



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for September 12, 2010
Released on Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

"God Gives Rules"

Lesson Text: Exodus 20:1-11

Background Scripture: Exodus 20:1-26

Memory Verse: "I am the Lord thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2,3).

Exodus 20:1-11

- 1 And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God's rules show us how He wants us to show honor to Him.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God gave His laws to Moses.
2. His laws were and are for all the people of God.
3. His laws showed us how to show honor to Him.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, or draw a picture of stone tablets.

For Helping to Remember, make one or more patterns of a stone tablet that the children can trace around. Bring pencils and gray construction paper for each student.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: 1445 B.C.

Place: Mount Sinai

In our previous lesson we saw that God speaks to us and wants us to know who He is. He also wants us to know His rules, or laws. He wants us to understand His standards — what He expects of us.

Some time after God called Moses, after He had led the people of Israel out of slavery, God gave Moses His laws. God began in much the same way as He called Moses—by reminding him and the people once again who He is and what He had done for them.

In considering God's laws, it is first vital to remind ourselves who God is in relation to us and what He has done for us. This helps put things in perspective. When we remember that He is God, we know that He alone has the right to make the rules for His creation. When we remember what He has done for us, we know that He always intends good for us in making those rules.

Since He is God and since He has delivered us from bondage, we should worship Him—love and serve and honor Him as our one and only God.

The people of Israel had just come out of a long period of slavery in Egypt. There they saw many idols. God made it clear that they were to reject those. Graven images would lead them into worship of deceptive spirits instead of worship of God; so they were strictly forbidden to involve themselves with them.

God's law said they (and we) should not make idols, bow down to them, or serve them. In other words, we should have nothing to do with them. When we involve ourselves in idolatry, we bring judgment not only on ourselves but also on our children and our grandchildren.

When we keep God's commandments out of love for Him, the positive effect goes on for many generations. This is wonderful motivation to be faithful to God.

God's law also says that He has given us a special day once a week to worship and honor Him. He asks that we remember that day and use it for its intended purpose. This is another way we can honor Him.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Todd and Angie were playing a game. Todd refused to tell Angie any of the rules. Angie kept trying until Todd shouted, "I win!"

Angie felt angry, hurt, and confused.

How could she know who really won if she did not know the rules? How could she even play the game if she did not know the rules? Todd did not seem like a very good friend, because he knew the rules but would not tell her what they were. It was very unfair!

We need to know the rules to play a game, but it is much more important to know God's rules for life. How can we live the way God wants if we do not even know what He wants? How can we understand what God's rules are?

God is not like Todd. God wants us to know His rules.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Last week we learned that God spoke to somebody. Do you remember who it was? (Let the children respond.) Yes, God spoke to Moses. God wanted Moses to know who He was. Do you remember the name He told Moses? (Let the children respond.) Yes, God told Moses His name is "I AM THAT I AM." God is the one who is always living—forever and ever. God wanted Moses to know the work that He had for him to do.

Today we learn about something God showed Moses after that work was done. God wanted Moses and all His people to know His rules for living; so He spoke to Moses again.

God reminded Moses of who He was. He said, "I am the Lord; I am your God." He reminded Moses of a great thing He had just done to help them. For a long time, Moses' people had been slaves in Egypt. God gave Moses the job of bringing them out of slavery, and He helped him do it.

The people knew who God was, and they knew how He had just helped them get out of a very big problem. They should have been ready to listen to God's rules for living.

God's first rules showed them how to live in friendship with Him. In Egypt they had seen many false gods, many images or idols. Those idols could not help anyone. God could help them, and He just had. He said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3).

God wanted to be their God—their one and only God. He was the one who made them. He was the one who created the earth for them to live on. He was the one who brought them out of slavery in Egypt. He deserved their love and service. He deserved to be their one and only God.

Then God told them that they should not make any images to worship like the ones they had seen in Egypt. They were not to bow down to idols or serve idols that someone else made. There were many kinds of idols. They were images of things in the sky like the sun, moon, and stars. Those are things God made. They are not God.

There were images of things on the earth. There were idols made to look like people and animals and other things God had made. They were not God; so God's people were not to worship them.

There were idols that looked like fish and other things in the water. Everything in the sea was also made by God. God's people were to worship the Creator, not the things He made.

God said He wanted all the people's worship and all their love. Those who followed false gods would bring trouble on their children and their children's children for a long time to come. Those who obeyed and followed God would bring blessing on their families for a long, long time.

God had told them His name. His name was special and holy. It reminded them who He is. They were to always be careful how they used His name. They were to use His name in good ways that honored Him, like worship and praise, and in teaching others about Him. They were not to use His name as a curse word or a word to play around with. By honoring God's name, they would honor Him.

God had given them a special day to rest and to worship Him. They were to remember that day. They were to always keep it special. They could work all week long, but they were not supposed to work on God's special day. It was not a day for work. It was a day for rest and worship. Their families and any helpers in their homes were to rest as well.

This was not a new law that God was giving them. In the beginning of creation, God Himself rested the seventh day. From the beginning, He intended to give us this day of rest and worship.

By following these rules, God's people could honor Him. It was good for them to know God's rules. God wrote these rules on stone tablets for Moses and His people. (Show picture.) He wanted them to always remember His rules.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

God wants to be first in our lives. He wants us to love Him with all our hearts. Is loving God the most important thing in your life?

Do you use God's name carefully? I hope you never use it to curse someone or just say it for no good reason. It is good to use God's name to pray and to tell Him how much you love Him. It is good to use His name to tell other people about Him.

Do you remember to worship on God's day? Do you try to do something special, something fun or relaxing, on God's day? Whatever it is, it should be something that helps you think about God and love Him more. Avoid doing anything that leads you to forget about Him. There should be no one in your life more important than God!

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Let the children trace around the patterns to draw two stone tablets on gray construction paper. Have them write on the tablets "Remember God's Rules" and the numbers 1 through 4. We discussed four of the Ten Commandments today. Let the children point to different numbers and try to remember them and tell them to one another.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

**"I am the Lord thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before me"
(Exodus 20:2,3).**

God is the one who created us and gave us life. He is the only one who deserves to be our God. He is the only one who deserves our worship and praise. He is the only one who deserves to have first place in our lives.

Those who worship other gods can have many gods. But none of those gods created them. None are able to help them. We who worship the true and living God can have only Him. He is the only one who made us. He is the one who has the power to help us. We should never worship anyone except Him.

CONCLUSION

It is easy to see from our lesson that God is like no other. God is faithful. He keeps His promises and has given us holy rules to follow for our own good. We would do well to obey His rules and remain faithful to Him!

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank You for Your laws that show us how to honor You. Help us to love and serve You and to remember the great things You have done, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "The People Disobeyed" and tells how the people of Israel were disloyal to God, turning quickly to idols. Study Exodus 32:1-35.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"God Gives Rules" (Exodus 20:1-11)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

VAIN	MOSES	REST	LOVE
SABBATH	HONOR	REMEMBER	CREATOR
HOLY	IDOLS	GENERATION	RULES
NAME	TEN COMMANDMENTS	EGYPT	WORSHIP

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