

Lesson 4: Moses –and the Ten Commandments – Background and 1st

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 20 and see that God had laws for the Israelites that included 4 laws concerning God and 6 laws concerning how to treat others.
- 2) Study this week the 1st commandment God gave the Israelites and how it relates to the New Testament

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- First Commandment Puzzle – one sheet printed on white cardstock paper per student
- Scissors
- Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster – one sheet printed on white cardstock paper per student
- 10 Commandments Songs – one per student to memorize and sing each week (5 per page) *keep a copy for each week during class, but you can also give a copy for each student to practice at home

Optional:

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Piece of Fruit – large (to represent 1st Command) one per 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). Once children are seated say:

Does anyone remember what we studied last week? We studied that the Israelites camped around Mount Sinai and were told to consecrate themselves as they waited to see God. God came in fire and made smoke fill the mountain, the people were so scared, they told Moses to speak on God's behalf, because if they heard God's voice they thought they would die.

This week we will start our study of the Ten Commandments God gave the Israelites through Moses on the mountain of Sinai. We will look at why God gave these commandments and how it relates to us now that we have the New Testament and we will see what Jesus says about the commandments we should follow today.

2) God Gives the Ten Commandments

10-15 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Say to the students:

In Exodus 19 we see that the Israelites came to the mountain in the third month after they leave Egypt. They will stay at the mountain until the end of the second year. At this point, God gives the Israelites 10 laws to follow – but these were not the only laws. He will also give laws about the pattern of the tabernacle, taxes, health, treatment of wives and children, hygiene, etc. So these laws are the national laws the Israelites were to follow but they weren't the only thing

they had to obey. Just like Jesus gave commandments in the New Testament in what we call the “Beatitudes” they are not the only commands. Jesus gives others as well. So, the Ten Commandments are an introduction.

Richard Rogers states from *Bible History 1*:

Now that the people recognize that it is God who will supply them with all of their needs and Moses has a system of delegation in place, the people are ready to hear the law of God...We will see great spiritual lessons that are there even for us today. These laws are not given for us to follow, but the God who gave these laws is still to be followed, and He states here the principles that will enable us to know the attitude in which He would have us serve Him today under the new covenant in the New Testament.

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 20. Ask for a volunteer to read from **Exodus 20:1-11** or read yourself. After you have finished the reading, say:

These first four commandments are focused on God and how the Israelites were to worship and serve Him. We will look at these four over the next few weeks. The remaining six of the ten focus on how to treat others and we will look at them in the coming months. Remembering we will also go to the New Testament to see what Jesus says we need to follow today.

Let’s read again Exodus 20:1-3. (Have students read) **In your own words tell me what you think this law means?** You should only worship God. Not any other religion, person, or thing. Only God and as we know in the New Testament Jesus Christ, God’s son.

Let’s turn now to the New Testament to 1 Corinthians 8:6 and read it aloud so we can see what Paul the apostle says about God and other gods.

1 Corinthians 8:6

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

What is Paul saying here? There is only one God (the Father) and one Lord (Jesus Christ) whom we serve and through whom we live.

Luke 4:8

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 6:13 here and saying that this still applies – we should worship our Lord and God and serve Him only.

So according to the New and Old Testament – whom should we follow, worship and serve? God the Father and Jesus Christ.

There is another great verse that Jesus states about God and our need to worship Him, but we are going to save that for another day...

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

3) Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster Activity

15-20 minutes

Hand out one page to each child along with markers or pencil crayons. Explain to them that, **“Each week we are going to study a commandment that God gave the Israelites. These were not the only commandments they were to follow, but they were the main ten principles that would guide them on to how to behave and act and what attitude they were to have towards God and others. It helps us today as well understand how God wants us to act, behave and the attitude we should have towards Him!**

Today we are going to fill in the first commandment. Go to Exodus 20:3 and read it.

Either write the words and/or draw a picture to show how you should have no other gods before God! And to worship Him and Jesus only.

*If students have questions about Jesus and His role, you can show them two verses:

John 1:1-3 and 14. This shows that Jesus was in the beginning and was with God and is God. And also **Hebrews 1:1-3** again to show that Jesus is God and has the power and authority from God.

Help students come up with ideas on how to represent the importance of having no other “god” in their life beside God their Father and Jesus their Lord. Go around the room helping students and making sure they only do the first box – the first commandment. They will do the others in the coming weeks. Make sure you gather the posters so that they are available for next time.

4) 10 Commandments Memory Song

5 minutes

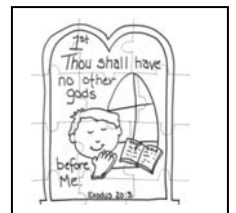
Hand out one set of song lyrics per student. Practice the song. You can sing one phrase and have them repeat. Ex: No other gods....(they repeat) No other gods.... Keep going until they have a familiarity with the song. Keep a set of song lyrics to practice in class and give a song to each student to take home to practice. The goal will be to know the song completely by the end of the quarter.

5) The First Commandment Puzzle

10-15 minutes

Have students color and cut out a puzzle for themselves, help them try to put it back together afterwards, discuss again while they color the importance of serving and worshipping God only and possibly re-read the verses you studied at the beginning of class from the New Testament while they work to reinforce the idea.

*The goal of this quarter will be for the students to memorize Exodus 20 – the Ten Commandments and Jesus quote in Matthew 22:37-40 of the two greatest commandments today, which help us follow all the other commandments in the Bible. Help them start this week by reciting the first commandments and the verse Exodus 20:3.



6) Optional – Snack: One piece of fruit

5 minutes

Hand out one piece of fruit to each child along with a glass of water to each child. *Ensure no child has an allergy beforehand. State that each week as we go through the Ten Commandments we are going to have a snack with the number matching the number we are studying. So this week we will have one cookie to represent the first commandment:

Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other god before me.

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

7) Close in prayer