

Exodus 19

The Israelites had been traveling through the wilderness for many, long days and nights. Finally the puffy white cloud that they were following, stopped near a tall, rugged, mountain called Mount Sinai.

My, everyone was happy to stop and rest! The older girls helped their mothers put up their tents or make shelters from wood and leaves, while the older boys helped their fathers make simple pens to hold the sheep and cattle. Little boys ran to fetch wood for the fires and little girls unpacked jars and ran to a nearby stream for water to put in the big pots for supper that night.

Have you ever gone camping with your parents and slept in a tent? Have you ever seen them cook over a campfire? Maybe you've roasted marshmallows over a fire or cooked hot dogs at a campfire? That is fun, isn't it? The children of Israel were very happy to stop and rest and camp out by this big mountain called Mount Sinai.



Lesson # 33

2.

God had chosen Mount Sinai as a special place to meet with Moses and tell him some very important things. In the past God sometimes sent angels to give certain people important messages. Now an angel of God told Moses to climb up to the top of the mountain, for God had something very important to say. The people were to stay below and not touch the mountain or even come near it, or they might be hurt. Only Moses would be safe to climb this mountain.

The people were glad to stay away from the mountain, for it was scary looking. On top of the mountain were dark clouds with flashes of lightning and loud thunder claps. Flashes of fire were also seen as the clouds moved around the top of the mountain and the earth shook near the mountain. Then there was the sound of a loud, shrill noise like a trumpet as well. That would really be scary, wouldn't it? Do you think Moses might have been frightened to climb up this mountain and go into the clouds?

He may have been scared, but Moses had faith that God wouldn't ask him to come up if it wasn't safe. He knew God would take care of him.



When Moses got to the top of the mountain he heard a voice that told him, "Moses, I am going to give you rules and commandments for my people to follow. You are to take these commandments down to the people and tell them they are to obey the rules and keep them, for if they follow these commandments I will love them and care for them. These are very good rules for them to follow. Then suddenly two big slabs of rock were broken off the mountain and the finger of God wrote ten commandments on the stone tablets.

Moses stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights talking with the angel of God. This was such a special time for Moses that he didn't take have time to eat or drink anything. God told Moses many more things besides the 10 commandments and Moses had much to think about and to learn while he was there.

On the next pages are the 10 commandments and what they meant to the children of Israel and what they mean to us. These are very good rules for each of us to follow!



1. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

At that time many people built statues of animals or figures and said they were the god of the river or god of fire or frogs. There is only ONE God, though, and we are to only pray to the *real* God. In our days we might have things we love more than God. Grown ups might love money or a new house or an important job more than they love God. Kids might love a TV program, a new bike, or special toy and they might rather stay home to watch TV or play with a toy and won't bother to pray to God or try and obey God's rules. God didn't want this to happen, so he made this the first commandment.

2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE ANY IMAGES OF ANIMALS OR PEOPLE

Why do you think God gave this rule? Because lots of people DID make gold and silver statues of cows or pigs or kings and worshipped them, saying these images were god. Soon people were doing wrong and evil things when they worshipped the images.



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3. YOU SHALL NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

God's name is very special and to use it in vain, means to call on God for no reason. People sometimes use God's name when they are really mad, or they make fun of God's name. This isn't right, God wants us to call on him when we pray not when mad.

4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY (set apart, special)

The Sabbath was a special day set aside to worship God. It's a time to pray and to sing happy songs and read God's word. We keep Sunday as a special day for God, don't we?

5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

God wants us to give special attention to our moms and dads. They take care of us and keep us in warm homes with plenty of food to eat and clothes to wear. We should obey them and love them. Do you love your mother and father and obey them?



6. YOU SHALL NOT KILL

God gave people and animals his breath so they can live. It isn't right for us to take away life, we are to love other people and care for animals.

7. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

God created man and woman so they could marry and have children. If a husband or wife sneak around or live with some other person, this is committing adultery and is wrong.

8. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

God gives us all that we need in life. It isn't right to steal anything from others is it?

9. YOU SHALL NOT TELL LIES (especially lies that hurt others)

Lies always get us in trouble. Telling a lie is wrong and hurts others as well as hurts us.

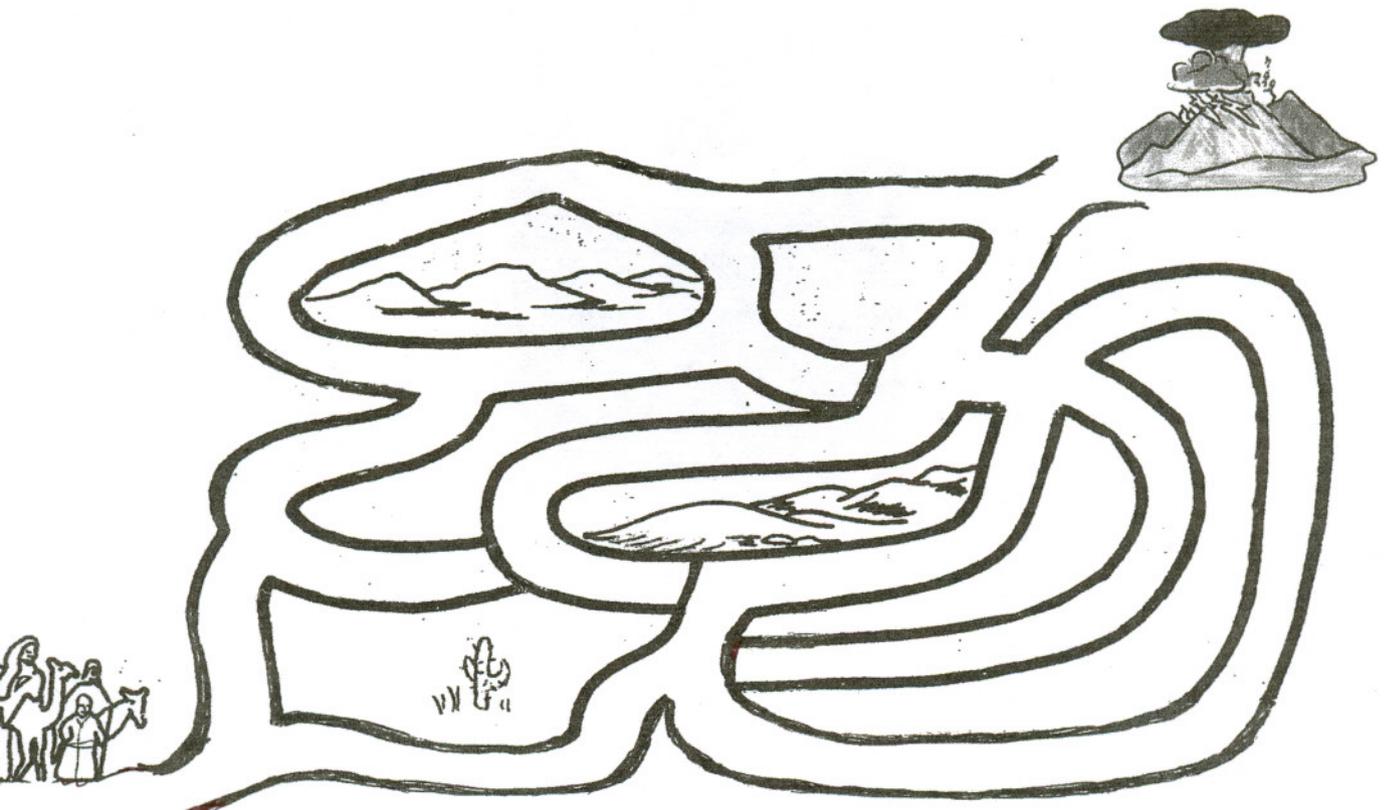
10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET (want things that belong to others)

God gives us what he wants us to have. To "covet" means to want something that belongs to someone else. Want it so badly that it makes us feel sad or angry and makes us want to take it from the friend, this is coveting. We should be thankful for what God gives us.

1. What was the name of the mountain where the children of Israel camped?
2. Who went up on the mountain?
3. Why couldn't the other people climb the mountain also?
4. What were the 10 commandments written on? a paper? sand? tables of stone?
5. What did God use to write the 10 commandments - a pencil? a pen? his finger?
6. How can we take God's name in vain?
7. How many statues does God want us to worship and pray to?
8. Who is the only one who made everything in the world?
9. How do you treat your mother and father? Do you obey them and love them?
10. Is it right to tell lies and take things from other people?
11. Is it right to want something someone else owns, like a toy, a bike, a video game or should we be happy with what God gives us?
12. How do we know what we are supposed to do? (Do the 10 commandments tell us?)

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Help the children of Israel find the way to the bottom of Mt. Sinai by drawing a line along the right path. Then draw some tents below the mountain and draw Moses climbing the mountain and color the picture.

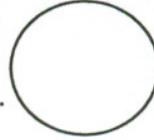


The 10 Commandments tell us things we should do to live a good and happy life. Below are some things that make us feel good when we do them  and some we do to make us feel bad.  Have mom or dad read the sentence, then draw a happy or sad face to show how you feel.

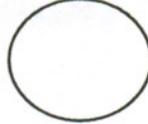
1. I HIT A FRIEND.....



2. I SHARED A COOKIE WITH SISTER.....



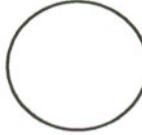
3. I YELLED AT MOM



4. I TOLD A LIE TO DAD



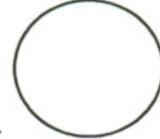
5. I FED THE DOG



6. I THANKED GOD



7. I PICKED UP MY TOYS



The Israelite children helped their parents when they set up camp. They took care of the animals, helped with the cooking, setting up tents and gathering wood for the camp fires. You can help mom and dad at home also. Below are some tools that you might use to help mom and dad. Draw a line from the correct tool to the chore



One way to help mom around the holidays is to decorate cookies. Below are some cookie shapes that look pretty bare. Can you draw and color some pretty decorations for them?

