

Bible Story 12: MOSES - PART 4: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, THE TABERNACLE AND HIS DEATH

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 19:1-3; 20:1-20; 40:16-38; NUMBERS 20:7-12;
DEUTERONOMY 32:48-52; 34:1-7, 10-12; MATTHEW 22:34-40

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 22:37-38

BIBLE STORY:

After leaving Egypt and safely crossing to the other side of the Red Sea, the Israelites walked until they reached the Desert of Sinai. They camped at the foot of Mount Sinai.

A dark cloud hovered over the mountain. Loud thunder roared, and lightning flashed as smoke was rising, showing that God had descended upon the mountain. The people trembled with fear. As God had commanded, Moses went up the mountain to talk with him while the Israelites stayed at the bottom. On the mountain, Moses received the Ten Commandments, the laws from God.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:3-17 NIV

THE LAWS: MAN TO GOD

1. **“You shall have no other gods before me”** (v.3). *Worship only God in heaven.*
2. **“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything...or worship them”** (v. 4-6). *Do not make or worship idols.*
3. **“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God”** (v. 7). *Do not use God’s name disrespectfully.*
4. **“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”** (v. 8). *Keep the Lord’s day holy.*

THE LAWS: MAN TO MAN

5. **“Honor your father and your mother”** (v. 12). *Respect your parents.*
6. **“You shall not murder”** (v. 13). *Do not kill. Help one another.*
7. **“You shall not commit adultery”** (v. 14). *Married couples should be faithful to each other.*
8. **“You shall not steal”** (v. 15). *Do not rob. Share with one another.*
9. **“You shall not give false testimony”** (v. 16). *Do not lie. Tell the truth.*
10. **“You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor”** (v. 17). *Do not envy the possessions of other people.*
In the New Testament, someone asked

Jesus: “Which is the most important commandment?” Jesus responded, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ ” (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV).

God instructed and guided His people to build the Tabernacle, a sacred place where the Israelites would worship Him. The Israelites obeyed and brought special gifts.

The Tabernacle was portable; it was a large tent that could be taken apart and put back together as they traveled. Skilled craftsmen made the large tent from animal skins and hand carved wood. Inside the Tabernacle, the Ten Commandments were placed inside a golden chest, called the Ark of the Covenant. Outside and in front of the Tabernacle was an altar for their sacrifices to God. A portable fence was around the whole area of the Tabernacle. When the Tabernacle was finished, a cloud covered it. That showed that God was with them. When God wanted the people to stay in a place, the cloud hovered over the Tabernacle. When they were to move, God raised the cloud up.

After many years, Moses became very angry at the Israelites for complaining. Moses did not follow God’s instructions. He angrily struck a rock for water, instead of speaking to the rock. Because of this, God did not allow Moses to go into the Promised Land. But he was allowed to see it from Mount Nebo, across from Jericho. Moses died at the age of 120 years old.

God chose Joshua to be the new leader of the Israelite people.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. For the first time, the Israelites had laws from God. They wanted to obey these laws. Know and obey God’s laws.
2. In the New Testament, Jesus gave a summary of the Ten Commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...Love your neighbor as yourself.” Follow what Jesus said and love God and those around you.
3. The Israelites went to the Tabernacle to worship God. Go to church and worship God. It is good to invite your family and friends to go to church with you.
4. Moses faced many problems in his life, but God helped him. God loved Moses and took care of him. God loves each one. Pray and ask God to help you when you are having problems. Do your part, but also trust in God to help you whenever you face difficulties.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the Ten Commandments are about our relationship to God? Which commandments are about our relationship with man?
2. Why were the people of Israel to obey the commandments of God?
3. Do we need to obey God’s commandments today? Why?
4. What was the Tabernacle? Describe it. Where do you go to worship God? Describe it.
5. Moses was a great leader to the Israelites. Tell some of the ways that he led the people. Name some great leaders of your country and what they do or did. Name great leaders of God and tell what they do.
6. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the Promised Land? Did he get to see it? Where?
7. Do you think someone can fail and do something wrong? Why? Is there anyone who is perfect? What are some of the consequences of doing wrong? How can someone receive forgiveness?
8. Whom did God choose to be the new leader to the Israelite people? What are some characteristics of a good leader?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

– Cut out pictures of people obeying laws, such as a car stopped at a signal. In the group, explain the importance of obeying laws. Ask: “*Why do we need to obey laws?*” “*What would happen if people did not obey laws?*” (Examples: “*What happens if someone steals things from your house? What would happen if no one had to stop at a stop sign or signal? What would happen if you didn’t have any rules at school?*”)

– Ask: “*Do you have a church building where you can go and worship God? Tell me about it.*” Then say, “*Today we are going to hear the Bible story of when God gave special laws (or rules) to Moses and His people. Also we are going to learn about the first type of building built where the Israelites could go to worship God. It was portable, because it was like a big tent. Whenever they moved, they could take their church building with them. That is very different, right?*” Tell the Bible story, share the Life Lessons and ask questions for discussion.

GIFTS:

– Give a Bible to someone, such as:
 ...Members of your family;
 ...A friend, neighbor or colleague;
 ...Military service men and women, firemen, policemen, community servants;
 ...Church members, visitors or missionaries;
 ...International people living in your community.
Suggestion: When that person speaks another language, give a Bible that has parallel languages, such as English/Spanish or English/French. The American Bible Society sells these Bibles.

GAME: “WHICH COMMANDMENT?”

– A member of the group acts out or he draws on paper or draws with chalk or a stick on the ground one of the commandments. Then ask the others to guess which commandment it is.

CD/DVD:

– Watch a film about the Ten Commandments.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Exodus 19:1-3; 20:1-20; 40:16-38; Numbers 20:7-12;
 Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-7,10-12; Matthew 22:34-40

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Exodus 19:1-3; 20:1-3	Exodus 20:4-11	Exodus 20:12-20	Matthew 22:34-40	Exodus 40:16-38	Numbers 20:7-12	Deu. 32:48-52; 34:1-7,10-12