

General Church Education



The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19:25; 20:1-17

Lesson 9

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 19:25; EXODUS 20:1-17

In the last lesson, we read about the covenant between the Lord and Noah. The Ten Commandments tell more about the nature of this covenant. The rules of life contained in the Ten Commandments were not new to civilization at the time of Moses. Murders, thefts, adulteries and other hurtful actions were punished by law in many nations. The Lord gave the commandments in a dramatic way to emphasize that they were not just man-made laws but divine laws as well.

The Ten Commandments are recorded in the Word for all people in all times. The Book of Exodus tells how these commandments were given and how the Children of Israel were to build a tabernacle to shelter them. (More details about this story are covered in both the Introductory Level and Level Three of the *Jacob's Ladder* lessons.) Our lesson for today focuses on the meaning of the commandments themselves.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Ten Commandments are God's laws and are to be obeyed.
- When we encourage children to honor their natural parents, we are fostering habits that will help them to honor the Lord as their Heavenly Father.

FROM THE WRITINGS

What nation in the wide world is not aware that it is evil to steal, to commit adultery, to kill, and to bear false witness? The Ten Commandments were given with so great a miracle so that men may know that these laws are not only civil and moral laws, but are also spiritual laws; and that to act contrary to them is not only to do evil to a fellow-citizen and to the community, but is also to sin against God. They are to be done for God's sake, and for the sake of the man's salvation. See *Doctrine of Life* 53

The Ten Commandments were in a brief summary a complex of all those things of religion by means of which there is conjunction of the Lord with man and of man with the Lord, they were so holy that nothing is more so. *Doctrine of Life* 54

Because by means of this Law [the Ten Commandments] there is a conjunction of the Lord with man and of man with the Lord, it is called the "Covenant," and the "Testimony," (Exodus 34:27-29). For this reason there were two tables, one for the Lord and the other for man. The conjunction is effected by the Lord, but only when the man does the things that have been written in his table. *Doctrine of Life* 57

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord gave Ten Commandments in His Word.

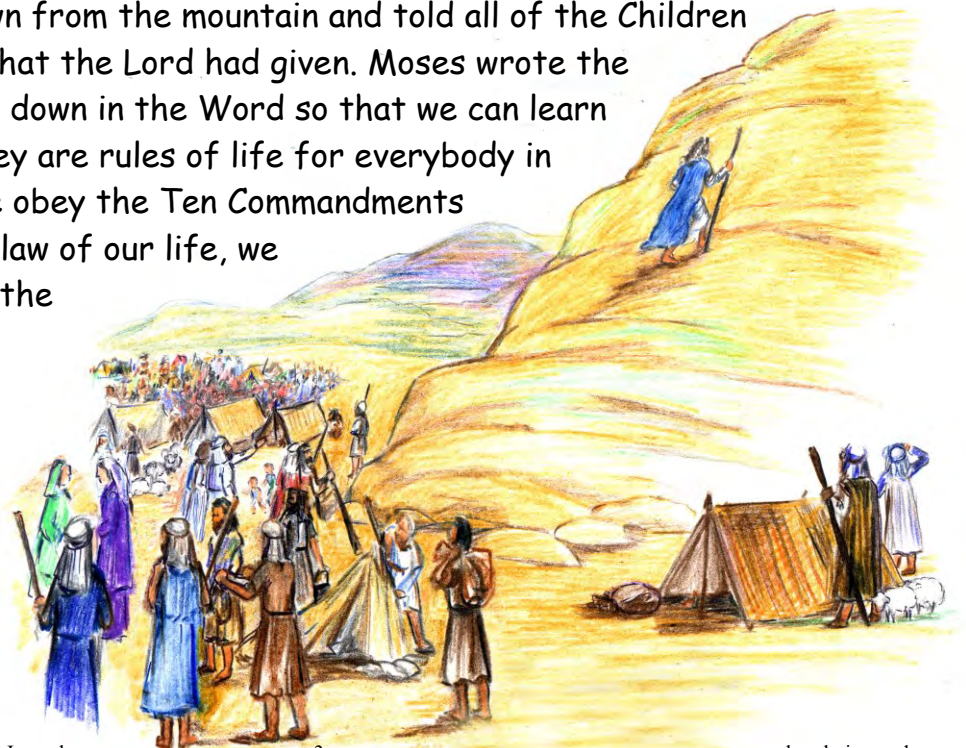
People who obey these commandments are happy and bring happiness to others.

Our story for today takes place many years after the time of Noah. The Lord had promised that Abraham and his family, the Hebrews, would inherit the land of Canaan. A famine drove Abraham's descendants into the land of Egypt to get food. They stayed as slaves there for many years until the Lord called Moses to be a leader and bring them up from Egypt back to the land that the Lord had promised would be their "inheritance."

The Lord spoke to Moses many times while the Hebrew nation, or the Children of Israel, made the long trip from Egypt to Canaan. While they were on this trip, the Lord called Moses to come up to the top of Mount Sinai to meet with Him.

Moses went to the top of the mountain and the Lord gave him the Ten Commandments. These were important laws that told people how to live a good life. He gave these laws out of love, because He wanted everyone to clearly understand how to live the life that leads to happiness and to heaven.

Moses went down from the mountain and told all of the Children of Israel the laws that the Lord had given. Moses wrote the Ten Commandments down in the Word so that we can learn about them too. They are rules of life for everybody in every age. When we obey the Ten Commandments and make them the law of our life, we bring the Lord into the center of our life, just as the Lord planted the Tree of Life in the center of the Garden of Eden.



Read Exodus 19:25 and 20:1-17.

We now are going to talk about the meaning of the first four Commandments. We read, "And God spoke all these words, saying, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.' "



When the Lord gave the Commandments, He made sure that people knew that He was the Lord God who brought them safely out of the house of bondage, or slavery in Egypt. Moses wrote exactly what the Lord told him in the Word, so that we also are able to know that it was the One and only God who gave the Commandments.

- The first commandment says, "You shall have no other gods before me." It is important to know that there is only one God. In an earlier lesson, we found that the Lord has many different names. Each name tells us something special about the Lord. Sometimes the Children of Israel forgot that the Lord is the One God who loves all people everywhere. They worshipped idols instead of the Lord. We must not worship other gods, only the Lord God Jesus Christ.
- The second commandment says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." We should only use the Lord's names in a nice way. We should not say the Lord's names in anger or in jokes.
- The third commandment says, "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy." It is important to set aside regular time to think about the Lord and to worship Him. Sunday is the Sabbath for our Church.
- The fourth commandment says, "Honor your father and your mother." We honor our parents when we show them that we love them, show them respect and when we obey them. There is another way of honoring our father and mother. The Lord is our Heavenly Father. We honor Him when we show Him that we love Him and when we obey Him. Sometimes the Lord's Church is called our Mother. We honor her when we go to church and when we try to do what we learn in church.

DISCUSSION

- The commandments begin with the Lord saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt." Why do you think that the Lord wanted to be sure we know who was speaking the Commandments? (*Answers may include: It is important to know that when we obey the Ten Commandments we are obeying the Lord Himself, because He wants to help us to live a good life, etc.*)



- Some of the Ten Commandments tell us how we should show our love to the Lord and how we should treat Him. Other commandments tell about how we should show our love to the neighbor, or the people around us. Read the commandments again and listen for clues to see if you can tell which ones are mostly about the Lord and which are mostly about the neighbor.
- Can you tell which commandment is about both the Lord and people around us? (Hint - we have two kinds of parents.) (*The fourth commandment.*)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:1-7 (parts)

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Songs

- Moses went to Sinai's Peak
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-went-to-sinai-s-peak/>
- The Fourth Commandment (Love Thy Father)
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-fourth-commandment/>

Videos

- Moses went to Sinai's Peak (song)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-moses-went-to-sinai-s-peak/>
- The Ten Commandments (song)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-ten-commandments-song/>
- The Ten Commandments in Hebrew
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-ten-commandments-in-hebrew/>

Projects

- The Two Tablets
- Pictures to color: Moses Receives the 10 Commandments, and The Lord's Name in Hebrew

The Two Tablets

Make two tablets from a hardening modeling compound to represent the tables the Ten Commandments were written on. If desired, press "Yehowah" and "Your Neighbor" on to the tablets in Hebrew.



Directions

Make two tablets about 2"x4" (5cm x 10cm) from a modeling compound such as salt ceramic or *Sculpey*. (Salt ceramic hardens as it dries. *Sculpey* hardens when baked.) If desired, glue to a cardboard background and write the title "The Ten Commandments" below them.

You may choose to make larger tablets and write (or press) the Hebrew letters for "Yehowah" on the 1st tablet and the Hebrew for "Your Neighbor" [ray'eh-ka] on the 2nd tablet to represent the fact that the commandments on the first table are about the Lord, and the commandments on the second table are about the neighbor.

Recipe for Salt Ceramic

- 1 cup table salt
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cornstarch
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cold water
1. Mix the table salt and cornstarch together in a saucepan, preferable one that can be used as the top pan of a double boiler.
 2. Add water and blend thoroughly.
 3. Heat the mixture until it thickens. Stir constantly to prevent lumps forming.
 4. When very thick, turn out on foil and allow to cool until it is safe to touch.
 5. When cool enough, knead like dough. Store in the refrigerator wrapped tightly in a plastic container or bag.

