

30. The Ten Commandments

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

30. The Ten Commandments

- a. Of course you will tell them how very important these Ten Commandments are.
- b. Show them how the preparations made the people see how important these Commandments are. Spend some time on the warnings about not coming near, the cloud and the trumpet sound and so on.
- c. Take the time to explain each commandment. The children will be totally in favor of them all.
- d. Some people wonder how to explain to little children the commandment, “You shall not commit adultery.” Just say that instead of stealing money or other things it is stealing someone else’s wife or husband, which makes people much more unhappy than losing money.
- e. The people were afraid because they saw how powerful the Lord is, and they were afraid if the Lord spoke to them they would die.



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The Lord Tells the People How to Live a Good Life

In the third month when the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. And they camped before the mountain. Then Moses went up to God and the Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “You shall remind the children of Israel of what I did to the Egyptians, and how I saved you all. Tell them that if they obey My voice and keep My promise, then they shall be a treasure to Me.” And Moses called the elders of the people and told them the words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken, we will do.” Then Moses went to the Lord and told Him what the people had said. The Lord said to Moses, “I will come down onto the mountain in a dark cloud so that the people may hear me. And you shall set bounds round about the mountain. Tell the people not to go up the mountain or touch the borders, for whoever touches the mountain shall die.”

Moses went down from the mountain to the people and he said to them, “Be ready on the third day.” And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there was thunder and lightning and a thick cloud upon the mountain and the sound of a very loud trumpet. All the people trembled and were afraid. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God and they stood at the foot of the mountain. And Mount Sinai was smoking because the Lord descended upon it in fire. When the voice of the trumpet sounded long and grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people again not to break through the borders or touch the mountain. Then come up the mountain and bring Aaron with you, but no one else.” And then God spoke all these words, saying:

“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make any statues. You shall not bow down to them. 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 kill. 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 anything that is your neighbors.”

All the people were afraid and they said to Moses, “You can speak to us and we will listen, but we do not want God to speak to us or we will die.” And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to show you who He is.”

Exodus 19,20

