5

The Ten Commandments: Love God

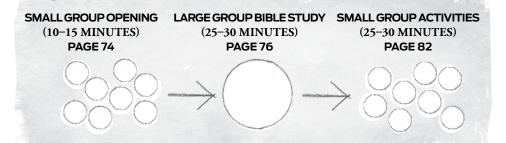
BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 19:1-20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His

people from captivity.



Leader BIBLE STUDY

God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. He then led them into the desert toward Mount Sinai. The Israelites camped at the base of the mountain while Moses went up the mountain to talk to God. God gave Moses the laws the Israelites were to obey. God renewed the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with the whole nation of Israel. They were His people, and He was their God. (Ex. 19:5-6)

God wanted perfect obedience from His people. His laws covered every part of their lives, and the laws were summed up in the Ten Commandments. God did not give laws just for the sake of having laws. His laws had a purpose; they revealed to the people what life will be like when Christ establishes His kingdom. They showed how righteous people live and interact with God and with others.

The Ten Commandments can be grouped into two categories: The first four laws deal with a person's relationship with God and the last six laws deal with a person's relationship with others.

Just 10. It would be easy enough to keep just 10 rules, right? The Israelites proved they could not keep a single one of God's laws. Their hearts were full of sin. Moses mediated for the Israelites, asking God to forgive the people's sin. Moses was a good mediator, but he wasn't perfect. The Israelites needed someone who could keep the laws perfectly for them, mediate between them and God, and satisfy God's wrath against them. They needed Jesus. (See 1 Tim. 2:5.)

The kids you teach this week have sinful hearts. They cannot obey God perfectly, and they need a Savior. Point kids to Jesus and help them understand that God is pleased with us because He looks at Jesus, who never sinned. Because of Christ, we can have a right relationship with God.



Additional resources for each session are available at *gospelproject.com*. For free training and session-by-session help, visit *www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject*.

The BIBLE STORY

The Ten Commandments: Love God

Exodus 19:1-20:11; 31:18

Three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came into the Wilderness of Sinai (SIGH nigh). They camped in front of the mountain. God had a plan to make the Israelites His special people. God wanted to make a covenant, or agreement, with the people of Israel.

Moses went up the mountain. God called to him, saying, "This is what you should tell the Israelites: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I rescued you and brought you to Me. If you listen carefully to Me and you keep My covenant, you will be My people.'"

Moses went back to the people and told them what God had said. All the people agreed. They responded together, "We will do all that the Lord has spoken." So Moses went back to the Lord.

The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud. I want the people to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you."

Moses told the people what God said, and he got the people ready for the Lord to come down on the mountain. God told Moses to put boundaries around the mountain so no one would get too close.

On the morning of the third day, thunder rumbled and lightning lit up the sky. A thick cloud came down on the mountain, and a loud trumpet sounded. Everyone in the camp shuddered. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

God came down on Mount Sinai in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. The mountain shook, and the

sound of the trumpet got louder and louder. God told the people not to come up the mountain.

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. I freed you from slavery," He said.

Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These are the first four commandments. These commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with God: "Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

When God finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two stone tablets that He had written on with His own finger.

Christ Connection: God is holy and separate from sin. His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is perfectly righteous. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's family.



WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WORD? GET BIBLE EXPRESS!

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Moses gave the Israelites all of God's rules. (Ex.19:7) The Ten Commandments show us how God wants us to live. God is holv, and He never changes. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information. check out www.lifeway.com/ devotionals

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: The Ten Commandments: Love God

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 19:1-20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His

people from captivity.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask for volunteers to share their family's rules.

SAY • Which rules are the most challenging for you to obey? Why?

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Exodus 20 Picture Puzzle" on the activity page. Inform kids that each picture represents a word or phrase. Challenge kids to decipher the picture puzzle. Guide kids to refer to Exodus 20:1-21 to confirm the answer. (*Ten Commandments*)

SAY • In today's Bible story, God renewed with the Israelites the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites were His people, and He was their God. [See Ex. 19:5-6.]

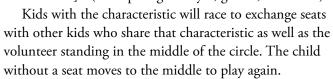
God wanted perfect obedience in response to rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. His laws were summed up in the Ten Commandments. Later today, we'll learn more about God's laws and their purpose.

"Exodus 20 Picture Puzzle" activity page, 1 per kidpencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Whom do you love?

Arrange chairs in a circle, one chair per child. Invite kids to sit in the chairs. Choose a volunteer to stand in the middle of the circle, and remove her chair. Direct the volunteer to say, "My name is [her name] and I love [a common characteristic]." (Examples: green eyes, glasses, and so on)



SAY • Today, we will learn more about God's laws and how they help us love God.



chairs

OPTION 2: Target practice

Before the session, create a target (graduated circles) on the floor with masking tape. Challenge kids to stand at a distance and toss beanbags at the target.

SAY • Did anyone hit the bull's-eye every time? No. No one is perfect, right? In today's Bible story, God gave His people rules to show that He is *holy*. That means He is perfect and we are not.

But just like no one can hit the target every time, people cannot obey God's rules all the time because we are sinners. Our sin separates us from God. We need Jesus because He is perfect. Jesus never sinned. He obeyed God perfectly. When we trust in Jesus, He brings us back to God.

Transition to large group

masking tapebeanbags

God the Redeemer

Large Group LEADER

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His

people from captivity.

Countdown

countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

leader attire

- stones
- permanent marker
- plastic container of sand
- index cards
- "Great Race Clue Card" printable
- Bible
- map of Egypt

Before the session, fill a large, plastic storage container with sand. Use a permanent marker to write the letters "*GOD IS HOLY*" on separate stones. Bury the stones in the sand.

[Large Group Leader enters wearing athletic attire with a solid color T-shirt, holding a Great Race clue card and the Bible. A map of Egypt is secured to the wall. Carry the prepared plastic container with sand and lettered stones.]

LEADER • Hi, everyone! I'm [your name] and I am excited you're here today! Are you curious to know why? [Dramatic pause.] Today is the final challenge of The Great Race! Let's read this clue card to find out more. [Open the clue card.]

Final Challenge: Desert Dig. Find the buried stones to unearth a secret message.

Oh, wow! I'm really nervous! Will you help me complete this final challenge? You will? That's great! Ask volunteers to sift through the sand to find the buried stones. Challenge volunteers to unscramble the stones to spell out the message *God is holy*.

LEADER • Awesome job! Thank you! You all helped me so much. In today's Bible story, we will see that **God gave us rules to show He is holy and we are sinners.** I'm on the way to Canaan (KAY nuhn), the promised Great Race finish line!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Iacob.

LEADER • Let's see where we are on our giant timeline.

Our timeline shows us right about ... here!

[Point to today's Bible story.] This says "The Ten

Commandments: Love God." In today's Bible story,

God renewed with the Israelites the covenant, or

promise, He had made with Abraham, Isaac, and

[Point to the previous units, "God the Covenant-Maker" and "God the Covenant-Keeper."] Do you remember what God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? (God made a covenant to bless His people.)

Listen closely to the Bible story to find out what God did after renewing the covenant to bless His people, the Israelites.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Our big picture question is, **What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.**And He has! In today's Bible story, God gave the Israelites a new way to worship Him after He rescued them from slavery: by living in obedience to the rules

that He gave them. Let's listen to our Bible story to learn more.

Giant Timeline

God the Redeemer

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- "The Ten Commandments: Love God" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture
 Poster

Open your Bible to Exodus 19. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video "The Ten Commandments: Love God."

LEADER • What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue

His people from captivity. And He has! Three

months after God rescued the Israelites from physical
captivity in Egypt, He led them into the desert to

Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh). Let's see if you know the
answer to these questions. Raise your hand if you
know the answer.

Ask the following review questions:

- 1. What did God tell Moses to say to the Israelites? ("If you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession"; Ex. 19:5)
- 2. How did God's people respond to what God had said? (*They said*, "We will do all that the Lord has spoken"; Ex. 19:8)
- 3. Why did God want the Israelites to hear Him speak to Moses? (*God wanted the Israelites to believe Moses*, Ex. 19:9)
- 4. How did God tell Moses to protect the people from His presence? (God told Moses to put boundaries around the mountain so no one would get too close, Ex. 19:12)
- 5. How did God come down on Mount Sinai? (God came down in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. The mountain shook; Ex. 19:18)

Read Exodus 31:18 aloud from your Bible.

LEADER • When God finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

Explain that you will read the first four commandments from the Bible story. Challenge kids to determine if the commandment said *do* or *do not*. Precede each commandment with "God commanded the Israelites, *do* or *do not*…"

- 1. ... have other gods besides Me. (Do not, Ex. 20:3)
- 2. ... make an idol for yourself. (Do not, Ex. 20:4)
- 3. ... misuse the name of the Lord your God. (*Do not, Ex. 20:7*)
- 4. ... remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (*Do, Ex. 20:8*)

LEADER • God's rules, the Ten Commandments, had a purpose. **God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.** His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus brings us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's family.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Tip: Provide I'm a Christian Now for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Hebrews 3:5-6.

LEADER • Jesus Christ is faithful as a Son over God's household by obeying God's law perfectly. Jesus

Key Passage Poster"Confidence of Our Hope"song

never sinned. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's household. If any kids have memorized the key passage, allow them

to recite it from memory. Lead the group in singing "Confidence of Our Hope."

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

"Unit 4, Session 5" discussion starter video

LEADER • Because God is holy, our sin separates us from Him. God cannot be around sin. Think about that as you watch this video.

Show the "Unit 4, Session 5" discussion starter video.

LEADER • Did Nigel's lunch get better or worse when he mixed the yucky food with the yummy food? Discuss whether doing good things can make up for the bad things we do. Point out that sin separates us from God, no matter how good we try to be. Only Jesus can take away our sin and bring us back to God.

Sing (4 minutes)

"Freedom" song

LEADER • Only Jesus sets us free from sin. Let's sing! Sing together "Freedom."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups. **LEADER** • Lord God, thank You for Your plan to rescue Your people from captivity. You are holy and we are sinners. We know that our sin separates us from You. Thank You for sending Jesus, who is perfectly righteous, to take away our sin. We love you. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

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BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His

people from captivity.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- marker

Before the session, write the key passage as phrases on separate index cards. Prepare two more cards containing the main point. Make a set for every two or three kids.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud together. Guide kids to form pairs or groups of three. Distribute the key passage phrase cards. Challenge pairs or groups of three to race to arrange the key passage phrase cards into the completed key passage. Inform kids that there are two extra phrase cards not included in the key passage. Tell kids to stand up as a signal for their group's completion.

SAY • Awesome job! What are the extra phrase cards? (God gave us rules to show us that He is holy and we are sinners.) That's right! Today's Bible story main point is, God gave us rules to show us that He is holy and we are sinners.

While Moses was a faithful servant, not even he obeyed all the rules. Only Jesus, God's Son, obeys God perfectly. When we trust that Jesus died the death we deserved to die for our sin and rose again defeating death, we are part of God's household!

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Distribute Bibles and instruct kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 20.

Bibles, 1 per kidMain Point Poster

SAY • God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners. We can read about God's rules, the Ten Commandments, in Exodus 20. The first four commandments told the Israelites how to have a right relationship with God.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Call out a reference and invite kids to find it in the Bible. For each reference, ask kids to tell what God commanded.

- Exodus 20:3 (Do not have any other gods beside Me.)
- Exodus 20:4 (Do not make an idol for yourself.)
- Exodus 20:7 (Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.)
- Exodus 20:8 (Remember the Sabbath day.)

Begin a slow pat-pat-clap-clap rhythm as you teach them a rhyme to remember the first four commandants. Pat or clap each syllable. Kids may pat their legs or the floor.

"God's commandments, 1 through 4

Teach us how to love God more.

God's commandment, number 1:

God is God, the only One.

God's commandment, number 2:

Idol worshiping is through.

God's commandment, number 3:

We use God's name respectfully.

God's commandment, number 4:

The Sabbath you must not ignore."

Say the rhyme a few times, encouraging kids to repeat the words after you for each of the first four commandments.

Explain that we will soon find out what God commanded in the last six commandants.



large cups, 4permanent markerpaper

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

smooth stones,1 per kidpermanent markers

• paint (optional)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Commandments cup race

Before the session, use a permanent marker to number a set of cups from *1* through *4*. These four cups correspond to the following four commandments:

- 1. Do not have any other gods besides Me.
- 2. Do not make an idol for yourself.
- 3. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Instruct the kids to line up single file. Across from the first person in line, place the set of four cups in a line, with the first cup being closest to the first child and the fourth being the farthest away. Each child should form a paper wad.

The first child from the line will say the first commandment and attempt to throw his paper wad into the first cup. If he makes it, he may say the next commandment and throw for the next cup. If he doesn't make it, he moves to the back of the line, and the next child will try for the first cup. Remind kids the first four commandments told the Israelites how to have a right relationship with God.

SAY • Great job! God gave us rules to show us He is holy and we are sinners. We cannot perfectly obey God's rules. We need Jesus. Jesus never sinned. Because of Jesus, we can have a right relationship with God.

OPTION 2: Main point stone

SAY • God gave us rules to show us that He is holy and we are sinners. God wrote His rules, the Ten Commandments, on tablets made of stone. The Bible says that God inscribed the tablets with His own finger. [See Ex. 31:18.]

Invite kids to use permanent markers to write *God is holy* on their stones. Provide paint or colored permanent markers for kids to decorate the stones. Encourage kids to keep their stones as a reminder that **God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.** God's rules show us that we are sinners who need Jesus.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute pencils and journal pages. Read Exodus 19:16-19 from your Bible. Point out that when the Israelites were at the mountain, they shuddered with fear.

Encourage kids to list or draw pictures of things they are very good at. Ask them to circle anything they are perfect at doing. Ask questions to gently challenge anyone who claims perfection. Lead kids to consider if anyone is perfect at keeping God's laws.

Lead kids in a short prayer, thanking God for sending His Son—who is perfectly righteous—to take away our sin and bring us back to God.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "A Perfect Copy" on the activity page. Challenge kids to draw a perfect copy of the picture shown.

SAY • It is impossible for us to draw a perfect shape and it impossible for us to keep the commands God has given us. He is holy. We are sinners. His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness.

Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is perfectly righteous. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's family.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "A Perfect Copy" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Journal Page

God the Redeemer

Key Passage: Hebrews 3:5-6

Big Picture Questions: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Session 1: Moses Was Born and Called Exodus 1:8–2:10,23-25; 3:1–4:20 God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

Session 2: The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea *Exodus 5–14*God proved to Egypt that He is the one true God.

Session 3: The Wilderness Test

Exodus 15:22–17:7

God provided for the physical needs of His people.

Session 4: The Golden Calf

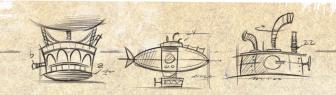
Exodus 32:1-35; 34:1-9

God punished His people for worshiping a golden calf.

Session 5: The Ten Commandments: Love God Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.





Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's household ... But Christ was faithful as a Son over His household. And we are that household if we hold on to the courage and the confidence of our hope.



Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant ... But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

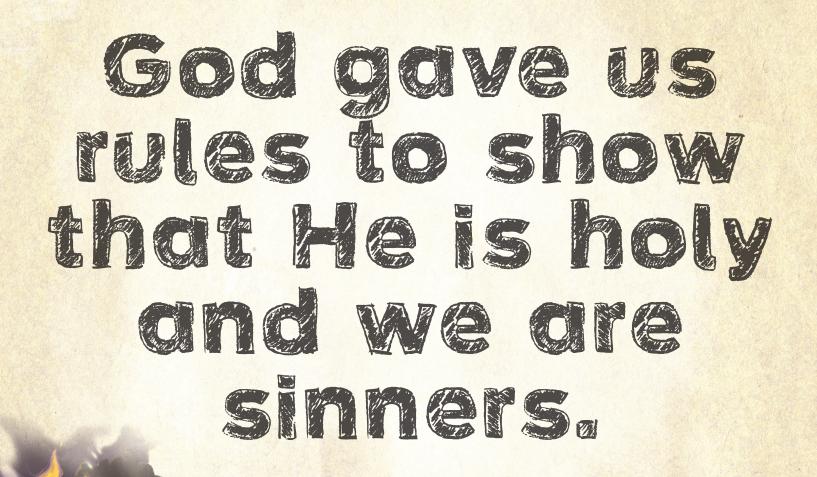


Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.





⁴⁶Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," ... But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.





The Ten Commandments: Love God (Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18) • Unit 4, Session 5 • © 2015 LifeWay OK to Print

Journal Page

List or draw pictures of things you are very good at. Circle anything you are perfect at. Consider this: Is anyone is perfect at keeping God's laws?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What does it mean that God is holy?
- List the Ten Commandments.
- What rules does your family have? Why does your family have rules?



The Ten Commandments: Love God

Exodus 19:1-20:11; 31:18

MAIN POINT: GOD GAVE US RULES TO SHOW THAT HE IS HOLY AND WE ARE SINNERS.

Three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came into the Wilderness of Sinai. They camped in front of the mountain.

Moses went up the mountain. God called to him, saying, "This is what you should tell the Israelites: 'If you listen carefully to Me and you keep My covenant, you will be My people.'"

Moses went back to the people and told them what God had said. All the people agreed.

The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud. I want the people to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you."

Moses got the people ready for the Lord to come down on the mountain.

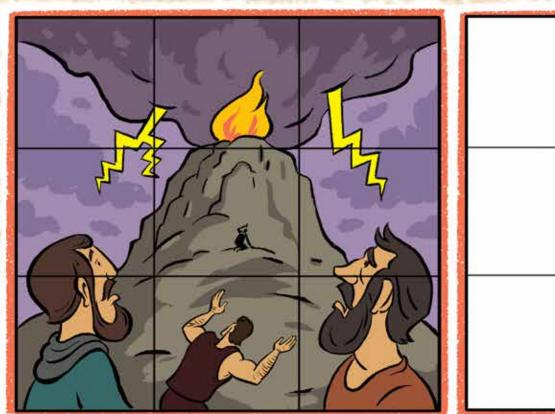
On the morning of the third day, thunder rumbled and lightning lit up the sky. A thick cloud came down on the mountain, and a loud trumpet sounded. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

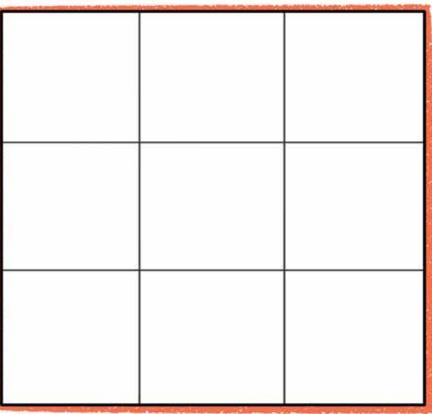
God came down on Mount Sinai in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. I freed you from slavery," He said.

Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These are the first four commandments. These commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with God: "Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Christ Connection: God is holy and separate from sin. His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is perfectly righteous. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's family.

A Perfect Copy Draw the picture in the space provided. How close can you get to a perfect copy?





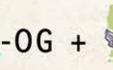
EXOCUS 20 PICTURE PUZZLE Try to solve this picture puzzle. What are the letters and pictures saying?



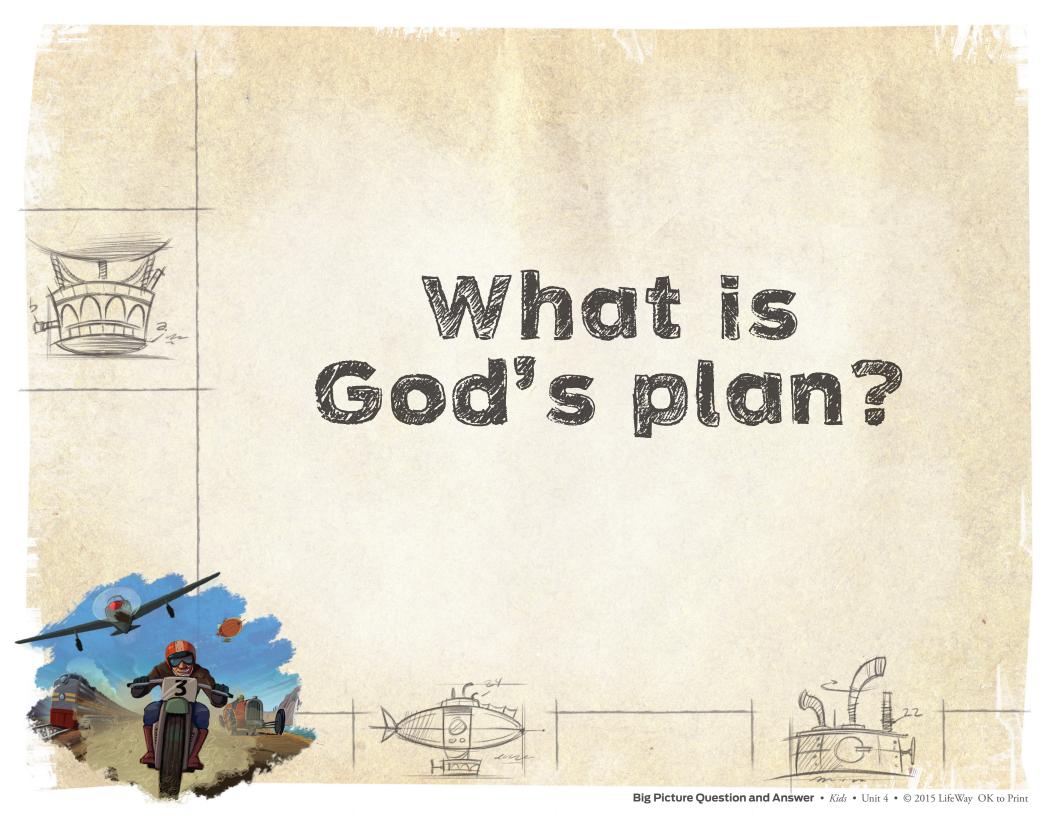






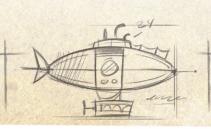




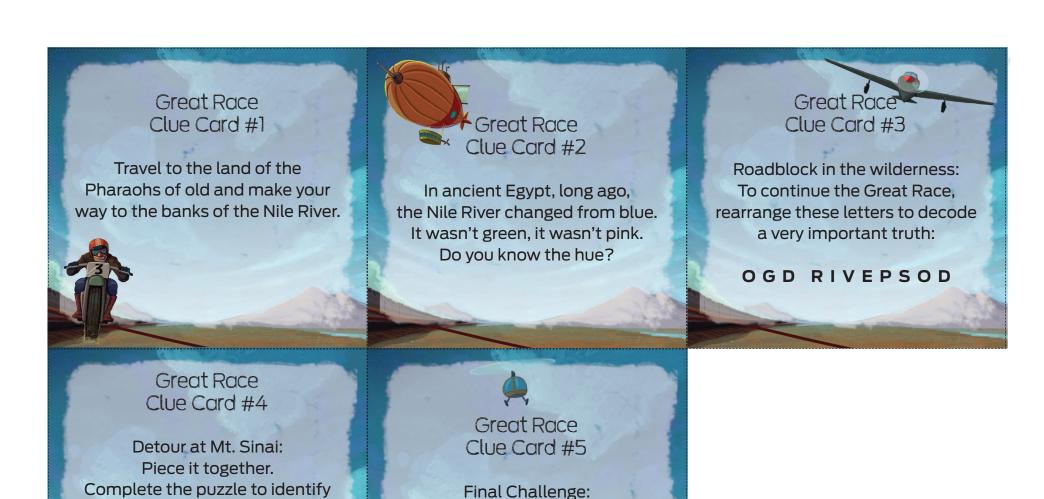




God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.







Desert Dig.

Find the buried stones

to unearth a secret message.

the golden god that the Israelites

worshiped. Then proceed to the

Great Race final challenge!