

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## *The Wilderness*

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### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19-20

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson One

[0270]

AIM: to teach my students the purpose of the Ten Commandments

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A picture of a lightning storm  
A picture of the Promised Land  
A picture or map of the wilderness  
A picture of a mountain  
The Ten Commandments written on tablets  
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Have you ever been in your house during a **really scary storm**? I mean, the rain is coming down really hard outside, and the thunder is booming, and the lightning is lighting up the sky! How many of you have ever had your lights go out because of a thunderstorm? How many of you have ever seen a tree get knocked down by a bolt of lightning? How many of you have ever been riding in the car during a really scary storm like that? It can be pretty scary, can't it?

Today I'm going to tell you about a **really scary thunder and lightning storm** that happened in the Bible.

LESSON: Two weeks ago I told you how God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. After God brought them through the Red Sea, God closed the waters of the Red Sea so that the Egyptians could never bother them again. Now the Israelites were safely out of Egypt, and on their way to the place God had prepared for them, called the *Promised Land*.

In order to get to the Promised Land they would be traveling through the wilderness for many months. And before they arrived at the Promised Land, God would have to teach them some things about how to live once they arrived in the Promised Land.

As the children of Israel traveled along, they came to a mountain called *Mount Sinai*. The people set up their tents all around the bottom of Mount Sinai. Then Moses went up into Mount Sinai to meet with God. As Moses was on the mountain talking to God, the mountain began to smoke, as if it were on fire. The reason it was smoking is that God was coming to speak with Moses. God was giving to Moses some of the most important words that have ever been given to man. God was telling Moses the ten important laws that He wanted His people to live by. These laws are called *The Ten Commandments*. Moses came down from the mountain with these Ten Commandments carved onto a piece of stone. Here are the Ten Commandments that God gave us:

**Commandment #1** – "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." God was saying, "Put me first in your life. Anything that you put before me is a god to you."

**Commandment #2** – "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." That means we are not supposed to make statues that we bow down and worship, even if that statue represents God.

**Commandment #3** – "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." That means, don't use God's name as a curse word.

**Commandment #4** – "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." God said that we are to set aside one day per week to remember His goodness to us.

**Commandment #5** – "Honor thy father and thy mother." God said that we are supposed to obey our parents.

**Commandment #6** – "Thou shalt not kill." We know what that means, but the Bible says that to hate somebody is to take the first step towards killing.

**Commandment #7** – “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” That means that once you are married you stay married to that person for the rest of your lives, and you belong to them only.

**Commandment #8** – “Thou shalt not steal.” That means that you must not take something that does not belong to you.

**Commandment #9** – “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” That means we are not suppose to make up lies that hurt other people.

**Commandment #10** – “Thou shalt not covet.” That means that you should not look at what other people have, and wish that it is yours.

After God was finished giving the Ten Commandments, there was a lot of thunder and lightning, and the people were very scared. In fact, it scared them so much that they ran away from the mountain.

These Ten Commandments are the basis of all the laws in the world. But why did God give us these Ten Commandments? Some people think that God gave us the Ten Commandments so that if we will keep them we will go to heaven. **But that’s not true.** God gave us the Ten Commandments for three very important reasons:

1. To teach the world right from wrong. Sometimes people argue about what is right and what is wrong; the Ten Commandments make clear what God says is right and wrong.
2. To show everybody that they need to be saved. The Bible says that if you sin one time, that makes you a sinner, and your sins must be punished. But how do we know if we have ever sinned? By reading the Ten Commandments. If you read them, you will understand quickly that you are going to face God’s punishment for sin, and you need to be saved.
3. To show us how to obey God after we are saved. We don’t get to heaven by keeping the Ten Commandments, but the Ten Commandments DO teach us how to please God after we get saved.

Now let’s play a little game. I’m going to make a statement, and I want you to say “true” if that statement is right, and “false” if that statement is not right. (For younger ages, you may want to practice first with some obvious statements, to teach them the meaning of “true” and “false”)

1. God gave Moses the 12 commandments. (false)
2. The 10 Commandments teach us right from wrong. (true)
3. Moses was standing by the burning bush when God gave him the 10 Commandments. (false)
4. Moses was on the mountain alone with God when God gave him the 10 commandments. (true)
5. If you keep the 10 Commandments, you will go to heaven when you die. (false)
6. The 10 Commandments teach us that we need to be saved. (true)
7. There are some people who have never, ever broken any of the 10 commandments. (false)
8. The 10 Commandments show us how to obey God after we get saved. (true)

Let’s learn our memory verse. **Exodus 20:12** – *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

*The Wilderness*

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## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Exodus 19-20**

**Teen and Adult Lesson**

**Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson One**

**[0270]**

*Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.*

- I. **GOD HAS OUR JOURNEY PLANNED FOR US WHEN HE CALLS US.** Exodus 3:12. Imagine what an experience it was for Moses to return to this place where God had called Him. It was the pillar of cloud/fire that had led him here. God had promised Moses when He called him that He would confirm Moses' call by bringing back to this place. But that confirmation only came after Moses took the first steps of obedience.
- II. **WE OUGHT TO PREPARE OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD.** Exodus 19:9-15. God gave instructions to prepare the people for when He would come to meet with Moses to give Him His Words. We cannot go running in with all of the cares of this life on our minds, and expect to receive God's Word. We must prepare ourselves by focusing our minds, our hearts, our thoughts, and our affection upon God.
- III. **IT IS AN EARTHSHAKING EXPERIENCE WHEN GOD DELIVERS HIS WORD.** Exodus 19:16-21. We must not treat the giving or the receiving of God's Word flippantly. This is very serious business with God, for His Word is more highly exalted than His name. Psalm 138:2.
- IV. **NO ONE CAN BE SAVED BY KEEPING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.** Galatians 2:16. It is impossible for us to be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, for none of us can keep them. If we break them in the least detail, we are guilty of breaking the whole law. James 2:10. What we think of as "good works" are still acts of rebellion in God's sight, because our "good works" are performed in defiance against God, who says that all have sinned. Romans 3:23. Grace is the only road that leads to heaven. If we travel any other road but grace, all of the good driving that we do on that journey only takes us farther from our destination.
- V. **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SIMPLY REVEAL OUR WICKED, REBELLIOUS NATURE.** Galatians 3:24. God gave the law to us to show us our weakness, our wickedness, our failure, our rebellion. Their purpose is to show us that we cannot save ourselves, that we need Him to save us.

# The Ten Commandments

## Exodus 19-20

[0270]

### *God Gives the Law to Moses*

#### I. EXODUS 19 PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE LAW

1-8 God makes a covenant with His people

9-15 God tells Moses to tell the people to prepare for the third day

16-20 God meets with Moses in the top of Mount Sinai

21-25 God tells Moses to be sure the people do not break through

#### II. EXODUS 20 RECEIVING THE LAW

1-17 God gives Moses the Ten Commandments

1. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* 1-3.

2. *Thou shalt not worship any graven images.* 4-6.

3. *Thou shalt not take the LORD's name in vain.* 7.

4. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.* 8-11.

5. *Honor thy father and mother.* 12.

6. *Thou shalt not kill.* 13.

7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* 14.

8. *Thou shalt not steal.* 15.

9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.* 16.

10. *Thou shalt not covet.* 17.

18-21 Moses calms the people's fears

22-26 God instructs His people on how to meet with Him

#### **Exodus 20:12**

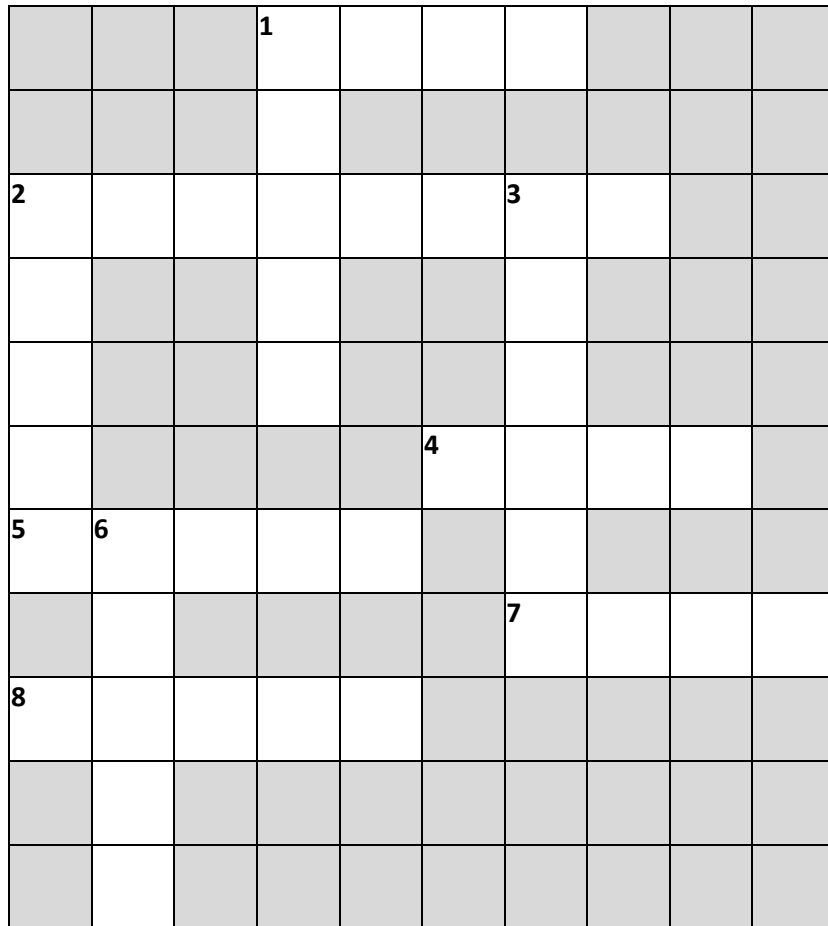
*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

## Exodus 19-20

[0270]

Complete the crossword puzzle below using words from the Scripture passage and information from today's lesson.



### ACROSS

### DOWN

- 1 Remember the Sabbath, to keep it \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Moses met God on the top of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Thou shalt not take the LORD's \_\_\_\_\_ in vain
- 5 God gave the Ten Commandments at Mt \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 "Commandments" is another word for \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Thou shalt not bear \_\_\_\_\_ witness

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ thy father and mother
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ was the leader of the Israelites
- 3 The nation of \_\_\_\_\_ was God's chosen people
- 6 Thou shalt not make any grave \_\_\_\_\_

*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

**Exodus 20:12**

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19-20

[0270]

*The answers to this weeks puzzle*

			<sup>1</sup> H	O	L	Y			
			O						
<sup>2</sup> M	O	U	N	T	A	<sup>3</sup> I	N		
O			O			S			
S			R			R			
E					<sup>4</sup> N	A	M	E	
<sup>5</sup> S	<sup>6</sup> I	N	A	I		E			
	M					<sup>7</sup> L	A	W	S
<sup>8</sup> F	A	L	S	E					
	G								
	E								

## ACROSS

- 1 Remember the Sabbath, to keep it \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Moses met God on the top of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Thou shalt not take the LORD's \_\_\_\_\_ in vain
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- 8 Thou shalt not bear \_\_\_\_\_ witness

## DOWN

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ thy father and mother
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ was the leader of the Israelites
- 3 The nation of \_\_\_\_\_ was God's chosen people
- 6 Thou shalt not make any grave \_\_\_\_\_