

Lesson 1: God's Laws Continued

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 20-23 to see what other laws God commanded to the Israelites besides the 10 Commandments. To understand that there were more than just 10 laws.

Supplies: Coordinator will ensure these supplies are ready for you in advance. If not discuss with him/her.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- God's Laws and Bible Verse Match Sheet – one sheet per older student
- God Gave Laws Color Page – one sheet per student

Optional:

- Donkey Paper Bag Template – one set per younger student printed on white paper
- Paper Lunch Bag
- Scissors to share
- Glue to share

Snack:

- Trail Mix (check for nut or gluten allergies first) handful for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write each child's name on the sheet and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Once children are seated say:

We are starting a new quarter today. I will be your teacher and you can call me _____. You have been studying the book of Exodus and finished studying the 10 Commandments and how they related to Jesus' commandments today. This quarter we will continue to study the book of Exodus – Exodus means the parting or exit – and continue with the life of Moses and the Israelites.

This week we are going to see some of the other laws God gave to the Israelites after the 10 commandments – laws that would help their relationship with God and laws that would help them in their relationships with each other. These laws would keep peace and help maintain unity as well as please God and make the entire community's life easier.

2) God's Laws Continued

10-20 minutes

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to **Exodus 20:22** and following.

Explain to the children – **for the next three chapters in Exodus, God gave laws to the Israelites in how to treat each others and God in a pleasing manner. Let's look through our Bibles and read**

the headings that are listed. (Go through with them pointing out the headings – not everyone will have the same heading, that is ok, but there should be a general similarity)

Idols and Altars - the first title is Idols and Altars in most peoples Bibles. Here God gave rules and reminders on why they should not have idols and how to show proper respect when worshipping God and using altars.

In Chapter 21 what is the next heading we see? Hebrew Servants

Servants or slaves were allowed back in that time and God wanted to make sure that those people were treated fair and special because of their high chances of being abused.

What's the next heading in Chapter 21? Personal Injuries.

Personal injuries dealt with things like hitting or attacking others and the consequences, cursing parents and the consequences, animals hurting people, etc.

What is the next heading near or at Chapter 22? Protection of property

What do you think this heading related to? Rules for dealing with protecting property of home, animals, consequences for stealing.

What is the next heading we see? Social Responsibility starting in Chapter 22:16.

Social responsibilities dealt with how to treat unmarried women, sorcerers, idolators, widows, orphans, foreigners, God and the poor and needy.

In Chapter 23 what is the heading there? Laws of Justice and Mercy

Justice means a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people, upholding what is right and fair.

Mercy means compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.

So these laws related with how to be fair and right as well as showing compassion and forgiving others.

Let's read 23:1-9

What are some areas listed here? Not lying, not showing favoritism, helping an enemy, helping the poor, not accepting bribes and helping the foreigners who come.

What was the law relating to enemies in verses 4-5? Help an enemy by returning their lost items and helping them if they need help.

Jesus says the same thing today, let's turn to Matthew 5:43-47

Matthew 5:43-37

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax

collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Does Jesus say we can hate our enemies? No, we must pray for them and love them too. We need to do our best to be kind to everyone and be at peace with everyone.

Finally, what are the last two headings in Chapter 23 of Exodus? Sabbath Laws and Festivals. **They dealt with how to treat the Sabbath day and what God wanted from the three annual festivals he prescribed. We no longer have the Sabbath or Festivals today.**

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) God's Laws and Bible Verse Match Activity

15 minutes

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 20-23. Then, hand out one sheet to each student along with pencils. Read the directions with the point being that they are to look at the headings we looked at earlier and find a matching verse that fits that heading from Exodus 20-23. Answers are below if anyone needs help. Review the answers before moving on the next activity.

Answers:

1. Exodus 23:12
2. Exodus 20:23
3. Exodus 20:24
4. Exodus 21:2
5. Exodus 21:17
6. Exodus 23:2
7. Exodus 23:5
8. Exodus 22:1
9. Exodus 23:14
10. Exodus 22:21

So, were there only 10 commandments the Israelites needed? No.

All of these commandments fall under two main categories – loving God and loving others. For those that loved God and others, these would be easy, kind, helpful rules to follow!

4) God Gave Laws Color Page

15 minutes

Hand out one page to each child with crayons. Read the words at the bottom and remind the children that God gave the 10 commandments, but He also gave other laws that included how to treat others and laws that helped the Israelites to respect God.

Color the page and discuss questions if any and then clean up before moving on to the next activity.



5) Paper Bag Donkey Craft

15 minutes

Before class print out the two page template of the donkey – one set per child. Hand out the two page template to each child at class and have them color the donkey. When finished, hand out scissors and have them cut out the shapes. Help them glue the face to the bottom part that is folded towards them and the feet and tail on the back that does not have the bottom folded towards them. See picture for help on where to place each part of the donkey. Basically you want to put your hand in the lunch bag and be able to open the bottom folded part like a mouth. That is the front.



As the students color and cut read the section from Exodus where God explains showing mercy to even our enemies and their donkeys. **Exodus 23:4-5**

Exodus 23:4-5

If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it.

This is why we are making a donkey today – to remember that God wants us to treat others and animals kindly even when that person is someone who hates us or is our enemy!

Help the children figure out how to use their puppet donkey and then have the students clean up the scrap pieces and put the supplies away before moving on.

6) Optional – Snack: Trail Mix

5 minutes

Hand out some trail mix to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. *Ensure no child has a nut or gluten allergy beforehand. Explain that, **“Today we learned that God guided the Israelites by giving the laws to live by. The Israelites stayed by Mount Sinai in tents during this time. So to remind us of camping or tenting, we are going to have some trail mix – a snack today we eat when going hiking to give us energy and that is easily portable.**

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you; choose from the songs in the front of your binder.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Thank God that He took care of the Israelites and He will take care of us too! Thank God that we have Jesus that helps us live a good life today that is pleasing to You God and pray that we will remember to help those in need, and pray for our enemies and be kind to everyone we meet. Just as God and Jesus want us to. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.