

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM

Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 17

The Ten Commandments Received, The Golden Calf (Exodus 19, 20, 32, 34)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Ten Commandments are Divine laws, not man-made ones.
- B. We must guard against setting up anything as our supreme object in life except service to the Lord.
- C. The Lord uses the weaknesses of the people in the Word to show us our weaknesses.
- D. We are just as liable as the Israelites were to believe only what we can experience with our physical senses.
- E. Love to the Lord and the neighbor are the only feelings that can be trusted to keep us straight.
- F. Golden calf = Appearances of good, covered over with evil

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. Who remembers where the Israelites had come from and where they were going? (From Egypt to the holy land, or the land of Canaan)
2. Last time we read about a certain problem they encountered twice during their journey. What was it? (No water)
3. What did Moses do? (Struck a rock, and water came out)
4. Why was this good the first time and bad the second time? (The first time Moses was obeying the Lord, but the second time he took the credit for this miracle.)
5. The story this week is about the Lord's giving the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. The Ten Commandments were the basic laws by which the Lord wanted the Israelites to live. These were given to Moses on the top of a mountain called Mt. Sinai.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Exodus 19:1, 16-25; 20:1-17 (Ten Commandments)

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2. Explain that while Moses was on Mt. Sinai, the Lord also told him all about how to build the Tabernacle, the moveable temple that the children of Israel were to build. Building it took a long time, but let's read what happened in the meantime.
3. Read Exodus 32:1-4, 15-16, 19-20; 34:1-2, 4, 28 (Golden Calf)

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. On the third day there were fearful things that happened on the top of Mt. Sinai. What were they? (Thunder, lightning, thick cloud, loud trumpet)
2. What did the Lord tell Moses to remind the Israelites not to do? (Break through bounds and come up the mountain)
3. Then what did the Lord tell them, through Moses? (Ten Commandments)
4. After Moses had been up on Mt. Sinai for a long time, what did the Israelites and Aaron do? (Made a golden calf to worship instead)
5. When Moses descended from the mountain and saw the golden calf, what did he do with the Ten Commandments written on the two tables of stone? (Threw them down and broke them)
6. And what did he do to the golden calf? (Burned it, ground it to powder, scattered it in water, and made the children of Israel drink it)
7. Did the Lord eventually replace the two broken tablets of stone? (Yes)
8. But was it the Lord or Moses who hewed (cut out with a sharp tool) this second set of tablets? (It was Moses. The Lord hewed the first set, and Moses hewed the second.)

D. Further Ideas

1. The Ten Commandments are the Lord's laws and apply to everyone. Any man did not write them.
2. To make sure we understand the commandments, let's go through them quickly, one at a time:
 - a. There is only one God - the Lord.
 - b. Don't use the Lord's name disrespectfully.
 - c. Remember the Sabbath day - Sunday - and keep it as a holy day.
 - d. Respect and obey your father and mother.
 - e. Do not murder.
 - f. Don't take another person's wife or husband.
 - g. Do not steal.

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h. Do not lie.

i. Do not be jealous of someone else's house.

j. Do not be jealous of someone else's wife or husband or anything that is his/hers.

3. If we learn and keep these commandments, we will be safe and happy. All unhappiness in the world comes from people not obeying them as commandments from the Lord.

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4. We should keep the commandments literally. But as we grow older, we'll find that there are deeper ways of keeping them, too. For example, at first we think that "You shall not steal" means not to take people's money or things that belong to them. But when we are proud of our own good deeds, we are stealing from the Lord because all our power to do well comes from Him.
5. One of the times Moses was called up to Mt. Sinai by the Lord, he stayed for 40 days and nights. The children of Israel decided he was gone for good. They forgot all the wonders the Lord had showed them and all they had promised. Did you ever learn something new at church or at Sunday School that made you feel very enthusiastic about being good? How long did you stay good? Perhaps you forgot as quickly as the Israelites did.
6. The Israelites wanted a god they could see and touch. That seemed more real to them. Sometimes it's hard for us to believe that the Lord is real when we can't see or touch Him either. If we forget about the Lord and start to care most about things we can see and touch like money, clothes, toys and other possessions, and having lots of friends, we will never be truly happy. Only the Lord can bring us true, lasting happiness if we obey His Word and follow Him.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Moses went to Sinai's peak," HYMNAL #187 (first verse only?)
2. "Love thy father and thy mother," HYMNAL #167.
3. "You shall have no other gods before Me," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side A, 4th song

B. Activities

1. Make photocopies of a line drawing of the children of Israel worshiping the golden calf. The children can color them when they finish the project, or they can be sent home.

C. Project: Giving of the Ten Commandments

1. Materials:
 - a. Large (12" X 18") construction paper - light blue, yellow, or gray

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- b. Other construction paper to make figures of the Lord, the tablets of stone, Moses, and Mt. Sinai
 - c. Glue
 - d. Glitter (optional) - gold is best
 - e. Cotton balls
2. Before Class
- a. Cut out figures of the Lord, two tablets of stone, Moses, and Mt. Sinai. (Templates attached.)
3. In Class
- a. Glue Mt. Sinai to large paper.
 - b. Glue on the Lord and Moses.
 - c. Glue tablets of stone on Lord's hands.
 - d. Use glue and glitter to make lightning.
 - e. Glue cotton balls for clouds, all around.
 - f. If there's time, kids can draw faces on Moses and the Lord.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the giving of the Ten Commandments and the golden calf

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 2, "The Ten Commandments" (Exodus 32), pp. 170-184.
- B. Sower Notes Vol. I, "Commandments Given" (Exodus 19, 20), pp. 258-267; and "The Golden Calf" (Exodus 32), pp. 268-276.