

Lesson 4

God Gives Us the Ten Commandments

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Exodus 20:1-17

MEMORY VERSE: “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You.”
I Chronicles 17:20a

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might.” Jeremiah 10:6

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments: I am the Lord thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- know there is no god like the Lord our God.
- believe God gave us the Ten Commandments because He loves us.
- understand God’s people are His treasured possession.

MATERIALS: Bible, Catechism, lessons, activity sheets picture of Moses with stone tablets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson is vivid and visual. As you teach, you can help the students imagine seeing, hearing, and feeling what the people experienced as God Himself descended to the mountain. There was fire, smoke and a loud trumpet blast. The people trembled, even the mountain trembled. God had come to give His Law. His people were to be respectful and reverent as they waited at the foot of Mount Sinai. Only Moses and Aaron went up the mountain.

Exodus 20:1-17 records God’s words – words we call the Ten Commandments. God gave them these commandments so they would know how to live as His “treasured possession”. As the people lived in obedience to God’s commandments, they would be an example to the nations around them. Their lives would be a testimony to the greatness of the Lord God.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What did God do at Mt Sinai.? How did the people react? What did God call Moses to do? Who wrote the Ten Commandments? Why did God give the people the Ten Commandments? 4) Do you know why we need the Ten Commandments?

ACTIVITY 1: Sentence completion from information in the lesson. This might be time consuming as there is no word box for the children to choose from.

ACTIVITY 2: Catechism Maze, follow the path and then fill the letters into the lines below.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read Exodus 19 and 20 Pray that each child will gain insight about God who loves us and gave us/His people the Ten Commandments as a gift.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for God's guidance as you study the lesson.
- Pray that the students will understand that the commandments were given so we might live to bring glory to God.

Bible Background

Exodus 19 and 20 - God Gives the Ten Commandments

The people of Israel had already experienced God's mercies (sparing or rescuing from greater harm). The plagues on Egypt usually included Israel, but the land of Goshen and Israel were specifically spared from some of the plagues (flies, 8:22; pestilence, 9:4; hail, 9:26, and darkness, 10:23). During the last plague, God would "strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt" (12:12). But God promised that the blood of the Passover lamb would be a sign on the houses, "and when I see the blood I will Passover you, and no plague shall befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt" (12:13). God's grace (giving what isn't deserve) preserved life to those under the blood—including the Egyptians (12:29). These people, as we would say today, were delivered by grace alone through faith alone in God's Word alone. From the Red Sea to Sinai God also graciously supplied them with water (15:27), bread and meat (16:12).

Exodus 19 emphasizes the sanctity of the nation as a holy people of God. Washing their garments marked a new beginning, from dirty to clean (19:10). Staying away from the mountain was a matter of life or death, for they needed to know that they were on "holy ground" in the presence of God (19:12,13). The storm was a sign of the awesome power of God and the people trembled (19:16). This God was to be feared above all gods.

But the people needed something more. How were they to now live a life of holiness in all their thoughts, words and deeds? For that they needed the Law, a moral compass or structure which would show them how to live; it would reveal their sin and keep them a humble and repentant people.

Freedom without moral order leads to anarchy, and moral authority must come from a moral "Law Giver" outside ourselves. The Law (Ten Commandments) defines how the people were live as a holy nation under God. It caused the nations around them to see how God protected and cared for His people. The Law would demonstrate to the other nations how the people loved and cared for one another. The people would be a light to the nations around them to point to the truth that there is no other God like the God of the Israelites'

When asked about the great commandment in the Law (Matt 22:37-40), Jesus said, "'You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

The foundation for this moral law, and of first importance, was to honor the Law Giver and have no other gods or idols before Him (Ex 20:3). In the same way they must respect and honor God's name

(I AM) and not profane it (20:7). And they were to keep the Sabbath day holy as a time to receive God's word as holy and "gladly hear and learn it."

Learning to love God they would then love their neighbor, and this began by honoring their parents as God's representatives in the home (20:12). They were to respect life as sacred and not murder or sacrifice human life to false gods (20:13). Marriage was to be sacred bond between a man and woman (20:14). There was to be no stealing, lying or coveting (20:15-17).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

commandments: laws or rules that help people know how to act

tablets: flat slabs of stone for writing on; God wrote the Ten Commandments on two pieces of stone.

treasured: Someone or something greatly loved and valued

possession: something that belongs to you

protected: watched over, kept safe

serve: live or act for the good of another

nations: countries, large groups of people who live together

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Post the visual aids of Moses with the Ten Commandments and the Stone Tablets written by God. Greet the children warmly as they arrive.

Take time to pray as you begin. Thank God for your Sunday school class. Thank Him for giving us the Bible to teach us about Jesus. Thank Him for each student, mentioning them by name. Pray that God would prepare our hearts to hear His Word.

SHARING: Allow the children to share something personal, maybe could be topical or a rule they have at home.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

““O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You. *I Chronicles 17:20a*”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Possible questions might be: What happened to God's people in Egypt? Who did God send? What did God do? What happened at the Red Sea?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

The Israelites have been walking and camping in the desert for about three months. God had been leading them, providing manna to feed them, water as they needed and they have arrived at Mt Sinai. This is the same mountain where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. Something big is about to happen.

Read the Lesson

Help the students visualize this event. The number of people that left Egypt was 622,000 men plus their families and all their animals. God said He was coming to the people in a thick cloud. God also set limits for how close the people could come to the mountain. Read the first paragraph of the lesson. God displayed His power in a mighty way, thunder, lightning, a thick cloud and a loud trumpet. God spoke to Moses and called him and Aaron to come up the mountain. Read the second paragraph. The people waited below while Moses was on the mountain for 40 days and nights. **What did God do while Moses was with him on the mountain?** We still have these 10 Commandments today and they are still important for us just like they were for the Israelites. *Stress what God did, creating stone tablets and writing on them Himself.*

Before Moses went up the mountain the people promised they would follow and obey God's commandments. Note Exodus 19:8 and again in Exodus 24:7. Help the students find Exodus 20 and read the first 17 verses. These were the Commandments God wrote for Moses to bring to the people.

Move on to the third paragraph. God loved His people. They were like a treasure to Him. Discuss the idea of treasured possession The Ten Commandments were a wonderful gift to

the people to help them know what was right and wrong. The people promised they would follow and obey God's commandments.

The Ten Commandments would help the people know how to serve the LORD and how to treat each other.

Read Paragraph four. Other nations would see how God loved and took care of His people. When other nations saw all these things, they would say, "How great is the Lord their God! There is no god like their God." So the purpose of the Ten Commandments was not only for the people to live holy lives that would honor God but also an outward example to the nations around them, that there is no other God. Have the children underline the memory verse below. By their lives the people would be a light to other nations.

God's people because they were born sinful could not keep these Commandments perfectly even though they had promised to do so. God gave instructions for sacrifices for sin so they could be forgiven.

We are born sinful but because Jesus died for our sins our sins we can be forgiven as we confess our sins to Him. We become His treasured possession.

Catechism review

The Catechism section in this lesson is found on Page 3 of the AFLC Luther's Small Catechism Draw the students' attention to Exodus 20:1-2. Note the Bible words in relation to the Catechism section. If time permits read through the Ten Commandments as found on pages 3-6 in the Catechism.

Repeat the Memory Verse

Remember the memory verse helps appendix. The second student activity might be used to teach the memory verse.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What Do You Remember?

Activity 1

Sentence completion from information in the lesson. This might be time consuming as there is no word box for the children to choose from.

Activity 1

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

Look back in the Bible lesson if you need help spelling the answers.

1. God delivered His people out of Egypt.

2. Moses and the people camped near Mount Sinai.

3. The Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain.

4. Moses went up the mountain to meet with God.

5. Moses was on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights.

6. God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger on two tablets of stone.

7. The people promised they would follow and obey God's commandments.

8. Other nations would see how God's people lived good and holy lives.

9. God's people are His treasured possession.

10. There is no god like the LORD our God!

When we believe Jesus is our Savior, we are God's people. We are God's treasured possession. As we obey God's commandments, others will see how we honor the one true God by what we say and by what we do.

God's Message

Activity 2

Catechism Maze, follow the path and then fill the letters into the lines below.

Activity 2

GOD'S MESSAGE

Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. Follow the path to the top of the mountain to find out what God said to Moses.

After you reach the top of the mountain, write the letters in the spaces below to form words. Where have you seen these words before?

I AM THE LORD
THY GOD.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: