

5. You help a new boy or girl at school make friends.
(*cross*)

SAY • In today's Bible story, **God punished His people for worshipping a golden calf.** A golden calf may seem silly to you, but we too worship false gods sometimes. When we put ourselves first, we put ourselves in the place of God. When playing video games or making good grades is more important to us than God, those things become false gods.

Anything we love and honor more than God is an idol. Even though we may not bow down to these things or sing songs to them, God knows our hearts. Because we sin, we deserve to be punished. But Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands for us before God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute pencils and journal pages.

SAY • Everyone sins against God, and He would be right to punish us. The Bible says we deserve to die for our sin, but God loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Mediator. The Father punished His Son in our place. Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus to be our Mediator.

Lead kids in a short prayer. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, and praise Him for forgiving our sin. Invite kids to write in their journal pages about how this good news makes them feel.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Closer Look" on the activity page to find the main point: **God punished His people for worshipping a golden calf.**

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "A Closer Look" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

The Ten Commandments: Love God

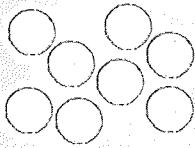
BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

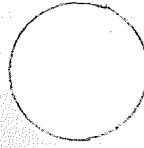
KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

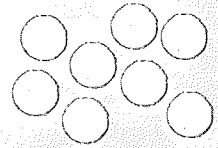
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 74



LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 76



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 82



Leader BIBLE STUDY

God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. He then led them into the desert toward Mount Sinai. The Israelites camped at the base of the mountain while Moses went up the mountain to talk to God. God gave Moses the laws the Israelites were to obey. God renewed the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with the whole nation of Israel. They were His people, and He was their God. (Ex. 19:5-6)

God wanted perfect obedience from His people. His laws covered every part of their lives, and the laws were summed up in the Ten Commandments. God did not give laws just for the sake of having laws. His laws had a purpose; they

revealed to the people what life will be like when Christ establishes His kingdom. They showed how righteous people live and interact with God and with others.

The Ten Commandments can be grouped into two categories: The first four laws deal with a person's relationship with God and the last six laws deal with a person's relationship with others.

Just 10. It would be easy enough to keep just 10 rules, right? The Israelites proved they could not keep a single one of God's laws. Their hearts were full of sin. Moses mediated for the Israelites, asking God to forgive the people's sin. Moses was a good mediator, but he wasn't perfect. The Israelites needed someone who could keep the laws perfectly for them, mediate between them and God, and satisfy God's wrath against them. They needed Jesus. (See 1 Tim. 2:5.)

The kids you teach this week have sinful hearts. They cannot obey God perfectly, and they need a Savior. Point kids to Jesus and help them understand that God is pleased with us because He looks at Jesus, who never sinned. Because of Christ, we can have a right relationship with God.

5



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

The Ten Commandments: Love God

Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

Three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came into the Wilderness of Sinai (SIGH nigh). They camped in front of the mountain. God had a plan to make the Israelites His special people. God wanted to make a covenant, or agreement, with the people of Israel.

Moses went up the mountain. God called to him, saying, “This is what you should tell the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I rescued you and brought you to Me. If you listen carefully to Me and you keep My covenant, you will be My people.’ ”

Moses went back to the people and told them what God had said. All the people agreed. They responded together, “We will do all that the Lord has spoken.” So Moses went back to the Lord.

The Lord said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud. I want the people to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you.”

Moses told the people what God said, and he got the people ready for the Lord to come down on the mountain. God told Moses to put boundaries around the mountain so no one would get too close.

On the morning of the third day, thunder rumbled and lightning lit up the sky. A thick cloud came down on the mountain, and a loud trumpet sounded. Everyone in the camp shuddered. Then **Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.**

God came down on Mount Sinai in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. The mountain shook, and the

sound of the trumpet got louder and louder. God told the people not to come up the mountain.

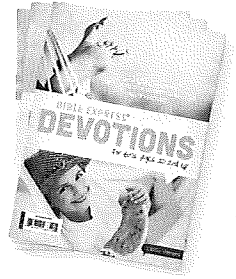
“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. I freed you from slavery,” He said.

Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

These are the first four commandments. These commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with God: “Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

When God finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two stone tablets that He had written on with His own finger.

Christ Connection: God is holy and separate from sin. His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is perfectly righteous. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God’s family.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Moses gave the Israelites all of God’s rules. (Ex. 19:7) The Ten Commandments show us how God wants us to live. God is holy, and He never changes. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: The Ten Commandments: Love God

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God’s plan? God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask for volunteers to share their family’s rules.

SAY • Which rules are the most challenging for you to obey? Why?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Exodus 20 Picture Puzzle” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Exodus 20 Picture Puzzle” on the activity page. Inform kids that each picture represents a word or phrase. Challenge kids to decipher the picture puzzle. Guide kids to refer to Exodus 20:1-21 to confirm the answer. (*Ten Commandments*)

SAY • In today’s Bible story, God renewed with the Israelites the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites were His people, and He was their God. [*See Ex. 19:5-6.*]

God wanted perfect obedience in response to rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. His laws were summed up in the Ten Commandments. Later today, we’ll learn more about God’s laws and their purpose.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Whom do you love?

Arrange chairs in a circle, one chair per child. Invite kids to sit in the chairs. Choose a volunteer to stand in the middle of the circle, and remove her chair. Direct the volunteer to say, "My name is [*her name*] and I love [*a common characteristic*]." (Examples: green eyes, glasses, and so on)

Kids with the characteristic will race to exchange seats with other kids who share that characteristic as well as the volunteer standing in the middle of the circle. The child without a seat moves to the middle to play again.

SAY • Today, we will learn more about God's laws and how they help us love God.

OPTION 2: Target practice

Before the session, create a target (graduated circles) on the floor with masking tape. Challenge kids to stand at a distance and toss beanbags at the target.

SAY • Did anyone hit the bull's-eye every time? No. No one is perfect, right? In today's Bible story, God gave His people rules to show that He is *holy*. That means He is perfect and we are not.

But just like no one can hit the target every time, people cannot obey God's rules all the time because we are sinners. Our sin separates us from God. We need Jesus because He is perfect. Jesus never sinned. He obeyed God perfectly. When we trust in Jesus, He brings us back to God.



• chairs

• masking tape
• beanbags

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: The Ten Commandments: Love God

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God’s plan? God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- stones
- permanent marker
- plastic container of sand
- index cards
- “Great Race Clue Card” printable
- Bible
- map of Egypt

Before the session, fill a large, plastic storage container with sand. Use a permanent marker to write the letters “*GOD IS HOLY*” on separate stones. Bury the stones in the sand.

[Large Group Leader enters wearing athletic attire with a solid color T-shirt, holding a Great Race clue card and the Bible. A map of Egypt is secured to the wall. Carry the prepared plastic container with sand and lettered stones.]

LEADER • Hi, everyone! I’m [*your name*] and I am excited you’re here today! Are you curious to know why? [*Dramatic pause.*] Today is the final challenge of The Great Race! Let’s read this clue card to find out more. [*Open the clue card.*]

Final Challenge: Desert Dig. Find the buried stones to unearth a secret message.

Oh, wow! I’m really nervous! Will you help me complete this final challenge? You will? That’s great! Ask volunteers to sift through the sand to find the buried

stones. Challenge volunteers to unscramble the stones to spell out the message *God is holy*.

LEADER • Awesome job! Thank you! You all helped me so much. In today's Bible story, we will see that **God gave us rules to show He is holy and we are sinners.** I'm on the way to Canaan (KAY nuhn), the promised Great Race finish line!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • Let's see where we are on our giant timeline.

Our timeline shows us right about ... here!
[Point to today's Bible story.] This says "The Ten Commandments: Love God." In today's Bible story, God renewed with the Israelites the covenant, or promise, He had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

[Point to the previous units, "God the Covenant-Maker" and "God the Covenant-Keeper."] Do you remember what God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? (**God made a covenant to bless His people.**)

Listen closely to the Bible story to find out what God did after renewing the covenant to bless His people, the Israelites.

• Giant Timeline

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Our big picture question is, *What is God's plan?*

God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

And He has! In today's Bible story, God gave the Israelites a new way to worship Him after He rescued them from slavery: by living in obedience to the rules that He gave them. Let's listen to our Bible story to learn more.

never sinned. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's household. If any kids have memorized the key passage, allow them to recite it from memory. Lead the group in singing "Confidence of Our Hope."

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

• "Unit 4, Session 5"
discussion starter
video

LEADER • Because God is holy, our sin separates us from Him. God cannot be around sin. Think about that as you watch this video.

Show the "Unit 4, Session 5" discussion starter video.

LEADER • Did Nigel's lunch get better or worse when he mixed the yucky food with the yummy food?

Discuss whether doing good things can make up for the bad things we do. Point out that sin separates us from God, no matter how good we try to be. Only Jesus can take away our sin and bring us back to God.

Sing (4 minutes)

• "Freedom" song

LEADER • Only Jesus sets us free from sin. Let's sing! Sing together "Freedom."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Lord God, thank You for Your plan to rescue Your people from captivity. You are holy and we are sinners. We know that our sin separates us from You. Thank You for sending Jesus, who is perfectly righteous, to take away our sin. We love you. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.