

God Reminded His People of His Covenant

BIBLE PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 5:1–6:25; 8:1–11:1,26-28

MAIN POINT: God reminded His people of His covenant with them.

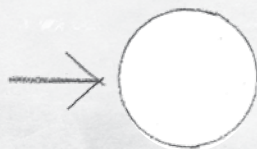
KEY PASSAGE: Leviticus 11:45

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

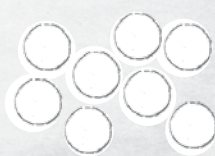
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(25–30 MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

After God, through Moses, brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He met with them in the wilderness and established a covenant, or agreement, with the people of Israel: “Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples ... and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation” (Ex. 19:5-6).

God promised five things in the Mosaic covenant: 1) Israel will be God's own possession (Ex. 19:5); 2) Israel will be God's kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6); 3) Israel will be a holy nation (Ex. 19:6); 4) God will defend Israel from her

enemies (Ex. 23:22); and 5) God will be gracious, merciful, and forgiving to Israel (Ex. 34:6-7).

God's conditions for the covenant were clear: "You must carefully follow every command I am giving you" (Deut. 8:1). "Be careful that you don't forget the Lord your God by failing to keep His command" (Deut. 8:11). "If you ever forget the Lord your God ... you will perish" (Deut. 8:19).

In the opening chapters of Deuteronomy, the Israelites were at the edge of the promised land. Moses reminded them of all the things God had done. He reminded them of the Lord's commands and implored them to worship only God. Through faith, trust, and love, the Israelites would receive the blessings of mercy, grace, and forgiveness. Moses' message was clear: Remember!

Scripture reveals that Israel did not keep the covenant. (See Ezek. 16:59; Hos. 6:7.) But God was merciful to His people. His new covenant focuses not on obedience, but on the heart. (See Jer. 31:31-34.)

Our obedience cannot earn us God's favor, and our disobedience does not separate us from Him. We receive His blessings by holding out empty hands of faith.



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The BIBLE STORY

God Reminded His People of His Covenant

Deuteronomy 5:1–6:25; 8:1–11:1,26-28

“Israel, listen to me!” Moses said. Moses had called all of the Israelites together. They were in the wilderness, on their way to the land God promised to give them. **God had an important message for the Israelites, and He spoke through Moses. “Here are the rules and laws I am telling you today. Learn them and obey them,”** Moses said.

Moses reminded the people that God had made a covenant, or agreement, with the Israelites at Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh). God said, “If you listen carefully to Me and keep My covenant, you will be My people.”

God gave them the Ten Commandments: 1) Do not have 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 and keep it holy; 5) Honor your father and your mother; 6) Do not murder; 7) Keep your marriage promises; 8) Do not steal; 9) Do not lie; 10) Do not want what belongs to someone else.

“God wants you to obey all of His commands,” Moses said. **“God wants me to teach you all of His rules and laws, and He wants you to obey them exactly as He commanded. If you do, things will go well in the land He promised to give you, and you will live there for a long time.**

“Israel, listen to me! The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

“Teach these commands to your children. Talk about them all the time—when you are home, when you walking along the road, when you go to bed at night, and when you

get up in the morning.”

Moses told the people about the wonderful things God would do. “God promised to bring you into the land of Canaan. He promised to give this land to your fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God will keep His promises!

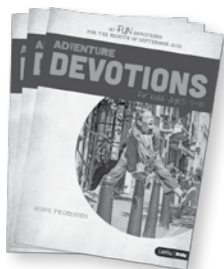
“When you get to the promised land, don’t forget the Lord. Remember what He has done for you. The Lord rescued you from slavery in Egypt. Worship Him, and worship only Him.”

Moses told the people that it was almost time for them to enter the promised land. He warned them that tall, strong people lived in the land. “But God will go ahead of you,” Moses said. “He will drive them out.”

Then Moses made a very important point. “God is not doing this because you are righteous,” he said. “God is keeping the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In fact, you are stubborn people.”

Finally, Moses said, “Love the Lord your God. If you obey His commands, you will be blessed. If you do not obey, you will be punished.”

Christ Connection: God kept His promise to give land to the families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As the Israelites stood at the edge of the promised land, God reminded them of His covenant. He commanded them to be holy and to obey Him, but He knew they would not. God was working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin and bless the whole earth.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover God required His people to keep all of the law. (Deut. 6:24) God sent Jesus to keep the law and die the death that we deserve. Jesus brings us back to God. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: God Reminded His People of His Covenant

BIBLE PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 5:1–6:25; 8:1–11:1,26-28

MAIN POINT: God reminded His people of His covenant with them.

KEY PASSAGE: Leviticus 11:45

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

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 them to describe their favorite or earliest memory.

SAY • Some memories stay with us forever, while others we forget too quickly. Today we're going to learn that **God reminded His people of His covenant with them.** Covenant is another word for "agreement or a special promise." In large group we will learn how important it is to remember who God is and what He has done.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Review Crossword" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Review Crossword." (*ACROSS:* 1. *Mount Sinai*, 2. *Egypt*, 3. *commandments*, 4. *Joshua*; *DOWN:* 5. *Moses*, 6. *covenant*, 7. *Israelites*, 8. *wilderness*, 9. *Canaan*)

SAY • Our crossword puzzle reminded us of what we have learned the last few weeks. Today we're going to learn that the Israelites were on the very edge of the promised land. Moses wasn't going to be able to go with them, but Moses had a very special message to remind them of something important.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Motion name game

Invite kids to stand or sit in a circle. Explain that one at a time, each kid will stand in the middle of the circle, say his name, and then perform a motion. After he sits down, the next kid will stand in the center, say the first kid's name, perform his motion, and then say her name and do a motion for her name. Go around the circle, with each kid saying all the names that came before. Once all of the kids have had a turn, you or an adult helper will step inside the circle and say all names with actions, starting with the very first kid. For younger kids, reset after every three names.

SAY • How many of you had a hard time remembering the movements and names? It's hard to remember things, especially when there is a lot to remember or when it happened a while ago. In today's Bible story we are going to see how **God reminded His people of His covenant with them.**

OPTION 2: Pattern pick-up

Securely tape the construction paper to the floor in a pattern similar to a hopscotch board. One kid will create a pattern by hopping on the three papers in an order of his choosing. The next kid must repeat that pattern. That kid will then create a new pattern for the next kid to copy. To increase difficulty of the game, increase to four or five hops. To decrease the difficulty, use only one or two hops.

SAY • Was it hard to remember the pattern of the person in front of you? Today we are going to see how **God reminded His people of His covenant with them.**



Tip: Invite kids to help any other kid who forgets a name or action.

- construction paper in 5 different colors
- tape

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: God Reminded His People of His Covenant

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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

[Large Group Leader enters excitedly.]

LEADER • Hello, everybody! I'm so glad you're here! You will never guess what happened last week! I got trapped in my tree house! Playing in my tree house is awesome, being stuck inside the tree house is not awesome at all.

Let me back up. My dad made a rule right after we built the tree house for my safety. I was not supposed to go to my tree house after dark. Well, let's just say I kinda sorta snuck out to the tree house after dinner the other night. Everything was great for awhile! I had my lantern. I was watching the stars come out. But when I got tired and a little cold, I wanted to go back inside. That was when I discovered the door to my tree house was stuck!

At first, I wasn't scared. But then I started getting really anxious and screamed for help. Thankfully my dad heard me and rescued me.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • You know what? That reminds me of the Israelites again. God gave the Israelites commands, but they didn't follow them a lot of the time. That's just like when I broke my dad's rule. The Israelites were trapped outside the promised land because of their own disobedience. When they first reached the promised land, they wouldn't go in! As a result, the people had to walk in the desert for 40 years. They were trapped in the desert because of their sin. God punished those who did not obey Him. Only their children—who were now grown-ups—would go inside the promised land with Joshua and Caleb, men who had trusted that God would keep His promise.

• Giant Timeline

In today's Bible story, God was preparing to lead Israel into the promised land. Moses could not go with them because he disobeyed God too. But Moses had an important message for them to remember God's covenant.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Before we learn about God's people remembering His covenant, let's remember our big picture question and answer. ***Who can keep God's law?*** ***No one can keep God's law except Jesus.*** We'll see in our Bible story that Moses warned God's people about the punishment for disobeying God: death. When we sin against God, we deserve death too. But God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to take the punishment we deserve.

- Bibles
- “God Reminded His People of His Covenant” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 5:1–6:25; 8:1–11:1,26–28. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video “God Reminded His People of His Covenant.” For a shorter version of the Bible story, read only the bolded text.

LEADER • Moses knew that he was going to die, and he would not be able to lead the Israelites into the promised land. **God reminded His people of His covenant with them.** Moses reminded the people about God’s goodness and His law. If they obeyed His commands, God’s people would be blessed in the good land that He was giving them. If they disobeyed God, He would punish them.

God kept His promise to give land to the families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As the Israelites stood at the edge of the promised land, God reminded them of His covenant. He commanded them to be holy and to obey Him, but He knew they would not. God was working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin and bless the whole earth.

Ask the following review questions:

1. What is a covenant? (*a special agreement or promise*)
2. Name the Ten Commandments. (*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 and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Keep your marriage promises. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not want what belongs to someone else; Deut. 5:4–21*)
3. What would happen if the Israelites obeyed God’s commands? (*God would bless them, Deut. 4:40*)

4. How often were the Israelites to talk about God's commandments? (*all of the time, Deut. 6:7*)
5. Whom did Moses tell the Israelites to remember when they entered the promised land? (*the Lord God, Deut. 8:11*)
6. ***Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.***

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 Leviticus 11:45. Invite any volunteers who can say the key passage from memory to say it for you. Praise each kid's attempt. Say the key passage together one more time, and then sing the key passage song.

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- "You Must Be Holy" song

LEADER • God is holy, but we are sinners. We cannot rescue ourselves from sin. We need Jesus. God rescued us from our sin by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead to be the perfect sacrifice. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins and we receive life with God forever.

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Have you ever forgotten something? Maybe something really important? Check out this video.

- "Unit 6, Session 5" discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 6, Session 5” discussion starter video.

LEADER • Why is it so hard to remember things? God wanted His people to remember something very important. **God reminded His people of His covenant with them**, and He told them to teach the covenant to their children, talk about it when they go about their everyday lives, and write in on their doors and on their hands. God’s covenant is very important! Unfortunately, God’s people didn’t do a good job of keeping His covenant. But God already planned to send Jesus to make a new, better covenant in His blood when He died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from sin. What are some ways that we can remember God’s goodness and promises this week?

Sing (4 minutes)

• “Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)” song

LEADER • Let’s praise God for His holiness and His faithfulness to keep all His promises.
Sing together “Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy).”

Pray (2 minutes)

Before transitioning to small groups, make any announcements. Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Dear Lord, we cannot keep Your laws perfectly, but we know who can. Jesus perfectly keeps Your laws. Thank You for making a covenant and always following through on Your promises. Please help us to worship You only. 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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KEY PASSAGE: Leviticus 11:45

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "You Must Be Holy" song
- dry erase board or chalk board
- dry erase marker or chalk
- sticky notes
- marker

Before class, write one or two words from the key passage and Scripture reference on sticky notes. During class, draw the outline of a door on the dry erase board or chalk board. Scatter the sticky notes around the board out of order. Invite kids to come up one at a time and stick the sticky notes to the "door" in the correct order. When the key passage is arranged correctly, read the key passage together.

SAY • In today's Bible story, Moses told the people to write God's laws on their hands, foreheads, doorposts, and gates of their houses, so they could remember God's covenant. But God knew His people weren't going to be able to keep His laws.

Jesus obeyed God 100 percent of the time. Jesus never broke a single commandment. This is why He can be our sacrifice. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven. Jesus also gives us the Holy Spirit to help us live holy lives.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Deuteronomy 5:1–6:25; 8:1–11:1,26-28. Briefly review the Bible story. Guide the kids to pair up with a partner; make sure each pair has a

Bible. Help kids read Deuteronomy 6:1-9, asking a few kids to read a verse or two. If your kids are non-readers, read the verses to the kids.

Each time the reader says the word *listen*, guide kids to cup one ear with one hand and lean close. Every time the reader says *follow*, guide kids to use their pointer finger to make a straight line in front of them. Every time the reader says *Lord*, kids will point to the sky. Create simple hand motions for *love*, *heart*, *soul*, and *strength*.

SAY • God reminded His people of His covenant with them, and their job was to listen, obey the covenant, and teach it to their children. God promised He would bless them if they obeyed Him, but He would not bless them if they disobeyed. This covenant, the covenant of Moses, was different than the covenant God made with Abraham. God said that He alone was responsible for keeping the covenant with Abraham. But the Israelites were responsible for obeying the covenant God made with Moses.

God knew they would not be able to remember and keep His covenant. The covenant showed them that they were sinners and they needed a Savior. We need a Savior too! God sent Jesus to earth to make a new and better covenant. God sent Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life so that anyone who trusts in Him will be forgiven of all his sin and would live forever with God.

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

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: What did the Israelites do?

Invite kids to stand in the center of the room. Explain that you are going to call out some actions. If kids think it is



something the Israelites did, they will go to one side of the room. If they think it is something the Israelites did not do, they will go to the opposite side of the room. If they are unsure, they can stay put.

- They heard the Ten Commandments. (*did*)
- They obeyed the Ten Commandments all the time. (*did not do, they broke God's laws*)
- They ate manna and quail in the wilderness. (*did*)
- They were always thankful in the desert. (*did not do, they grumbled a lot*)
- They wandered in the desert for 40 years. (*did*)
- They built the tabernacle. (*did*)
- They worshiped only God. (*did not do, they worshiped a golden calf*)

SAY • God reminded His people of His covenant with them and the good things He had done in the desert. Before we think that the Israelites were silly to break God's laws, remember that we're sinners too. The Bible says that all people have sinned except for Jesus. We all need Jesus to rescue us from sin. When we turn away from sin and trust in Jesus, we are forgiven completely.

OPTION 2: Main point review

Before class, print out all of the Bible story picture posters and main point posters from unit 6. Tape the Bible story pictures to a wall at the kids' height. Mix up the main point posters. One by one, invite kids to match the main point to the Bible story. For more of a challenge for older kids, cut off the picture on the main point poster. For non-readers, allow them to match the pictures and an adult helper will read the main point aloud. When kids match the main

- Bible Story Picture Posters unit 6
- Main Point Posters unit 6
- tape
- scissors (optional)

point to a picture, ask them what they can remember from that Bible story. Play again as time allows.

SAY • You all did a great job of remembering what we have studied the last few weeks! Did anyone have trouble remembering any of the details? It was really hard for the Israelites to remember God's commands. This is why **God reminded His people of His covenant with them** before they entered the promised land. What are some ways you can remind yourself of God's covenant and commands throughout the week?

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to fold their journal page in half. On one half of the page, invite kids to write down or draw a picture about one of the ways God showed His power or His love for the Israelites when they wandered in the desert. On the other half, guide them to write down or draw a picture of something God has done for them.

SAY • **God reminded His people of His covenant with them.** Use these pictures to remember God's goodness to you too!

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for His covenant. Pray for each child by name, asking God to make the good news of Jesus real to them every day.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids

Tip: Make sure to give kids the big picture cards to take home to reinforce the Bible story with their families.

Journal Page

God Is Holy

Key Passage: Leviticus 11:45

Big Picture Question: Who can keep God's law?
No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

Session 1: The Ten Commandments: Love Others
Exodus 20:12-17

God gave us rules to help us know how to love Him and others.

Session 2: The Tabernacle Was Built
Exodus 35:4-40:38

God told His people to build the tabernacle so He could dwell with them.

Session 3: God Gave Rules for Sacrifice
Leviticus 1-27

Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.

Session 4: Worship Only God
Deuteronomy 1; 3:23-4:40

The Lord alone is God; there is no other besides Him.

Session 6: God Reminded His People of His Covenant

*Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25;
8:1- 11:1,26-28*

God reminded His people of His covenant with them.





**I am Yahweh,
who brought you up
from the land of Egypt
to be your God, so you
must be holy because
I am holy.**

Leviticus 11:45





**I am the LORD that
bringeth you up out
of the land of Egypt,
to be your God: ye shall
therefore be holy, for
I am holy.**

Leviticus 11:45





**“I am the LORD who
brought you up out of
the land of Egypt to
be your God. You shall
therefore be holy,
for I am holy.”**

Leviticus 11:45





**I am the LORD, who
brought you up out
of Egypt to be your
God; therefore be holy,
because I am holy.**

Leviticus 11:45



**God reminded
His people of His
covenant with
them.**





Review Crossword

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

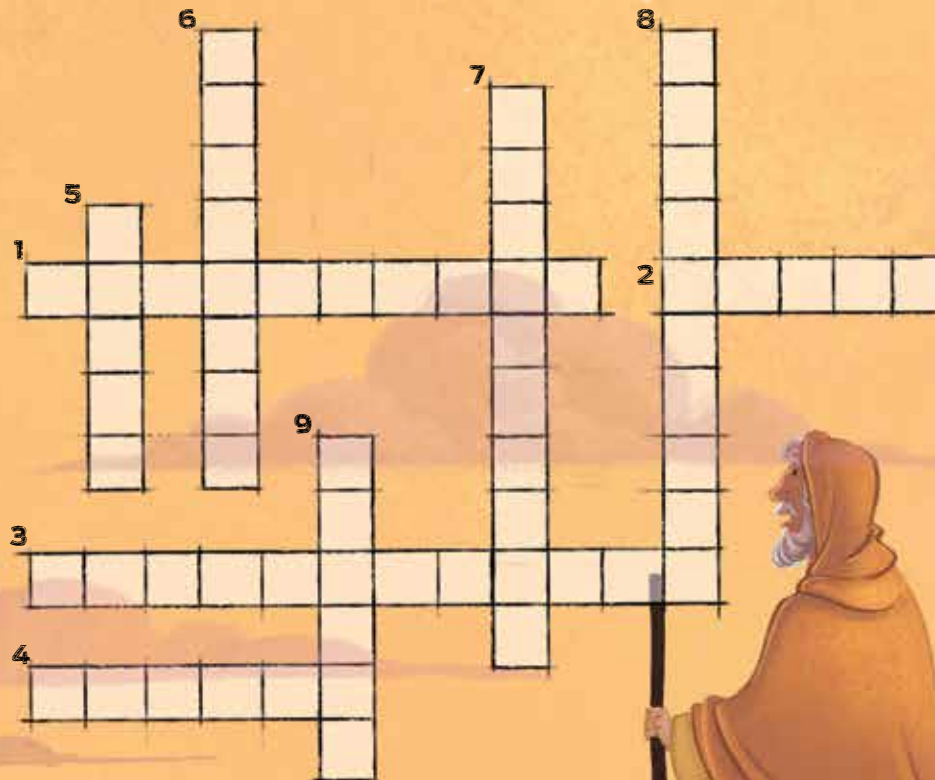
INSTRUCTIONS: Use the words to complete the crossword puzzle.

DOWN

- 5. the man who led the people out of Egypt
- 6. an agreement
- 7. God's people, a stubborn people
- 8. where the Israelites wandered for 40 years
- 9. the promised land

ACROSS

- 1. where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments
- 2. where the Israelites were enslaved
- 3. rules and laws God gave to show us how to love God and love others
- 4. the one who would lead God's people into the promised land



KEY PASSAGE: Leviticus 11:45

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who can keep God's law?
No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: GOD REMINDED HIS PEOPLE OF HIS COVENANT

- The Israelites were ready to enter the promised land.
- Moses gathered the people and reminded them of God's laws and His covenant.
- Moses said if the people obeyed God, they would be blessed in the land.

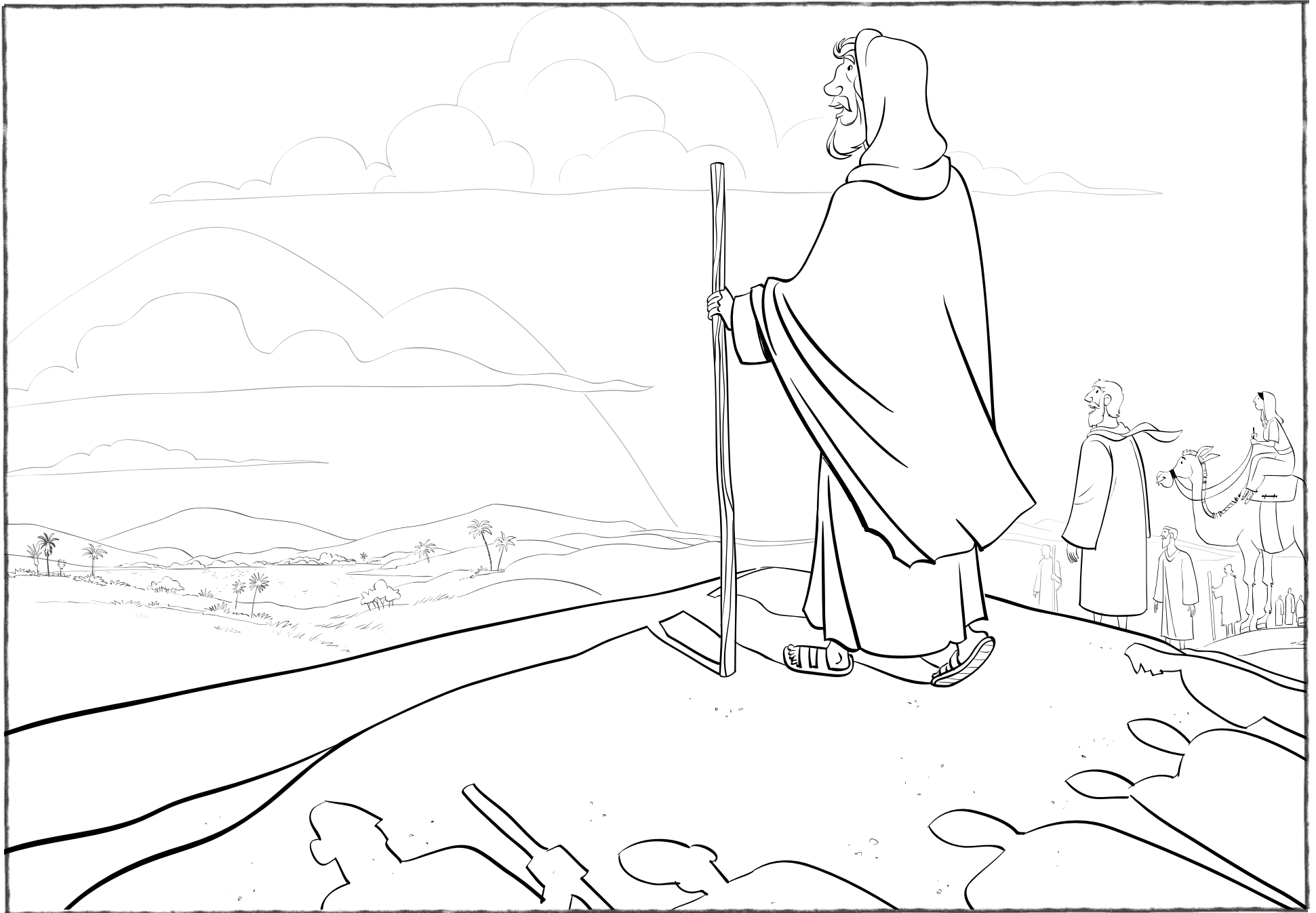
FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What were the rules God gave His people on Mt. Sinai? (*The Ten Commandments*)
- Name the Ten Commandments. (See Deut. 5:6-21.)

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

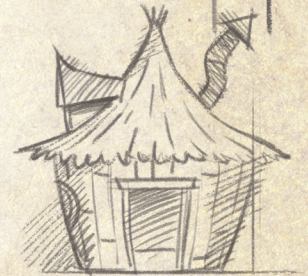
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 to your family. Talk about ways to remind each other of this verse throughout the week.
- Take it further: If weather permits, take a walk as a family. As you walk, remember today's Bible story.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 6, Session 5



**MAIN POINT: GOD REMINDED HIS PEOPLE
OF HIS COVENANT WITH THEM.**

Who can keep God's law?





**Who can keep
God's law?**



No one can keep
God's law perfectly
except Jesus.

