

The logo for Bible Fun Factory is a black, rounded rectangular sign with a white border, hanging from a silver chain. The text "BIBLE FUN FACTORY" is written in a playful, multi-colored font. "BIBLE" is in light blue, "FUN" is in pink, and "FACTORY" is in yellow. A yellow cross is positioned to the right of the word "FUN".

**BIBLE
FUN
FACTORY**

BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS | Volume 3



EXODUS 2-19

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BIBLE FUN FACTORY

BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS

EXODUS 3-19

Welcome to this series of original and fantastically fun Bible lessons for students in pre-school through sixth grade. These lessons introduce characters in the book of Genesis and help children make a personal connection by putting the characters problems into a modern day context. The lessons introduce principles students can use every day at school, at home, and in the neighborhood, while growing in Christ.

In this series of five lessons, we focus on Moses as he **grows into a man of God**. We first meet Moses as a young man, who like many of us, lacks confidence to do the things God tells him to do. We learn through his early years how to **follow God's voice**. When God uses Moses to part the Red Sea, we see that **God is capable of anything**. Finally, as God gives Moses the Ten Commandments, we see that **God has established right from wrong**, and we should keep his commandments in our hearts.

These lessons bring students closer to God by watching Him create miracles and show us His nature.

Lessons included:

Lesson 1: Moses and the Burning Bush

Lesson 2: Following God's Voice

Lesson 3: Moses and the Red Sea

Lesson 4: Bread from Heaven

Lesson 5: Moses Gets the Ten Commandments

A couple notes before you “dig in” to the lesson plans:

We provide more than enough activities to fill a 60 minute class so you can be selective and choose the activities that appeal to you or opt for the activities that match the supplies you have on hand.

The sections written in **BOLD** font type are meant to be a rough “teaching script” for you to use while you are teaching each section. Follow these scripts verbatim or change them to suit your needs!

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MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Children find the miraculous easy to believe in. The stories of Moses leading Israel out of bondage is full of miracles and can bring the miraculous close to the children's lives.

The lesson they should start learning as early as possible, as exemplified through the journey, is that **God uses normal people to do extraordinary things**. Moses thought of himself as “just another man” who had actually done some bad things, but God looked at his willingness and his heart, and not at his appearance or his flaws.

Therefore, we should feel confident that **God cares about normal people like us**. He watches over us and gives us messages, too.

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Bed sheet
- Spray water bottle filled with water

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Paper plates, one for each child
- Crayons
- Garbage bag

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Paper
- Pencils

Activity, Younger Children

- Construction paper, red, orange, yellow, green and another color of your choosing. The final color should be in whole sheets, one for each child, but the others may be half sheets, one for each child

- Pens
- Scissors
- Stick glue
- Markers

Activity, Older Children

- Construction paper, orange, yellow and green, one sheet for each child
- Popsicle sticks, two for each child
- Markers
- Glue sticks

Game, Younger Children

- Chair
- Handprint pictures made in Activity, Younger Children

Game, Older Children

- Blindfold

BIBLE READING / STORY: EXODUS 3

Exodus 3: Moses and the Burning Bush

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers... 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. Here is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

16 "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. 17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Exodus 4

1 Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

2 Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

3 The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground."

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

6 Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow.

7 "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

8 Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second. 9 But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

10 Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

11 The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): MOSES & THE BURNING BUSH

How many of you think it would be cool if God spoke to you, just like he spoke to Moses at the burning bush? Most should say yes.

Do any of you ever think it would be cool to do something BIG for God someday? We don't have any slaves in Egypt to lead away these days, but how about if God told you that you could feed a whole starving country or develop a cure for a terrible disease when you grew up? How would you feel about that?

You should have at least one enthusiastic responder to that question. Pick the most enthusiastic child and put him in a special chair a few feet away from the others. Drape a sheet over the child. Get out your water spray bottle.

Well, if you're going to do something very special for God, you'd better become a very special person. I think we'd better sprinkle you with holy water and ask God to make some changes here.

Shouldn't we ask God to make [child's name] pretty perfect in her behavior? Yes.

Spray water on the sheet, then pass the bottle to a child.

God, please make [child's name] pretty perfect, so that she is qualified to do great things for you. Help her to never get angry again.

Have several children pray for [child's name] and squirt her with magic water to be perfect.

God, feeding a starving country or discovering a cure for an illness will take a lot of money. Please make [child's name] wealthy.

Have several more children pray for [child's name] and squirt her with magic water to be wealthy.

God, in most pictures I see in art galleries, Bible characters look beautiful and flawless. If people are going to listen to [child's name] and be influenced by her, she will need to be very nice to look at. Please make her even more beautiful than she already is.

Have several more children pray for [child's name] and squirt her with magic water to be beautiful.

Wow, we've asked God for a lot. I bet when we take this sheet off, [child's name] will be more beautiful, more perfect, and even better dressed in rich clothes. What do you think?

Some younger children might buy this, but older ones especially will be quite cynical.

Why? Why don't you think God would answer our prayers? I mean, we're only asking for the perfect person so [child's name] can do great things for him.

Some might say that it takes a long time, but stick to your guns with this argument. Finally remove the sheet. Seem surprised that [child's name] looks exactly the same.

God can change anyone in an instant. Maybe this isn't about what God can't do. Maybe this is about what God doesn't want to do or doesn't need to do. Let's look at Moses when God spoke to him at the burning bush. Was Moses perfectly behaved? No; he had just killed a guy.

Did he have lots of money? No; he left everything behind when he fled Egypt after killing the guy.

Was he very handsome and did he make all the girls swoon? No; he was probably sweaty and dirty as were most people who lived in the dessert at that time.

Yet God chose him to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt. If any of us want to do great things for God, we should try hard not to mess up. But the most important things are to be willing, and to just be who we are...like Moses was.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: OOPS, I MADE A MISTAKE PLATE

Place a paper plate at each child's place with crayons on the table.

This is an "Oops, I Made a Mistake" plate. Draw a picture on it of yourself and some mistake you made recently. When you're finished, we're going to help you get rid of that mistake.

After kids are finished drawing:

Today we're going to hear about one of the greatest leaders of all time, and guess what, he made mistakes too! God says that when we make a mistake, all we have to do is feel

sorry and ask for forgiveness. Explain what your mistake was and then we'll all ask for God's forgiveness and then hurl the plate into the garbage bag.

Kids should explain their picture.

Do you ask God's forgiveness? Yes.

The plates should wing like a Frisbee. Try to catch them in the garbage bag. When all are finished, tie up the garbage and put the bag outside the room.

If you happen to get plates that don't wing like a Frisbee, another concept is to have them tear the plate in pieces and throw the pieces in the garbage bag.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: PERSONAL INVENTORY

As children arrive, ask them to take a piece of paper and write down two lists. One is a list of things about themselves that they like. The other is a list of things they would like to change. Have them discuss the lists together.

It's hard to write good and bad things about ourselves, isn't it? The good things can make us feel kind of like we're bragging and the bad things are hard to admit. However, God is willing to do great things in our lives, no matter how many bad things we did in the past. Of course, we should try to be good, but God loves us, in spite of that list of things you'd like to change about yourself.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: BURNING BUSH MADE OF HANDPRINTS

With red, yellow, orange and green construction paper, make burning bushes out of traced handprints. Have students put the green handprint in the center on a piece of construction paper and fill in around it with the red, orange and yellow so that they look like flames. Write, or have them write, "Behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me... Exodus 3:9"

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: BURNING BUSH FAN

Each child should get three sheets of construction paper: orange and red and green. Have them place the red sheet directly under the orange sheet. Either draw for them or have them draw a giant flame. The flame should be big enough to take up most of the sheet.

They should cut both sheets at the same time in the shape of the flame.

The green sheet should be a bush or treetop shape, which they should cut out. You can use an orange juice lid to create the circles. The treetop should be big enough to take up most of the sheet.

Put one flame sheet on either side of the treetop sheet. Using glue sticks, glue them together at the bottom.

Take two popsicle sticks and run glue down one side of each. Then place the sticky sides on either side of the flame/bush so that approximately two inches of the stick is pasted to the construction paper sheets, and the rest is pasted to the other stick.

Allow the students to fan themselves with the burning bush to let them know that God's fire didn't burn the bush and it won't burn them. They should put the burning bush in their rooms at home to remind them that God likes to speak to them in prayer.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BURNING BUSH

Cover one chair with all the handprint pictures of the burning bush that children made in the activity.

Let's pretend that one day while you were out playing, you saw a beautiful burning bush. Let's pretend it says something to you. Think of what you would say back.

Have one child come kneel in front of the burning bush. Make up things that God might tell a child about being good. You can personalize these if you know the children and their family/school/neighborhood situations very well.

[Child's name]: What can you do today that is nice for your sister (brother)?

[Child's name]: What can you do today that is nice for your mom?

[Child's name]: Who can you be nicer to in school?

[Child's name]: What teacher can you say 'thank you' to this week? And for what?

[Child's name]: Who will you pray for this week, and how come?

[Child's name]: What are you afraid of and how can you not be afraid?

[Child's name]: What animals live in your neighborhood? How can you be nicer to them?

[Child's name]: Who do you know that is lonely? How come? What can you do for them this week?

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: GOD HEARS US

We like to imply that God is whole-heartedly interested in the kids, just the same as he was interested in the pre-Exodus Moses.

Blindfold one child. Have other children come up behind him and say, "I am a burning bush." The speaker can disguise his voice a bit.

The blindfolded child has to guess which child spoke to him. For each right answer, he gets a point.

After every child has been blindfolded and gathered points, explain:

You were able to guess your classmates because you know the sound of their voices. In the same way, God knows the sound of our voices. We all have different voices, but God knows them all. He even knows when you're pretending to be somebody else. And guess what? He never gets it wrong!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, Sometimes we feel so utterly lost in a crowd or lonely or ordinary. However, Your Word says that we are special to You. Help us to deeply experience Your love this week and help us to pass that love along.

Amen

MOSES LEARNS TO FOLLOW GOD'S VOICE

Children do not often quibble with the idea that God can speak to them and speaks to others. However, they can always use our support when facing the challenges of **finding God's voice** in the clatter of life and following it when circumstances seem confusing.

We want them to understand that **finding and following God's voice has great rewards** and leads to great peace.

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Graham crackers
- Paper towels
- Can of vegetables, something children would not like; perhaps beets
- Chocolate or banana crème pie (these can be bought very reasonably in the frozen food aisle of the supermarket)

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Graham crackers
- Paper towels
- Ziploc bags

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Boxes and other objects to create a maze

Activity, Younger Children

- White paper, two sheets for each child
- Construction paper, yellow, to create sun circles
- Cotton to add clouds (not required)
- Glue sticks

Activity, Older Children

- A sheet of paper per two student group

Game, Younger Children

- Blindfold

Game, Older Children

- Blindfold

BIBLE READING / STORY: EXODUS 5

Exodus 5:

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.' "

2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

4 But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" 5 Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

6 That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and foremen in charge of the people: 7 "You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. 8 But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' 9 Make the work harder for the men so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies."

10 Then the slave drivers and the foremen went out and said to the people, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I will not give you any more straw. 11 Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.'" 12 So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. 13 The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, "Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw." 14 The Israelite foremen appointed by Pharaoh's slave drivers were beaten and were asked, "Why didn't you meet your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?"

15 Then the Israelite foremen went and appealed to Pharaoh: "Why have you treated your servants this way? 16 Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, 'Make bricks!' Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people."

17 Pharaoh said, "Lazy, that's what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.' 18 Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks."

19 The Israelite foremen realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." 20 When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, 21 and they said, "May the LORD look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

God Promises Deliverance

22 Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? 23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): MOSES & AARON GO TO MEET PHARAOH

After the Bible story, tell the children they must all wash their hands thoroughly. Have each child seated at the table. Have them redistribute the graham crackers from the intro activity. Lay one graham cracker down on top of each towel.

I want everyone to follow my instructions carefully. I don't want you to touch these graham crackers. That certainly means do not taste. Fold your paper towel in half so the graham cracker is inside of it.

Show them how to do this so that half the graham cracker is beneath the fold and half is above.

Now I want you to ruin the graham cracker. Make a fist and smash down on it, and try to keep your crumbs inside the paper towel. Do not eat any of it. Smash, smash, smash.

Using your own as an example, show them how to make small crumbs that stay inside the paper towel as much as possible.

Sometimes, we think that God has plans to give us something good. We may have thought after we washed our hands that God intended for us to eat these yummy graham crackers.

Then sometimes, we realize he has other plans. We're not sure what he wants. We can't understand why we have to wait.

Bring out a heavy can of either stewed tomatoes or beets or something more or less unpleasant to children—at least in comparison to graham crackers.

Go around to each child and use the can like a rolling pin to further smash each child's graham crackers inside the paper towel.

When Moses first heard that God planned to use him to set people free, he didn't exactly think it would be simple. But he didn't think Pharaoh would increase the slaves' work and get them all mad at Moses and Aaron.

We'll see today that sometimes God's will seems to involve things we didn't expect and sometimes following is not easy, but there's freedom if we follow!

Turn up the can and show the children what it is.

See this? It's a can of [beets]. How about if I mix the [beets] in with the graham cracker crumbs and we make a nice, mushy, purple snack?

Children should provide many variations of “ewwww!”

Sometimes when we're trying to follow God's will, we get an idea that the whole thing could end up terribly! “Hey! What if it's God's idea that I should snack on mashed [beets?]”

Have the children open their paper towels.

Why, look! We've ruined our snack. Now we'll have to throw it out.

Go around with a zip-lock bag, and have everyone carefully empty their crumbs into the zip lock bag.

God told Moses at the burning bush to tell Pharaoh to “let the people go free!” But Pharaoh was a hard, cruel man who was very scary and liked having slaves. Sometimes when God tells us to do something, it looks like everything's gone wrong.

Hold up the bag of cracker crumbs.

But that only means that God's rewards don't come in the ways or at the times that we think they should. Sometimes God likes to do a little of the work Himself. Hey, did you know that mashed graham cracker crumbs make the basis for pie crust? If you had butter and sugar and chocolate pudding...

Bring a chocolate pie out of a hidden place.

In doing God's will, we have to trust Him to bring us our rewards, even if it looks like we're messing things up, even if we can't see where He's leading us.

Serve pie and enjoy!

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: TREASURE HUNT

Put two graham crackers for each child inside a paper towel. Put both in a brown bag. Hide the brown bags all around the room. As children come in say, **“We’re hunting for God’s will.” See if you can find it. God’s will is in brown bags today. You should only find ONE.”**

As children find “God’s Will,” they should bring it back to the table. **“Do not eat God’s will, and try not to ‘break’ God’s will.”**

Note: If you know each child in your class, you can put their names on the bags and tell them only to find the one with their name on it.

Tell them to slowly eat one graham cracker and put the other in a basket in the middle of the table with the paper towel still wrapped around it.

Sometimes God’s will is hard for us to see. It’s not easy to find the right way to go, but it’s always there. And sometimes...God speaks very clearly to certain people just because he loves them. We’ll hear about Moses today.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: MAZE

Sometimes God’s will requires a journey that isn’t always simple. Such was Moses’ journey with the Hebrews through Exodus. We’ll see that it’s kind of like following a maze...but it’s amazing! Find your way through this maze...

Prior to the beginning of class, create a maze in the hallway. Be sure to include “road blocks” so that students experience a journey.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: STORM CLOUD AND THE RAINBOW

Sometimes following God’s will can be like going through a thunder storm. Some people like thunder storms! At any rate, God’s promises are great, and they’re like ending up on the other side of the rainbow.

Give students the materials: white paper shaped like a rainbow, and white paper shaped like a cloud, cotton if desired, a round circle made out of yellow construction paper.

They should color in the rainbow, then color the cloud black, gray or purple.

They should draw a picture of their own smiling face on the yellow circle, then paste the circle onto the other end of the rainbow as the storm cloud.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: SCRABBLE BOARD

Before class, line the paper so that it has ½” boxes. It should look like a Scrabble board.

Like Moses, we sometimes have trouble finding God's will and sticking with it. It can seem like a hidden mystery.

With a partner, look at your sheet of paper as if it is a Scrabble board. One of you will go first and pick a word and place each letter of the word in a box. Then, your partner will pick a word that has a common consonant or vowel and write each letter in a box. For example, if the first person picks ‘Moses’ then the partner can pick ‘courage’ and use the ‘o’ or the ‘e’ as the common letter.

Moses	slavery	courage
pharaoh	reeds	bravery
midan	let my people go	hope
burning bush	just a normal guy	trust
Zipporah	hard hearted	mocking
shepherds	good behavior	endurance
Moses mother	patience	exodus

GAME, YOUNGER & OLDER CHILDREN: OBSTACLE COURSE

Sometimes following God's will is like running an obstacle course. You don't know where you'll end up and when, but the idea is to complete God's will and get to the other side.

Have chairs set up on the rug in a haphazard manner. Blindfold one child.

And sometimes God's voice sounds unclear to us, like it might be in a whisper, or it might sound like many voices, and we might only be able to clearly hear a few words here and there.

Tell the children that they can only say four words to direct the blindfolded child through the maze: Left, right, forward, backward. Younger children who don't know left and right can be split on opposite sides of the course and can say "forward," "backward," and "toward me" or "away from me." Older children can shout all at once.

The blindfolded child must walk through the obstacle course, trying not to bump any chairs. Each bump gives the child one point. When he finishes the obstacle course, the next student can be blindfolded, and the chairs then rearranged.

The student with the least points at the end wins the game.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving us Moses, for loving someone so much who was "just a guy." It shows us how much You love us as well. Show us ways we can help you.

Amen.

MOSES PARTS THE RED SEA

Children have little difficulty in believing in the miraculous. They are still often deciding what can be real and what is imaginary. Hence, before they get old enough to exercise doubt, they have great opportunities to celebrate the miraculous and cultivate a spirit of hope and possibility.

Through studying one of the greatest miracles recorded in the Bible, they can see that **God is capable of anything, and in that, we can have hope for eternity.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Construction paper for younger kids; squares of writing paper for older kids
- Two Ziploc bags, both marked “Red Sea Problems”
- Crayons for younger kids; pencils for older kids
- Red Sea Waves from Intro Activity

Intro Activity for Younger Children & Older Children

- Blue Construction paper, cut in the shape of a wave
- Scissors

Activity, Younger Children

- One strand of plastic beading thread (comes in a kit from the craft store) for each child
- Beads, 6-12 for each child

- Snacks, cookies or candy for one of the Ziploc bags marked “Red Sea Problems” (keep bag out of sight!)

Activity, Older Children

- Three strands of colorful embroidery threads for each girl, cut to 24” lengths. (Embroidery thread usually has six pieces of thread in a strand. Do not separate the threads.)
- Three pieces of twine for each boy, cut to 24” lengths
- Snack cookies or candies put into one of the two “Red Sea Problems” Ziploc bags (keep bag out of sight!)

Game, Younger & Older Children

One of each of the following (make substitutions when something isn’t available)

- Quarter, spoon, ping pong ball, book, car keys or hanger

BIBLE READING / STORY:

EXODUS 14

Exodus 14

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through

his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): MOSES & THE RED SEA

We don't have to run through the Red Sea today to escape bad armies, and thank goodness we are not slaves! Still, we have "Red Sea" days in our lives. These are days when we could really use God's help with something. Maybe we want something in our lives to change. The Hebrews didn't want to be slaves anymore. They wanted to be happy and free. What is it that we want?

Have everyone sit at the tables and either write or draw something in their lives that they don't like and would like to see changed. Some examples you might suggest are:

- We only have one bathroom in our house. I would like more.
- My big sister never lets me go anywhere with her. I want to do more things with her.
- I don't have enough socks but Mom says we can't afford to buy anything right now.
- My parents fight a lot and I want things to be peaceful.
- Nobody wants to sit with me at lunch at school and it embarrasses me.

Think of some "Red Sea" things that are making you uncomfortable. We're going to draw (write) them, and put them in the "Red Sea" bag.

As kids are drawing, try to help them discern a real "Red Sea" issue. For example, if someone wants a luxury item, explain that the lack of the luxury item isn't causing a problem. Get them to focus on meaningful things that they don't like, from which they would like to experience freedom. Explain as they're drawing:

After crossing the Red Sea, the Hebrews had quite a long journey ahead of them. Sometimes our challenges don't disappear right away, but like the Hebrews, we can have hope...because God can do anything.

Once everyone has drawn or written down a "Red Sea" item, have them fold it in fours. Have them drop their papers into one of your two gallon zip-lock bags marked, "Red Sea Bag."

You should write something down for your own life and stick it in the bag too—something that is important to you.

Hold up the bag.

Father in heaven, we have in this bag a whole lot of challenges. We are going to give them to You. We want You to take our problems from us. Help us to rely on You to have courage, to move forward and not stand still. To believe You love us just the way we are, and

that You can replace discomfort with true peace, and bring relief to some of these situations. Amen.

Put the bag in a cabinet or under a blanket, and wipe your hands brusquely to show that the problems are being taken away.

Now we're going to walk through the "Red Sea." When we come out on the other side, we will believe we have God's attention and we will trust Him on our journey to a better situation.

The key to a faith game begins with the teacher. *What you truly believe, your kids will believe also. This is why it is important for you to be part of the process. Adding your own challenge to the bag will help strengthen your own faith.*

Crossing the Red Sea is a ritual game, a rite of passage, and your goal is for the kids to actually feel differently—bigger—when they come out on the other side.

Have them form two rows, holding their Red Sea "waves." Each child should take a turn walking slowly down the center. Other children touch them with their Red Sea waves and chant. The chant goes as follows:

Father God set us free as we walk across Your sea.

The child who is walking should shut his eyes and walk blindly, picturing his challenge going up to God. His chant is "**Trust. Trust. Trust.**"

When he reaches the other side, use your teacher confidence and authority to congratulate him. **Congratulations. Your problem is now with the Lord. Let's see how He wants to be involved with it.**

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER & OLDER CHILDREN: MAKING WAVES

Today we're going to learn how Moses parted the waters of the Red Sea so the Hebrew people could escape Pharaoh's army. Right now, you can make a Red Sea Wave of your own.

If the oblong shape of the wave has not been cut out yet, children can cut it out as you have traced it. They should then use scissors to cut slivers into it, just cutting lines inward, maybe six per inch, so that at the end it looks like they have fringe on both sides.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: PRAYER PARTNER BEADS

We are going to make prayer partner bracelets and wear them this week. The bracelet will remind you to pray for your partner.

Give the kids the strands of plastic thread for beading and some beads. Show them how to string beads on the thread if they need help. They should string only enough to make a bracelet.

Cut the plastic thread with a three inch tail on each end and tie the tails in a box knot.

Let this bracelet serve as a reminder of your friend and prayer partner. Every time you see it, remember to offer up a quick prayer about that person's problem.

At some point, during the hustle and bustle of the lesson and art project, find a moment to switch the "Red Sea Problems" bag filled with the written problems with another "Red Sea Problems" bag filled with Snickers bites or some other snack.

God doesn't always solve our problems right away, but until we reach our own "promise land," He likes for us to know He's looking out for us along the way.

Eat the treats together.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: PRAYER PARTNER BEADS

During the lesson we learned how to give a problem to God and what that feels like in our hearts. If we're looking to change a "Red Sea" problem in our lives, sometimes it helps to find a friend who will pray for us. Everyone pick a prayer partner for our activity!

Pair the children up in twos. If there is an odd number, have your assistant be one child's prayer partner.

Remind your prayer partner what your problem was that you wrote down on the piece of paper and stuck in the bag.

Have the pairs exchange this information again.

This week, I want you to promise to pray for that other person to get out of their problem. Do you promise? Yes

Now we're going to make prayer partner bracelets and wear them as a reminder to pray for that other person throughout the week.

Give the kids the strands of embroidery thread for girls and twine for boys. Show them how to make box knots:

One box knot is a series of two knots. The first is like if you were trying your sneakers. You loop the left tie behind the right and pull it through the loop. The second knot is exactly the same, only this time you loop the right tie through the left and pull it through the loop. It makes a pretty knot that looks like a square. They should do these knots until they have enough twine to fit around the person's wrist with three inches of tie-off at each end.

Prayer partners can tie these on each other.

If you have access to beads of the prayer partner's initials, or large stone beads, they can be added after three inches of knotting.

Let this bracelet serve as a reminder of your friend and prayer partner. Every time you see it, remember to offer up a quick prayer about that person's problem.

At some point, during the hustle and bustle of the lesson and art project, find a moment to switch the "Red Sea Problems" bag filled with the written problems with another "Red Sea Problems" bag filled with Snickers bites or some other snack.

God doesn't always solve our problems right away, but until we reach our own "promise land," He likes for us to know He's looking out for us along the way.

Eat the treats together.

GAME, YOUNGER & OLDER CHILDREN: THE LISTENING GAME

If we're going to trust God to take our problems and work with us to be free and happy, we first have to believe that he hears our prayers. Let's play The Listening Game to help us understand God hears our prayers.

Show everyone six items: a quarter, spoon, ping pong ball, a small book, your car keys and a plastic hanger.

Have everyone sit in a circle facing outward or sit with their heads down on a table. Take turns dropping the items. When it makes a noise, ask:

Was it the quarter, spoon, ping pong ball, book, car keys or hanger?

Go through every item, showing them after each turn that they were correct, then have them put their heads down again.

Note: While nobody is looking, this is also a good time to switch the Ziploc bags containing the “Red Sea Problems” and the snacks that you use in the lesson and the activity, if you have not done so.

All of our voices are different and all of our “Red Sea Problems” are different. Just like we can identify the sounds of different things, God knows the sound of each of our voices. We can believe he hears us and wants to help us in our struggles.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank you for creating miracles so that we can know how big and strong You are. Thank You for hearing our voices. Help us to use them to speak to You whenever possible.

Amen.

BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Children tend to “live in the now,” meaning they don’t worry about dinner until they start to feel hungry. “Mom or Dad will take care of it,” they think. Hence, they might be surprised to hear how fast the Israelites started to grumble at Moses with things like, “What will we eat out here in the desert?” It is good to reinforce while they are young that **just like God provided for the Israelites in the desert, so He will provide for us. He hears better about the things we want if we are grateful for those wants He has already fulfilled.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Bottle of bubbles with bubble wand inside
- Bag of balloons—larger size

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Writing paper, half sheet or less for each child (as what they write must be rolled up into a small enough tube to fit through the mouth of a large balloon)
- Pencils

Activity, Younger Children

- Wish picture from Intro Activity
- Crayons or markers
- Glitter

- Glue

Activity, Older Children

- Large balloons, one for each child
- Wish lists from Intro Activity
- Crayons or markers

Game, Younger Children

- Several large balloons
- Container of bubbles with wand from Intro Activity
- String on rod on which to tie balloon for child who wins

Game, Older Children

- 6 or 7 large balloons, blown up and ready to use
- Two bottles of dollar store bubbles (though you may want more in case one drops/spills during the race)

BIBLE READING / STORY:

EXODUS 16

Manna and Quail

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" ⁸ Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.' "

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' "

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.' "

¹⁷ The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. ¹⁸ And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

¹⁹ Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

²⁰ However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): GOD PROVIDES EVERY DAY

Once upon a time a kid named Peter really wanted an iPod. He prayed every day. When his birthday came around a few weeks later, lo and behold! An iPod!

"Wow, this prayer thing really works," Peter said to himself.

A few hours later, he was on his dad's computer trying to download music. The computer kept crashing.

"Why did God give me this iPod if He won't help me download any music?" he grumbled.

"Give the computer a rest tonight. We'll shut down and try again tomorrow."

The next day, Peter downloaded fifteen songs.

So Peter tried again. "Lord, I really want a puppy. Please bring me one."

A few days later, Peter saw a dog up the street without a collar. "God really answers prayers," he said. "Thanks, God."

When his mom came in from work and saw the dog, she said, "Who does he belong to?"

"Me!" Peter said. "He doesn't have a collar, and he showed up on our street just a couple days after I started praying for a dog."

"Peter, I know you really want a dog, but this one probably belongs to someone. Let me check around."

Sure enough, a grateful neighbor ran up to the door after Peter's mom sent out a text to everyone she knew in the neighborhood. "Thank you so much!" The woman said tearfully. "I was starting to think that Brandy had been stolen or hit by a car."

"You know, he probably would have found his way home if you hadn't brought him in the house," his mom said to Peter.

"But...I prayed for a dog, and it showed up!"

Peter went to bed, thinking God must have a mean streak for tricking him and getting his hopes up.

Three weeks later, Peter's dad took him to the Humane Society to look at dogs. "Pete, these dogs are all too big for our house. We don't have a big enough yard for any of these. We said you could have a small dog. We'll have to keep looking."

Peter felt dejected, slammed the car door and said, "This praying thing doesn't work! I wanted a dog today!"

"Where's your iPod?" Dad asked, remembering Peter's tale about answered prayer.

"I don't even know. I kind of got tired of the same fifteen songs. I prayed for more music, but you kept saying the economy is bad and I had to wait. I hope I didn't leave it at school!"

When Peter got home, he checked his room and all over his house. No iPod anywhere. "I definitely think this prayer thing doesn't work," he said.

His father sighed, weary of Peter's complaining. "Keep track of your belongings, and don't blame it on God! Maybe you'll find it at school tomorrow."

And Peter did, but he wasn't very happy. He had prayed for more songs, which he hadn't gotten yet. He really wanted a dog, but his trip to the Humane Society turned out to be a bust.

Dad reminded him of the Israelites in the desert. How quickly they forgot that God had freed them by throwing back the waters of the Red Sea. Soon after, they were complaining because they didn't have food. God provided the food and they tried to save it. When it spoiled, they were unhappy again.

"Why don't you try being grateful for what you do have?" Dad asked.

It's hard for us to remember what we have when there's something we want. But guess what? There's *always* something we want.

Take out your bottle of bubbles and the wand.

Sometimes the things we want are like bubbles. They shoot out into the air and look very fun and beautiful.

Blow some bubbles.

However, when we forget what we already have, our feelings start to sink.

Blow again, tell the children not to break them, and watch them get close to the ground.

When we're not grateful enough, and when we're not patient enough, our desires burst, like Peter's did. Most of our desires are short term. We often get the item and then stop caring about it because we move on to something else we want.

Blow more bubbles.

Sometimes, we can enjoy those fleeting things for a while longer though.

Catch a bubble on your bubble blower.

Bubbles are fun for a while, but they always break eventually. We have to remember to be thankful for the important things from God—the things that last.

Put the bubbles down and bring out a balloon—one that you've already blown up once, so it will blow up easily.

Like our freedom. Blow into the balloon, then pinch it.

Like the people who love us. Blow into the balloon, then pinch again.

Like our health and what we can do with it. Blow into the balloon, then pinch again.

And most importantly, for a God who always cares and will always provide for our needs.

Tie a knot in the balloon and toss it into the air.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: WISH PICTURE

Today, we'll be talking about the Israelites after they crossed the Red Sea. They were so happy for their freedom, but then they became unhappy really quickly when they thought God wouldn't provide them with any food.

Tell students to draw a picture of something they want very badly. They should write at the bottom when they expect to get this thing (tomorrow, next week, next birthday, next year).

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: WISH LIST

Today, we'll be talking about the Israelites after they crossed the Red Sea. They were so happy for their freedom, but then they became unhappy really quickly when they thought God wouldn't provide them with any food.

Give each child a half sheet of writing paper (it's important for later not to make the paper bigger). Tell the students to make a list (or a picture) of five things they don't have, but want very badly. Tell them to put the things on one side of their paper, and on the other side, put the dates of when they feel they might get each thing (tomorrow, next week, next birthday, next year, etc.)

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: GRATITUDE LIST

Have the children return to the pictures they drew during the Intro Activity of the thing they really want.

If we want it badly enough, here's what we have to do:

- **Pray for it**
- **Be patient**
- **Show gratitude for what we do have**
- **Accept that God might think we're better off without it**

Have everyone turn the paper over. Now, younger children should color something they're grateful for. On this side, add glitter and multi-colored hole punches so that that side of the paper has more dimension and will be the side they want to leave up.

Father, we thank You for the things that we do have. Help us to remember to be grateful every day. Help us to be patient for the thing we want on the other side of this page, and help us to accept Your will, if You think we will lose interest in it quickly or if You have an even better plan in mind! Amen.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: GIVING YOUR WISHES TO THE LORD

Have the children return to the list of five “wants” that they made during the Intro Activity.

If we want it badly enough, here’s what we have to do:

- **Pray for it**
- **Be patient**
- **Show gratitude for what we *do* have**
- **Accept that God might think we’re better off without it**

Have them turn the paper over, and write down five things for which they are really grateful. Then have them roll the paper into a very thin tube—as thin as possible.

On one side are our wishes. On the other side is our gratitude. Both are important to the Lord, and we want to give all of this to Him.

Pass out one balloon to each child. Have them fold the tube in half and stuff it into the mouth of the balloon. They may need some help. Once the piece of paper is inside the balloon, they can blow it up. Help them knot the bottom. Leave it somewhat soft (not blown up too tight) because kids should add marker designs and sayings, such as “God Listens,” “My Prayer Wish List.”

Everybody shake up your wish balloon. Imagine God getting both your wishes and your gratitude. The Israelites forgot to be grateful for their freedom very soon after getting it because they wanted food right away. Let’s not forget to be grateful, and let’s not be impatient.

Father, help us to be patient and believe You know our needs. Help us to either receive the desires of our hearts, or show us that You have an even better plan in mind. We have learned from the Israelites and WE TRUST YOU. Amen.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: THE GOD BALLOON

Today we learned that some of our desires are like bubbles that pop, but God’s will for us and his care for us is stronger. Let’s send our wishes (bubbles) off to the “God Balloon” and see how many can be caught.

Have students form pairs. The first child in the pair should take a balloon to the center of the floor. Her partner should stand six feet away and blow bubbles. The first should try to see how many bubbles she can catch on the balloon without letting any fall to the ground. Have everyone count.

The student who pops the most bubbles with the “God balloon” gets to keep the balloon. Tie it to a string for him or her.

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: WACKY BUBBLE BALLOON RACE

Sometimes we are so busy asking for things that we don’t actually need, or wanting things we don’t have, that our lives can resemble a collision course. We can “burst our own bubble” with too many desires. Let’s have a wacky race and try to keep ourselves together!

Blow up at least two balloons, but have more ready in case some break. Have the children form two teams. The first two competitors should each take a balloon and hold it between their knees. When you say, “**Go!**” they should hop down to the far end of the room, blowing bubbles all the way, and trying not to lose the balloon or pop it.

The first team of players to complete the race wins.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, Help us always to feel good about our blessings. Help us realize it’s okay to want things, but the end result is in Your hands, and You always know what is best for us.

Amen.

MOSES & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Bible is not meant to merely be a book of rules, but rules do bring comfort to children and help them know where the boundaries are. Therefore, teaching the Ten Commandments is still a big part of their church learning.

We want children to understand that **God has established right from wrong, and we should always keep His commands in our hearts.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- No materials needed

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Drawing paper
- Crayons

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Strips of paper for coupons
- Pencils, pens, crayons

Activity, Younger Children

- Construction paper, one sheet for each child
- Yellow and orange paint
- Paint brushes
- Craft sand
- Glue stick

Activity, Older Children

- Empty baby food jars with lids, one for each child
- Plastic spoons, six
- Six bags of craft sand, one in each color

Game, Younger Children

- Snack prizes if desired

Game, Older Children

- No supplies needed

BIBLE READING / STORY: EXODUS 19 - 20

Exodus 19

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, 19 and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

20 The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up 21 and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. 22 Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them."

23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.' "

24 The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."

25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments

1 And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): MOSES & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Do your mom and dad have rules for your house? What are some of the rules that your parents have set that you are supposed to follow?

Let children list some, like brushing teeth before bed and saying grace before eating.

God has rules too. The rules help us to know Him better. God likes good and doesn't like bad; like when people hurt each other or hurt Him. He gave us the rules so we would know right from wrong and we would know what He likes and doesn't like.

Here are God's Rules:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make graven images, nor bow down to them.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's belongings.

The following discussion will help children understand and remember the Ten Commandments better by naming things that exemplify.

For older classes with more thought and longer attention spans, you can cover all of the questions below, but you'll probably end up with a two minute discussion on each. It may be better to pick five of God's commandments that will resonate with the children. For younger classes, you might want to focus on three of God's commandments that apply directly to young children, such as honoring parents, not stealing and not lying.

Pick those you want to discuss or use all if you have a very thoughtful and talkative group. As children think of ways to honor each commandment, remember to say, "Yes! That would make God happy!" as the discussion is a way to help children know God's character.

What does God mean by "have no other Gods before me?" "What is a god?"

Something you care about more than God.

Can a TV show be a God? How about an outfit from Hollister? How about a friend?

Yes, yes, yes because we can love them more than God if we aren't careful.

What does it mean to misuse the name of the Lord? Discussion about bad words, especially those with the Lord's name in them.

What is the Sabbath? Sunday. **What things can we think of do that would make the Sabbath special?** Ideas for fun family things, being kind to others, going to church.

How can we honor our mom and dad? Discussion on ways to show kindness to mom and dad, chores they can do and ways to help out more.

What does murder mean? Does it mean that we shouldn't swat a fly on our arm? Pursue some thoughts on where the lines are—people kill animals so they have meat to eat, but God doesn't want us to be bitten by flies. Also, for older children, a discussion on the military protecting its country would be interesting.

What does adultery mean? You're married and you go out with somebody else. This conversation doesn't need to turn sexual. Children understand very well the concept of marriage and love combined with loyalty. It is a great opportunity to start teaching at a young age that God designed human beings to be monogamous. Here is a good quote: "The human heart is not meant to be broken over and over, any more than the human leg bone is meant to be broken over and over." Hence, when you get to be a teenager, it shouldn't be a goal to go out with twenty-five people! You're only hurting yourself!

We all know what stealing is, but there are unusual ways to steal. How about if you look on someone else's paper during a test in school? Is that stealing? Have kids think of stealing in terms of more than just material items. Later, they could steal someone's heart romantically (if they're married or planning to marry). They can steal time from their parents if the parents have asked them to do chores and they're loafing. If the parents have limited TV watching and they go overboard, is that stealing time?

Bearing false testimony against your neighbor means to "lie." Have you ever made-up something about someone? How does gossip play into this? Discussion can focus gossiping—being jealous of a friendship and saying something to wedge one friend out so you can get closer to the other. Blaming something you did that was wrong on somebody else is also good for getting out confessions and discussing forgiveness.

What does coveting mean? Being jealous. **The word “snob” is big today. When we hear people say that somebody is “snobby,” could it be that those people are jealous of something the person has? Maybe a nice house or a pool?** Discuss how it often takes an act of will for us to be happy for somebody’s good fortune, especially if we don’t have that item ourselves. If someone has something we don’t have, we should try to be happy for them and maybe they’ll invite us over! If not, we’ll see what God has in store for us. God loves to root for the underdog.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

Today we’ll be taking about the Ten Commandments, and one of the most important for kids is to honor your father and mother. Draw a picture of something nice you can do for your mother or father this week.

After the kids finish their drawing, write at the top of the page: *I promise to do this for Mom and Dad* [or vary if they are from single parent homes]. Save the drawings to give to the parents.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

Today we’ll be taking about the Ten Commandments, and one of the most important for kids is to honor your father and mother. The strips of paper on the table are coupons. Make a coupon of something nice you will do for your mom or dad this week to honor them, and don’t forget to follow through!

It can be anything from a chore to a promise not to back talk or object to a house rule. Save completed coupons to give to parents.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: DESERT SAND PAINTING

Before Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, the Hebrews had to walk in the desert for a very long time. It was hot, but God took care of them.

Give each student a piece of construction paper in a medium color, such as blue or light brown.

Using yellow and orange paint, and perhaps some glitter, have them paint a big sun.

Run a glue stick or paste over most of the portion of the bottom half of their construction sheet.

Take around a bag of craft store sand, and spoon sand onto the paper. Let the kids mush it around in the stickiness until the bottom is covered.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: DESERT SAND JAR

Before Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, the Hebrews had to walk in the desert a very long time. It was hot, but God took care of them. We are making a sand memorial to that journey. We can take them home and set them somewhere where we can see them so they serve to remind us that God takes care of us during tough times.

Give each student a baby food jar with a lid and a spoon. Put the different colored sand bags down on the table where they can share.

Show them how to spoon in different colors to make layers.

Explain:

- Brown sand represents the dry ground
- Green sand represents what little vegetation they could find in the desert
- Red sand symbolizes how God fed them in the desert when there wasn't any food to be found
- Blue sand symbolizes the sky and how it rarely rained
- Yellow sand symbolizes the sun
- White sand symbolizes God Himself and how he always watches over us

Note: Be sure to tell them not to tip their jars! Their sand will mix together!

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: THREE COMMANDMENTS ROLE PLAYING

Have the kids role play in front of each other and have the other kids guess which Commandment they are keeping.

Teacher: [student's name], what do you have behind your back?

Student has something hidden in her hands behind her back. She shrugs.

Teacher: Tell me the truth. Did you take a toy off the shelf when you knew it was time to put the toys away?

Student: Yes. Hands over the toy.

Teacher: What do you say?

Student: I'm sorry.

Teacher: Which command did [student] break?

Thou shalt not steal. Discuss how even if [student] wasn't planning on taking the toy home, that it's a version of stealing to take something when you're not supposed to have it.

Teacher: What command did [student] keep?

Thou shalt not lie. She told the truth when questioned.

Teacher: What do you do if you break a commandment?

Ask God's forgiveness and then move on and don't think about it again because He doesn't!

Move on to the next student/role model situation:

Teacher: [student's name], what are you doing with those crayons?

Student should pretend to be coloring.

Student: I'm making a picture for my mommy to show her how much I love her.

Teacher: Wow, that will make your mom feel great! What command is [student] keeping?

Honoring Father and Mother

Move on to the next student/role model situation:

Teacher: [student's name], what is that there on the floor beside you?

Student: It's a quarter! Picks it up.

Teacher: Does it belong to you?

Student: No. Hands it to the teacher.

What command is [student] keeping? Thou shalt not steal.

Move on to the next student/role model situation:

Teacher: Tell me about your parents, [student].

Student: My dad has a million dollars and my mom is a movie star.

Teacher: Oh really?

Student: Really!

Is [student] telling the truth? Probably not. **If she's not telling the truth, what commandment is she breaking?** Thou shalt not lie.

You might pursue some conversation here on the reasons people lie. Often it's because they're not comfortable with or ashamed of the truth. Obeying the commandments is not always easy, but we should try anyway.

What do you do if you break a commandment?

Ask God's forgiveness and then move on and don't think about it again, because He doesn't!

Move on to the next student/role model situation:

Student: Mommy, I'm going to play in the backyard!

Teacher: Okay.

Student tippy toes across the floor, looking like she's trying to sneak off. Get the class to ask her where she's going.

Student: My mom won't let me go across the street, but my friend lives over there, and I want to go play!

What commandment is [student] breaking? Thou shalt not lie. She said she was going in the backyard. Explain that moms set rules for reasons. She could get hit by a car or could get lost.

What do you do if you break a commandment?

Ask God's forgiveness and then move on and don't think about it again, because He doesn't! In this case—it would also be right to apologize to your mom!

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: MNEMONIC DEVICES TO REMEMBER THE COMMANDMENTS

Have students split into pairs. Ask the students to **come up with a mnemonic device** (a way to remember) for each of the Ten Commandments.

Examples:

- Making up a rhyme
- Making up a song
- Doing an acronym, where the first letter of each main word in the Commandments, when ordered right, spells something. (Example: A group of girls calls themselves the “PANCAKE Girls” because they discovered, to their amazement, the first letter of their names spells that word! Penelope, Alana, Natalie, Cassidy, Amanda, Katie, and Ella.) See if you can find a word like PANCAKE that fits the first letter in the key word of each command.

Then tell students to take turns **reciting the Ten Commandments**.

Although it’s not a contest, encourage students to keep count so that, if you want, you can have a class contest.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank You for giving us Moses and for giving us the Ten Commandments, which show us what You are like. Show us ways we can follow them and help us to ask forgiveness when we make mistakes.

Amen.