israel His people and given them promises to bring them into the Promised Land, to protect them from poverty and sickness, and to drive out the nations in the land (Ex. 23:20–33). At the heart of Israel's responsibility to God were the Ten Commandments.

The Content of the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments were preceded by a declaration of the character of God. The Lord proclaimed, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Ex. 20:2). First, God reminded Israel that He is Yahweh, the special name by which Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob knew Him. He is "I AM WHO I AM," the self-existing one (Ex. 3:14). Second, the Lord said to Israel that He was their God. The other nations were not chosen by God. Israel had a special relationship with Him, and Yahweh was their God. Third, the Lord their God had delivered them from slavery. God had demonstrated His faithfulness and proved His love for Israel. Because of how God had revealed Himself to Israel, they were expected to obey His commands.

The Ten Commandments can be grouped into two general categories. The first four commands (Ex. 20:3–11) deal with man's relationship with God; the last six commands (Ex. 20:12–17) deal with man's relationships in the community. The first command was that Israel should have no other gods (Ex. 20:3). Yahweh had revealed Himself to the people, and He alone was to be worshiped. The second command (20:4–6) clarified the first. To bow down or serve any type of "carved image," regardless of whether the form was something in the heavens, the earth, or the sea, was idolatry. The people could not justify their idolatry by saying that the idol merely represented Yahweh. Yahweh is a jealous God, and it is idolatry for man to fashion the Creator in the image of His creation. It is such a serious sin that the spiritual depravity of such an act would be felt by future generations (20:5). (The Lord does not punish one generation for another's sin [Deut. 24:16], but children spiritually follow their parents and thus would follow in their idolatry.)

The command to not take the name of the Lord in vain specifically referred to swearing by God's name so the guilty party would appear truthful. This command does not specifically refer to modern swearing but would, of course, cover such blatant disrespect. The last of these four commands was to keep the Sabbath. The Sabbath had been set apart when God ceased from His work after creation (Ex. 20:11). The people were to cease from their labor and devote themselves to worshipping Yahweh.

The last six commands deal with man's relationship to the community. The fifth command was to honor father and mother. If Israel would obey this command and respect authority, God promised that Israel would not leave the land that God was giving them (Ex. 20:12). The next four commands were to not murder, commit adultery, steal, or bear false witness against one's neighbor (particularly referring to giving false testimony in a legal proceeding). The last command against coveting prevented the Israelites from merely thinking of these commands as outward. Someone might not give in to murder, adultery, stealing, or lying, but even the desire that led to these crimes was prohibited.

The Purpose of the Ten Commandments

God had three main purposes in giving the Ten Commandments. The first is that they revealed His holiness. God is holy and commanded His people to be holy (Lev. 19:2). Israel was supposed to reflect both the separateness and the purity of God by following these commands. The commandments reflect also the righteous character of God, who always does right and gives only right commands. God so hated these sins that the death penalty was commanded for all of them in the Law (except for the command to not covet). God's holiness was to be characteristic of the Israelites. If they followed their sin nature and worshiped idols, profaned God or the Sabbath, dishonored their parents, killed, committed adultery, stole, or lied, they would suffer death. In giving His name to the Israelites, God required the Israelites to bring glory to that name.

The Ten Commandments also preserved the nation that God was creating. These commands were graciously given by God as the structure that would support the nation of Israel. By prohibiting idol worship and taking His name in vain, God exalted Himself as the only God, the God of Israel. The Sabbath day of worship, if followed, would keep Israel humble before God, always reminded of their unique relationship and complete dependence upon Him. It also would result in the resting of the people and the land. By commanding the honoring of parents, God preserved the way truth would be transmitted from parents to children. He also preserved an authority structure necessary for any nation's success. Life was shown to be valuable with the prohibition of murder. The commandment against adultery preserved the sanctity of marriage. The commandment against stealing preserved the ownership of property. The commandment against bearing false testimony preserved the judicial system and trust. Finally, the command to not covet showed that society cannot be sustained when everybody lusts after someone else's possessions; instead, society requires a greater love and a concern for another's welfare. In 10 laws, God graciously, perfectly, and wisely established the foundation for a nation. These commands were not overbearing, but were a demonstration of love for His nation.

The commands were also given to reveal sin. Salvation has never been gained by keeping the law. The perfect obedience required by God is impossible, and salvation has always been by faith (Gal. 3:11). But before salvation comes through faith, men must realize that they are being saved from sin. Through the Law, man becomes aware of his sin (Rom. 3:20; 7:7). Even the most righteous of men falls when judged by the last command, "You shall not covet." The Law was given so that man would see his nature and have complete dependence upon God. The Ten Commandments were graciously given by God. By following them, Israel would reflect God's holiness, have a prosperous nation, and come to saving faith.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

What is a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement or a promise.

What were the three benefits of the covenant that God promised to Israel?

They would be a special treasure among all the peoples. They would be a kingdom of priests (the nations would come to Israel to see the true God). They would be a holy nation, set apart from the rest of the nations.

To receive these benefits, what did Israel have to do?

They had to obey God.



A Class Covenant

Establish a class covenant. List 10 rules of obedience required of each member of the class. These may be ideas such as: (1) Be polite. (2) Respect your teacher's words. (3) Do your best work. (4) Keep the room clean. (5) Be friendly to guests. Once the list is complete, you may want to read the rules and ask the students to promise to keep the class covenant. Post these on the wall, and refer to them throughout the morning, reminding the students that they promised to do these things. Why do we need rules such as these? What would class be like without these rules? Do the teachers want the students to obey the rules because they want the students' time in class to be miserable or because they love them and want everyone to get along?



A Land without Law

In today's Bible lesson, God gives His people the first set of laws. He gave the Israelites these laws for their benefit, not to make their lives miserable. Laws protect our relationships with others. God's laws also protect our relationship with Him. Ask the students to name some laws (city, state, or national). Discuss how these laws protect our relationships with others. What would life be like without any laws or rules?



Spotlight on God, Spotlight on Man

Materials: pictures of the following: police officers, criminals being arrested, creation, or the Constitution; a portable work light

Directions: Set up a floodlight, pointing to the chalkboard, in the front of the class. Place pictures of police officers, the Constitution, and creation on one side of the chalkboard. Place pictures of criminals being arrested on the other. Label the floodlight "The Ten Commandments." Turn off the ceiling lights, and then turn on

the floodlight. The Ten Commandments do two things at once. They reveal the character of a holy and righteous God. These can be seen in rules, such as the Constitution, and the people who enforce them, such as police officers. The Ten Commandments reveal the goodness and righteousness of God in creation. At the same time, they show that mankind is sinful. Point out the criminals being arrested. God gives us commands to obey, but not one of us has ever obeyed them perfectly. We are all found guilty under the Ten Commandments.



Why Do We Need Rules?

Guide students through the following discussion. What would happen in a country where there were no rules? What do a country's rules reveal about what that country values? What kind of things are against the law in the United States or in your town? Rules help to control our sinful behavior. They are an admission that on our own, we do not do what God wants. A country must have rules if the people are to have peace. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about the rules God gave to Israel. Tell students to pick out what God values as they listen to the lesson.



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2

The Impossible Jump

Mark a line with tape. Place a rope parallel to the tape line. Have students stand single file behind the tape line. Set the lines close enough together so that the students can easily jump across the space. After everyone has a turn, move the rope line farther from the tape line. Have students try again. Then pull the rope back so far that no one can make it. This is what it is like to try to make it to heaven on our own by doing good things. It is impossible. The Ten Commandments are God's holy rules that show us our sinfulness. We are unable to obey them perfectly, and we need a savior. In today's lesson, we will learn about those rules.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Exodus 20:1–17.

Introduction

Last week, we saw the children of Israel encamped at the base of Mount Sinai. They had been prepared by Moses to meet God. God led them to this place to make a covenant with them. What the children of Israel would get from this covenant with God was that they would be a special treasure, a kingdom of



priests, and a holy nation. All they had to do was obey. Israel said that they would do all that God commanded (Ex. 19:8). At Mount Sinai, the living God gave His people His law. The Ten Commandments are His standards for right and holy living. God's Law was to be obeyed continually in order to maintain fellowship with Him. Today, we will discover that the Law is an impossible standard for us to keep. We will learn that the Ten Commandments teach us about how to act toward God and toward our neighbor. We will also see how the Law shows our sinfulness and God's holiness.

Leadoff Questions

LOQ: Where did the Ten Commandments come from?

Answer: Exodus 20:1 says, "God spoke all these words." He is the source of the commandments.

LOQ: The first commandment is "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex. 20:3). How many gods was Israel to have?

Answer: Only one. Yahweh expected Israel to be completely devoted to Him. They were to be loyal to Him. In response to Yahweh's great love for them, they were to worship only Him.

LOQ: The second commandment is "You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (Ex. 20:4). What is an idol or carved image?

Answer: An image created by man out of silver, gold, stone, wood, or metal. The image would resemble something created by God, and man would worship it as a god. Any image created by man falls far short of the majesty and glory of the living God. It is ridiculous make an idol that resembles a bull or a fish, or even a man, and say, "This is Yahweh," or "This is a god." God is Spirit (John 4:24) and is invisible (Col. 1:15), and therefore, He has no bodily form. Thus He has no comparison. Idols are improper substitutes. Idols would steal the people's hearts away from the true worship of God.

LOQ: Why were they to not worship and serve these idols?

Answer: Because Yahweh is a jealous God (Ex. 20:5). To be jealous means to require complete loyalty or faithfulness. Because He loved Israel, Yahweh was jealous of their attention, their devotion, their love of Him. God demands exclusive devotion (Ex. 34:14; Deut. 4:24), and He will direct His anger against all who oppose Him (Num. 25:11; Deut. 29:20). Yahweh, who is set apart from all creation, will share His glory and majesty with no one else (Isa. 42:8; 48:11). Because Yahweh is perfect and without sin, His jealousy is good, not evil or sinful. He is jealous for the right reasons. Israel should have been afraid of offering any worship to God other than what He had appointed. A clear illustration of being jealous for Yahweh is seen in Luke 19:45–46, where Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the temple. He was defending the honor of God, His Father.

LOQ: The third commandment is "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain" (Ex. 20:7). What does this mean?

Answer: To misuse the name of the Lord or to treat His name with disrespect.

LOQ: What is the promise at the end of verse seven?

Answer: Those who spoke the Lord's name in vain would be punished. Leviticus 24:16 says they would be stoned to death.

LOQ: The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Ex. 20:8). What does *Sabbath* mean?

Answer: *Sabbath* means a day to rest or cease from your labors. The Israelites were to do all their work in six days (Ex. 20:9), but the seventh day was to be a day of rest. In this context, the seventh day was to be set apart from all the other days as a special day—not common, but distinct.

LOQ: According to Exodus 20:11, what was the reason the Israelites were to remember the Sabbath?

Answer: They were to remember the act of creation and worship the Creator. The Sabbath was a day of no common work, but a day dedicated to the service of Yahweh. It was a day set aside for the worship of Yahweh. The sinfulness of the sons of Israel is shown clearly in the law of God because, as in the fourth commandment, they had to be commanded to worship the living God. This was God’s covenant with Israel. They were to keep these laws in order to be His special treasure (Ex. 19:5).

LOQ: The fifth commandment is “Honor your father and your mother” (Ex. 20:12). What does it mean to honor someone?

Answer: To show that person respect or to treat him as special. In Proverbs 3:9, the Bible says, “Honor the LORD with your possessions.” In other words, show respect to God by giving. To give money back to God is showing that He is special to you. You think so highly of Him that you are willing to give your wealth to Him. [*Do you always honor your parents?*]

LOQ: What does the Bible say happens to those who don’t honor their parents?

Answer: Deuteronomy 27:16 says, “Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.” To be continually disobedient to parents was a very serious crime in Israel. God took this very seriously. Would you like to see God’s response to a rebellious child? Look at Deuteronomy 21:18–21. To chastise means to discipline or whip. This child at the end of verse 18, even after being disciplined, would not listen to his parents. He was stubborn and rebellious. To be a stubborn, rebellious, and disobedient child is to be evil in the eyes of God.

LOQ: The sixth commandment is “You shall not murder” (Ex. 20:13). Why is murder wrong?

Answer: Because God says it is. But also, back in Genesis 9:6, the Bible says, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.” Murder is wrong because it destroys a person who was made in the image of God. Have you ever murdered someone? Of course not, but in Matthew 5:21–22, Jesus taught that to be angry with someone is equal to murder because it is the same as murdering him in our hearts, and God is concerned about our hearts. Jesus is teaching here that every time we get angry with someone, we are breaking the sixth commandment. [*Have you ever been angry with someone—so angry that you wanted to hit that person or get even with him? If you have, then you have broken this commandment.*]

LOQ: The seventh commandment is “You shall not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14). What does this law protect?

Answer: This law protects marriage. Husbands and wives are to stay together and not divorce. Marriage is very special to God. Husbands and wives are to be loyal and faithful to one another. The punishment for adultery was death (Lev. 20:10).

LOQ: The eighth commandment is “You shall not steal” (Ex. 20:15). What does it mean to steal?

Answer: To steal is to take something that belongs to another person without his permission. To steal is to show disrespect for others. We have no right to touch other people’s things without asking. Again, this commandment reveals the sinfulness of man because we have to be told to not steal.

LOQ: The ninth commandment is “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Ex. 20:16). What does this mean?

Answer: To bear false witness means to lie, to not speak the truth. God demands that the truth be spoken at all times. Can God lie? Never! It is against His holy character. It is impossible for God to lie. Satan, on the other hand, is called the father of lies in John 8:44. The devil does nothing but speak lies. When we tell lies about someone, we are acting like Satan! *[Have you ever told a lie about another person?]*

LOQ: The tenth commandment is “You shall not covet” (Ex. 20:17). What does it mean to covet?

Answer: To covet something means to have a strong desire for something that belongs to another person. Coveting is not being satisfied with what you already have, always wanting more and more. *[When you see your friend or one of your brothers or sisters with something that you really like, do you wish you had it instead of them?]* Coveting takes place in your mind. No one can see that you are coveting. The only witnesses are you and God. God sees everything. He knows our thoughts before we do. He sees your thoughts right at this moment.

Summary

In His Word, God gave specific guidelines for the Israelites. These guidelines, the Ten Commandments, were given that Israel might be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6). In a similar way, our lives should be separate and different from other people and pure before God in holiness (1 Pet. 2:9). The Ten Commandments instruct the believer on how to act toward God and toward other people.

Application

God is holy, and God’s people are also to be holy. God gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments to show them how to be separate and set apart. The Ten Commandments also give God’s people today a guideline for godly living. If a person is truly a child of God, he will live separately from this world’s ways and in purity before God.



Presentation Ideas

A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Ten-Commandment Tablets

Cut out two 9 x 12-inch tablets from large foam sheets. Print out two sheets, with all the commandments on each. Glue one on each tablet. The people would have the commandments so that they would know how God expected them to respond to Himself and to others. Use these during the lesson to show what God commanded.



Read-Aloud Commandments

Materials: oversized piece of parchment or rice paper with the Ten Commandments written out in a decorative style, ribbon

Directions: Roll up the paper with the Ten Commandments, and tie the ribbon around it. When beginning the lesson, make a production of untying and unrolling the paper. Then read the Ten Commandments to the students. Explain that in today's lesson, they will learn about God, Moses, and the Ten Commandments.

Praise and Worship

Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy

I Will Delight

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Seek Ye First

The B-I-B-L-E

This Is My Commandment

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Listening for God's Commands

This game is played like "Steal the Bacon." Divide the class into two teams. (This game will work best if there are 20 players in all.) Line up the teams in two lines, facing each other. The lines should be 15–20 feet apart if you have the room. Give each player on the first team a commandment to remember. Then, beginning at the opposite end of the other team's line, give each player a commandment. Between

the teams, on the carpet in the center, place the “stone tablets.” (See how creative you can be to come up with these.) This is the “bacon.” Then call out a commandment. The two students who have been assigned that commandment run forward and try to snatch the stone tablets and successfully run back to their line with the tablets and without being tagged by their opponent. If a player reaches his line with the tablets without being tagged, his team gets a point. If the student carrying the stone tablets is tagged, the other team gets a point. You can call out more than one commandment at a time to make things really interesting. The students will really need to be ready and listening for God’s words to be the first to return with the tablets.



Ten Commandments Sound-Off

Tell students that they will be timed for this activity. Give 10 students each a slip of paper with one of the Ten Commandments. Do not number the papers. Write the commandments on the board in order. Have the student with the first commandment stand up and read it out loud. As soon the first person is done, the person with the second commandment should stand up and read it out loud. Repeat this until all commandments have been read. Do this again and encourage the students to go faster. After three or four practices, erase the board. Then have the students try again. Tell them to pay close attention to the person they follow. If you have more than 10 students, break them into even groups and allow them to race to see who can finish all 10 first. If they miss one, they must start over.



Love God and Others

The Ten Commandments can be summed up in two commandments—loving God and loving others. All the rest of the laws in the Pentateuch fit under these two as well. Write the Ten Commandments on the chalkboard. Ask students to tell you which ones show love directly for God and which ones show love for people.



Ten Commandments Bookmark

Materials: strips of construction paper, glue, stickers, and copies of the “Ten Commandments” bookmarks at the back of the lesson

Directions: Copy and cut out the Ten Commandments bookmarks. Then glue them to the strips of construction paper. Cut the construction paper a half-inch larger than the “Ten Commandments.” On the back of the bookmark, glue the “My Response” paper. Use a variety of materials to decorate the commandments, such as glitter, stickers, and crayons. What should our response to the Ten Commandments be? Confession, obedience, and worship. The Ten Commandments give us a standard by which to live. We should seek to obey. They also show us that we can never meet God’s perfect standard. We should pray to God for forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Another response is worship. The Ten Commandments represent God’s holiness. We should praise Him for His holiness.



Making Moses Memories

Choose a coloring page and reduce it to 4 x 6 inches. Have each student color the page, cut it out, and glue it to the next page in his scrapbook. At the end of the Exodus series, students may take home their completed scrapbooks.



“God Gives the Ten Commandments”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of this week’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



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3

Journal Page: “Righteous Reflection”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).



Eighth Commandment

God gives us the eighth commandment to protect property from being stolen. Stealing is taking something that belongs to someone else. Have you ever stolen anything? How would you feel if someone stole your favorite toy? Greed, covetousness, and selfishness motivate stealing. Stealing shows a lack of regard for others. Because the motive behind stealing is selfish and not based on love, God does not want us to steal!

Ten Commandments Bookmark

Exodus 20:1-17

One

You shall have no other gods before Me.

Two

You shall not make for yourself a carved image.

Three

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Four

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Five

Honor your father and your mother.

Six

You shall not murder.

Seven

You shall not commit adultery.

Eight

You shall not steal.

Nine

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Ten

You shall not covet.

Confession

Obedience

Worship

God Gives the Ten Commandments



Exodus 20

Name _____

1. The first four commandments deal with our responsibility toward _____.

2. The last six commandments deal with our responsibility toward _____.

3. The following two commandments deal with our responsibility toward God. Choose from the following words and fill in the blanks: *LORD, carved, vain, take, image*.

"You shall not make for yourself a _____."

"You shall not _____ the name of the _____ your God in _____."

4. The following three commandments deal with our responsibility toward man. Choose from the following words and fill in the blanks: *steal, false, honor, neighbor*.

"_____ your father and your mother."

"You shall not _____."

"You shall not bear _____ witness against your _____."

5. The Law of God reveals the _____ of God.

6. The Law of God reveals the _____ of man.

Righteous Reflection

The Ten Commandments reflect God's holiness and help us to see our sinfulness. They are like a mirror (James 1:22-25). Can you list some ways that God's Word is like a mirror?

Mirror

God's Word



Righteous Reflection

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Mirror

God's Word

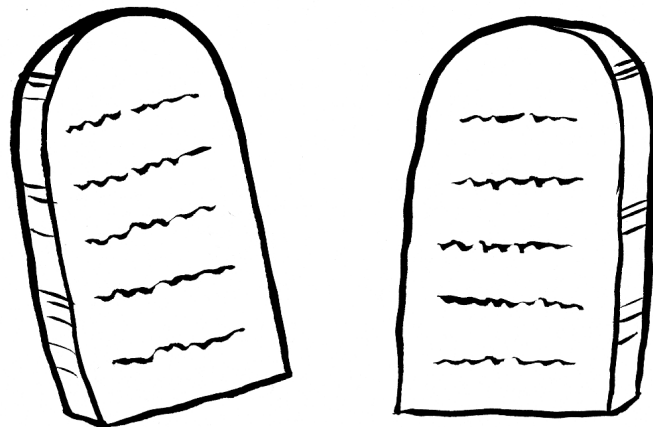


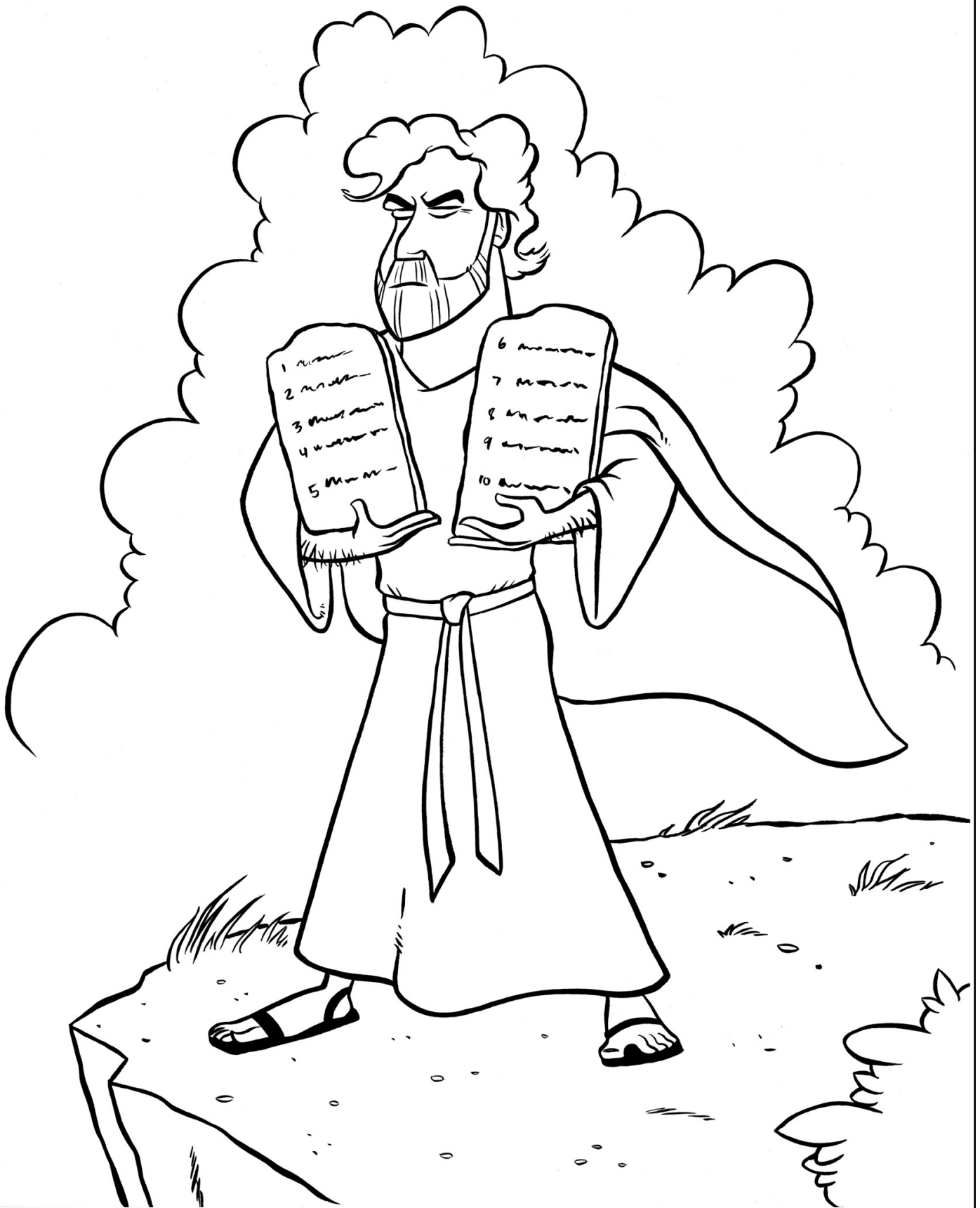
Review the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1–17. Which commandments help you see how you have fallen short of God’s holiness—that is, which commandments have you broken?

What should you do?

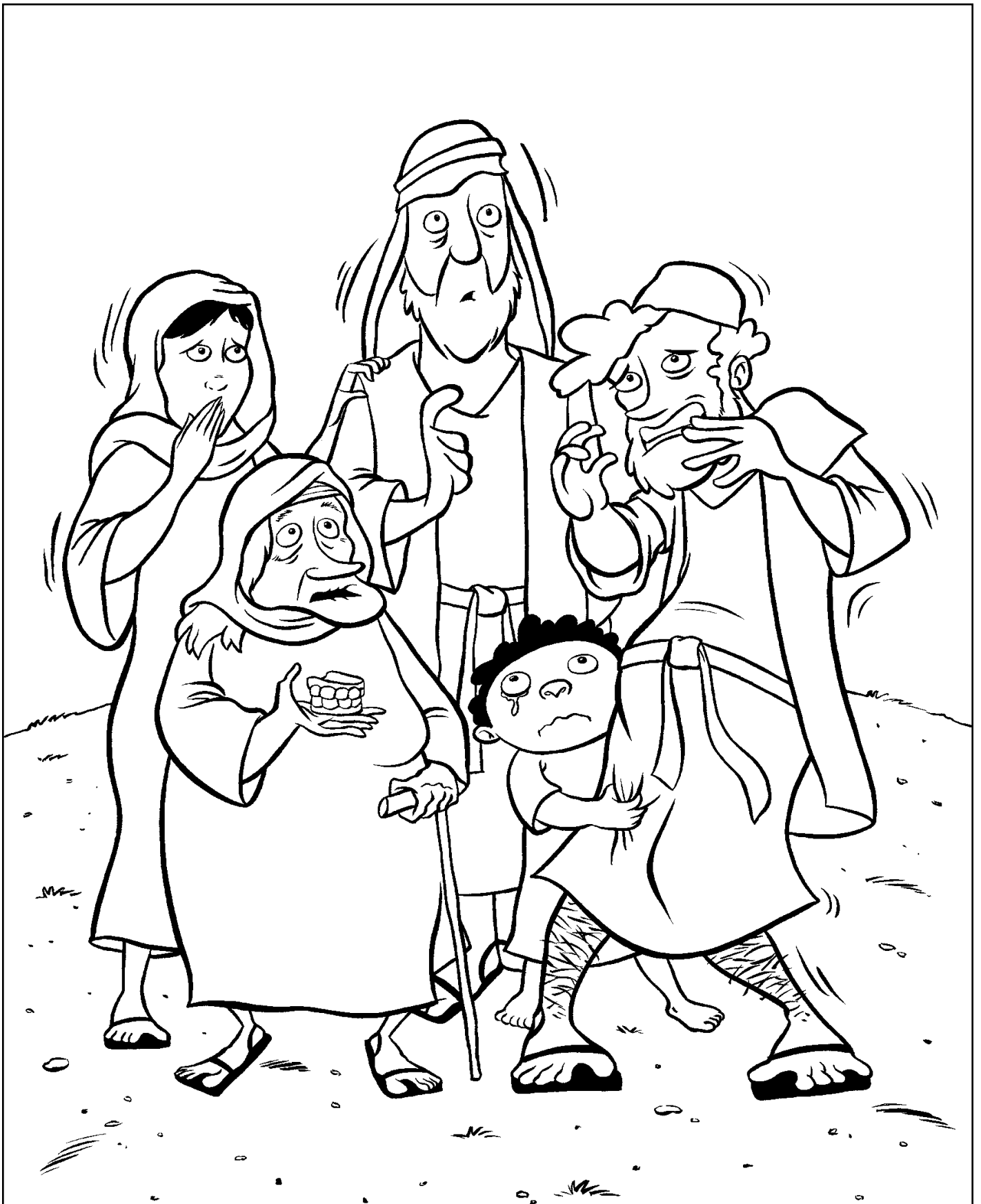
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Moses received the commandments from God in the midst of the cloud of God's glory (Exodus 24:12–18).



“Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off” (Exodus 20:18).

