

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

LESSON #12

DATE: December 1, 2019

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: The Ten Commandments (1 of 2)

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-11

AIM: To see that the laws God made show us what kind of person He is and what kind of people He wants us to be—like Him. We can please Him by obeying His commandments.

MEMORY VERSES: Exodus 20:2a (I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,...); Exodus 20:3 (You shall have no other gods before Me.); Exodus 14:15 (If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.); Exodus 19:5 (Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 49 (This is Lord's Day); 192 (We are different); 8208 (You shall love the Lord your God); 146 (I want the Lord to have the first place in my heart); 7 (I am a very special child); 3400 (I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N); 152 (What can I give Jesus?); 8315 *BSS Moses Vol. 2 #15* (Moses climbed the mountain high); 6711 (The Great Command); 8326 *BSS Moses Vol. 2 #26* (On Wings of Eagles)

CRAFT IDEA: Cut the shape of a mountain out of construction paper. At the top of the mountain paste cotton ball clouds and paper lightning bolts. Put two tablets indicating the Ten Commandments.

BACKGROUND: In the prior lesson, we learned how God provided all that the children of Israel needed for their journey to the promised land by providing manna from heaven and water from the smitten rock. But God did not want to merely provide for them. God wanted His people to know Him, to know His character, and to know His personality and heart. By looking at the Ten Commandments, we can see what kind of God we have, what He likes and what He hates, what He approves of and what He disapproves of.

CONTENT: In the third month after the children of Israel had come out of Egypt, they settled in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. Jehovah called Moses out of the mountain and told him to remind the children of Israel of how He cared for them by delivering them from their burdens and bondage in Egypt. "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples,..." God considered His people a personal treasure, something so precious to Him. He also considered them a holy nation, different from other nations.

Moses told the people all the words which Jehovah had commanded him. And all the people answered and promised to obey God's law. Jehovah told Moses that He would come and speak to him in the presence of the children of Israel. Jehovah told Moses to tell the children of Israel to prepare and be ready for the third day when Jehovah will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. So Moses went down from the mountain and told the people all that Jehovah had instructed him and they obeyed. On the third day, when it was morning, there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud trumpet sound; and all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the base of the mountain.

The whole of Mount Sinai smoked because Jehovah descended upon it in fire, and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace; and the whole mountain shook greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him. Jehovah called Moses to the top of the mountain

while the people were instructed to stay below. It was on this mountain that God spoke and gave Moses His laws. This is what we call the Ten Commandments. We will start with the first four today, and then cover the remaining commandments in the next lesson:

1. **I am Jehovah your God...you shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:2a, 3).** The first commandment tells us there is only one true God.
2. **You shall not make for yourself an idol (Exodus 20:4a).** The second commandment tells us that we should not make or worship idols because our God is a jealous God. Anything that takes the place of God in our heart is an idol. We must utterly reject such things.
3. **You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain (Exodus 20:7a).** The third commandment tells us not to take the Lord's name in vain, that is, not to say His name in a disrespectful way or in a cursing way. Instead, we should love His name, praise His name, openly confess His name, and give glory and honor to His name.
4. **Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it (Exodus 20:8).** The fourth commandment tells us to remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it. God created heaven and earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. Therefore He wants man to rest on this day to sanctify it (to keep it holy and separated for God). In the Old Testament age, God's people kept the Sabbath on Saturday. But in the New Testament age (after the coming of the Lord Jesus as a man), God's people should no longer keep the Sabbath day in an outward way. The Lord Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and is the only One who gives us real rest. (Matthew 12:8 "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.")

The first four commandments speak of our relationship with God. By giving His people the law, God has shown us what kind of person He is and what kind of people He wants us to be. He wants us to be like Him and to express Him. God also wants us to serve and to love Him, to be His special people.

Note to Serving Ones: For additional Lesson Resources for applications and Scripture references, please read the Ten Commandment series of lessons.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, *The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel*, Lessons 3 and 5, and from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 7/17/88; 7/24/88; 7/31/88; 8/7/88; 8/14/88; 8/21/88; 11/19/95; 11/23/03,11/29/09; 11/30/14