





# The Story

Fifty days after God's people had left Egypt they came to a big mountain called Mt. Sinai. They set up camp at the foot of the mountain. Moses went up the mountain to talk with God. God promised to make the Israelites His people if they would obey Him. Moses told the people what God had said and they promised to obey Him.

The people began to get ready to meet God in three days. They washed themselves and their clothes. They set up a fence around the mountain so no person or animal could touch it.

On the third day there was thunder, lightning, a thick cloud, and a loud trumpet sound. The mountain shook as Moses led the frightened people to its foot. Moses went up to the mountain and God gave the Ten Commandments to him. When Moses came back to tell the people what God had said they were afraid that they would die if God spoke to them. They told Moses to speak with God and they would listen to Moses.

Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain and offered sacrifices to God on it. Moses sprinkled half of the blood of the offerings on the altar and half of it on the people. This was a sign of their agreement with God. The people again promised to obey all God's words.

Moses and Joshua went up the mountain so God could give Moses

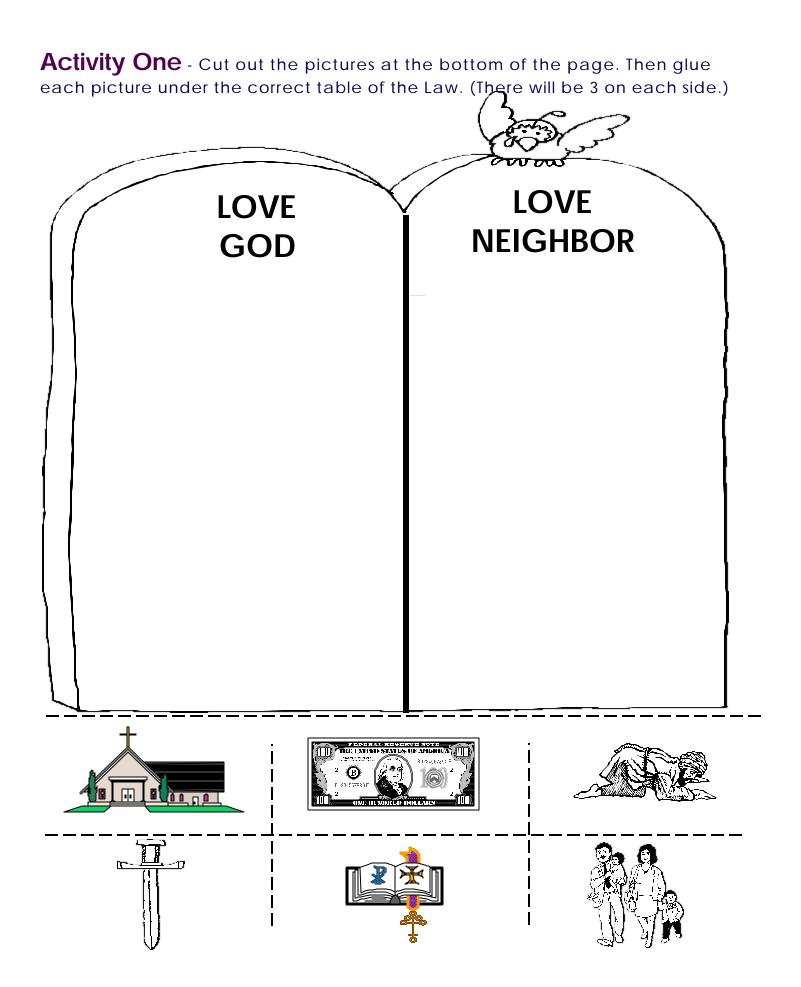
the law written on two tables of stone. Aaron and Hur were left at the camp to settle any arguments among the people.

Moses went into the cloud at the top of the mountain and stayed there for forty days and nights. While he was there the mountain looked as if it had fire on top of it.

These are the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses: *(Sydow Catechism © 2000)* 

- 1. You shall have no other gods.
- 2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
- You shall honor your father and your mother that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.
- 5. You shall not murder.
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.
- 7. You shall not steal.
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his workers, nor his animals, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

## God gave His Commandments to the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai.



The Commandments show our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

# Passage

Leviticus 19:2 - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

## Hymn - TLH #295 v. 1, 6

The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes, Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.

To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free, And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.

# Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Your law shows us that we sin every day. We need Your saving love to take away these sins. Thank You for taking away our sins by dying on the cross for us. Help us to live for You every day. Amen.





# The Story

In the third month after they had left Egypt, the Children of Israel reached the foot of Mount Sinai. As they set up camp, Moses went up into the mountain to talk with God. The Lord reminded Moses of His goodness, and promised to make Israel His treasured possession, His kingdom of priests, and a holy nation if they would obey His voice. When Moses returned to the people and told them God's message, they replied, "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." Moses brought back their answer to the Lord.

The people made preparations according to God's instructions, for in three days God was to come down upon Mount Sinai. They washed themselves and their clothes. Since neither men nor animals were to touch the mountain lest they be put to death, they put barriers around the mountain.

On the third day there was thunder, lightning, a thick cloud and a loud trumpet blast over the mountain. The people trembled as Moses led them to the foot of the smoking, quaking mountain. Moses went up to the mountain and God spoke the Ten Commandments to him.

When Moses returned to tell the people what God had said, they were afraid. They said, "You speak with us and we will hear, but don't let the Lord speak with us or we will die."

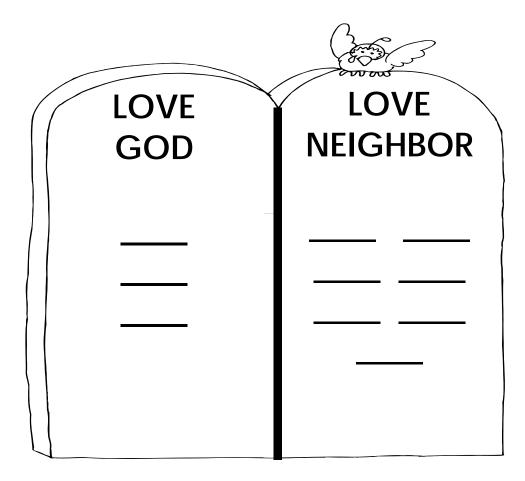
Moses told the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Then Moses approached the thick darkness where God was and God gave Moses His laws. Then Moses told the people all the Lord's words and they all said, "Everything the Lord has said we will do." Moses wrote down everything the Lord had said.

Early the next morning Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain. The young men offered burnt offerings on it. Half the blood of the animals, Moses put in a bowl to sprinkle on the altar. The other half he sprinkled on the people as the blood of the covenant with God. Again the people promised to obey all of God's words.

Now God commanded Moses to take Joshua with him up the mountain where God would give Moses the law on two tables of stone. Aaron and Hur were left as judges to settle arguments among the people. For six days a cloud covered the mountain. On the seventh day, Moses entered the cloud and stayed with God for 40 days and nights. To the people, the glory of God looked like a fire on top of the mountain.

# God gave His Commandments to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai.

Activity One - Write the correct commandment number under each heading.



These are the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses: (Sydow Catechism © 2000)

- 1. You shall have no other gods.
- 2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
- 4. You shall honor your father and your mother that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.
- 5. You shall not murder.
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.
- 7. You shall not steal.
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his workers, nor his animals, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

## The Commandments show our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

Activity Two - Number these sentences in the order in which they happened in the story.

 God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Israelites reached Mount Sinai.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moses went up into Mount Sinai.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The people were afraid of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The people prepared to meet God.

## Passage

Leviticus 19:2 - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

## Hymn - TLH #295 v. 1, 6

The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes, Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.

To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free, And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.

## Prayer

#### Dear Jesus,

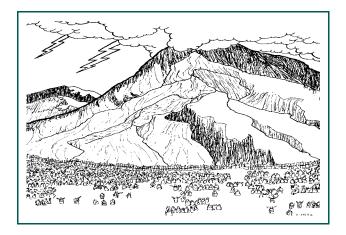
Your law shows us that we sin every day. We need Your saving love to take away these sins. Thank You for taking away our sins by dying on the cross for us. Help us to live for You every day. Amen.

# The Giving of the Law Exodus 19:1-20:24; 24:1-18

The picture is not showing a storm found in nature. What is happening at Mt. Sinai? Let's read the account in the Bible .

# Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Today let me see Your Holiness reflected in Your Law. Use that Law to convict me of my own sins. Also let me today see Your Holiness reflected in the face of Jesus Christ and the glory of the Gospel. Assure me of the forgiveness of my own sins in Jesus. Amen.



# The Story - Exodus 19, 20 & 24

Three months after the children of Israel had left Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai and camped near Mt. Sinai.

Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now if you will obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people.'"

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Then all the people answered together, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever. Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. Let them be ready for the third day when I will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Tell the people, "Do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death, whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

It came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were



thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was completely in smoke and the whole mountain quaked greatly, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. When the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

All the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be gods of silver or gold.

'An altar you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings and I will bless you.'

Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD. Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel shall worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near the LORD."

So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD.

Moses rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

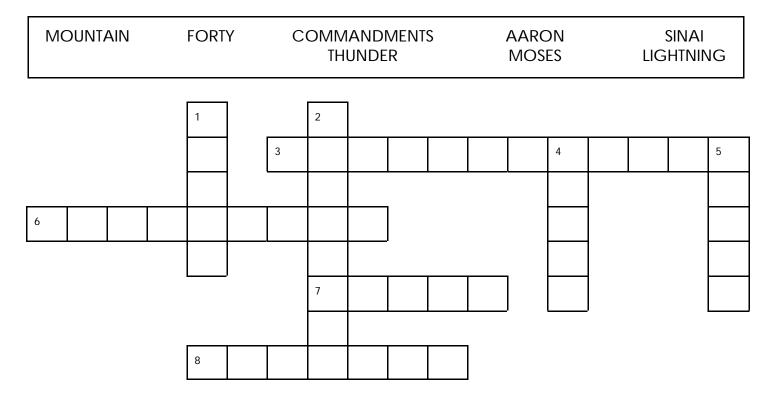
Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

So Moses went up to the mountain of God and Joshua with him. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."

Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Outer Aim - God gave His Commandments to the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai.

## What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the Crossword Puzzle below.



#### <u>Across</u>

- 3. God gave Moses the 10 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. This flashed in the sky by Mt. Sinai.
- 7. Moses left \_\_\_\_\_ and Hur in charge of the people in his place.
- 8. This was heard by Mt. Sinai.

#### <u>Down</u>

- 1. Moses stayed on the mountain \_\_\_\_\_ days and nights.
- 2. God commanded the people not to go near or touch the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ went up Mt. Sinai to meet God.
- 5. The name of the mountain was Mt. \_\_\_\_.

# What God's Word Tells Us - Read through Exodus 20:1-17. Fill in the blanks of the 10 Commandments. *The Commandment wording is from Sydow Catechism 2000.*

(Exodus 20:1) And God spoke all these words, saying: {2} "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. {3} "You shall have no other gods before Me. {4} "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; {5} you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, {6} but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

{7} "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

{8} "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. {9} Six days you shall labor and do all your work, {10} but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. {11} For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

{12} "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

{13} "You shall not murder.

{14} "You shall not commit adultery.

{15} "You shall not steal.

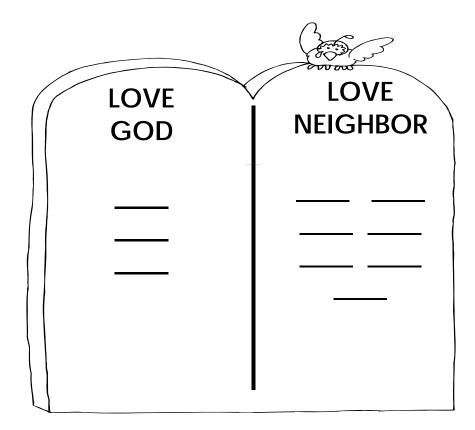
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you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

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Complete the table by writing the Commandment number from page 4 under the correct side of the table.



## Inner Aim - The Commandments show our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

#### Passages

Leviticus 19:2 - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:22-24 For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

#### **Hymn** - TLH #295 v. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes, Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts That we may see our lost estate And seek deliv'rance ere too late.

To those who help in Christ have found And would in works of love abound It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.

The Law is good; but since the Fall Its holiness condemns us all; It dooms us for our sin to die And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free, And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.

## Prayer

#### Dear God,

Your holy law reveals to us our own deep sinfulness. We are not holy and can not come to You. However, You sent Jesus to reveal to us the forgiveness of our sins. Thank You for the lesson today about Your holy Law and also Your blessed Gospel. Amen.

# **The Giving of the Law** Exodus 19:1-20 - 20 - 24:1-18

Do you know what those letters mean for a ship or anyone in distress? <u>Save Our Ship</u>

These letters can be applied to the Law (<u>Shows Our Sins</u>) and the Gospel (<u>Shows Our Savior</u>).

Today's lesson is the Giving of the Law. Let us see how the S.O.S. can be applied to today's lesson.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Today let me see Your Holiness reflected in Your Law. Use that Law to convict me of my own sins. Also let me today see Your Holiness reflected in the face of Jesus Christ and the glory of the Gospel. Assure me of the forgiveness of my own sins in Jesus. Amen.

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Three months after the children of Israel had left Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai and camped near Mt. Sinai.

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The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever. Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. Let them be ready for the third day when I will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Tell the people, "Do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death, whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

Level 4





It came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was completely in smoke and the whole mountain quaked greatly, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. When the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

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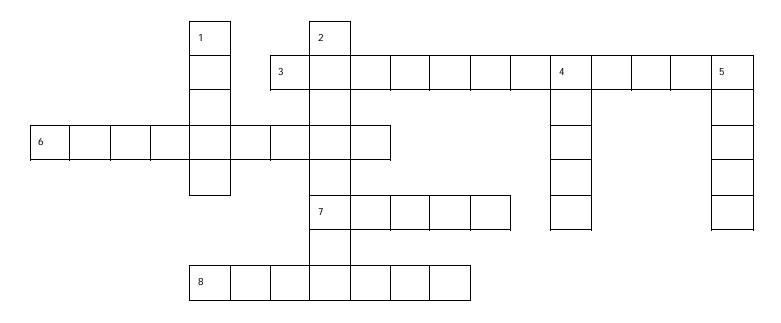
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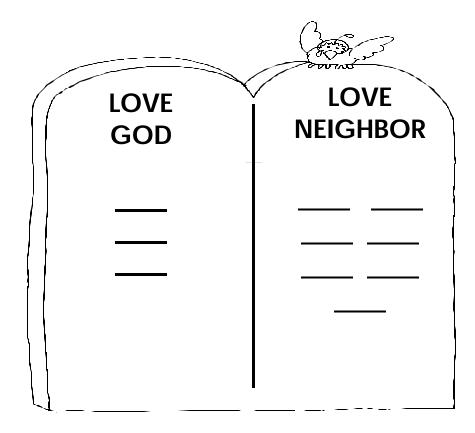
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#### **Hymn** - TLH #295 v. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes, Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts That we may see our lost estate And seek deliv'rance ere too late.

To those who help in Christ have found And would in works of love abound It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.

The Law is good; but since the Fall Its holiness condemns us all; It dooms us for our sin to die And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free, And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.

#### Prayer

Dear Jesus,

God's holy law reveals to us our own deep sinfulness. We are not holy and can not come to You. However, You sent Jesus to reveal to us the forgiveness of our sins. Thank You for the lesson today about Your holy Law and also Your blessed Gospel. Amen.

## STORY

The Giving of the Law - Exodus 19:1-20:24; 24:1-18

### TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, today let me see Your Holiness reflected in Your Law. Use the Law to convict me of my own sins. Also let me today see Your Holiness reflected in the face of Jesus Christ and the glory of the Gospel. Assure me of the forgiveness of my own sins in Jesus that I may teach others. Amen.

### VOCABULARY

*Law* - tells me what I should do and not do and convicts me of sin *Gospel* - tells me what God has done for me and assures me of God's love

## OUTER AIM

God established His "Old" Covenant with the Nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai.

### INNER AIM

The law was given to reveal my sinfulness and my need for a sacrifice for sin.

## BACKGROUND

God had promised to Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation. Up until this time, Israel was a "family," a collection of tribes. With the giving of the Law, Israel would become a nation, the covenant people of God. The covenant given at Mt. Sinai is a high point in the Old Testament development of the plan of God's salvation.

God had enabled Israel to defeat the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16). Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, appeared on the scene. He appeared, not only to bring back Moses' wife and two sons, but also to express his faith in Jehovah (Exodus 18:11). This is a picture of a later day when Gentiles would sit down in the kingdom of God. Jethro also had some practical observations for Moses. He told Moses to delegate authority instead of trying to do everything by himself (Exodus 18:25-26).

It was the third month when Israel reached the peninsula of Sinai and its mountain ranges. This range is known as HOREB (dried up ground). The one special mountain was known as SINAI (mountain of the thorn). Israel camped on a plain at the base of the mountain.

Mt. Sinai was completely covered with smoke (Exodus 19:18), and it quaked greatly. There was thunder and lightning and the voice of the trumpet. Jehovah came down upon Mount Sinai in His glory. God had taken care of Israel (Exodus 18:4), but He would give them even greater riches of His grace. He would enter into a covenant with them. "And you shall become unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6). Cf. New Testament application in I Peter 2:9 and Rev. 1:5,6,10. These people of God would not be created by the covenant of the law, but by the new covenant (testament) of the Gospel.

The people were to prepare themselves with certain purification rituals which were symbols of the need for inward cleansing. No one could come near the mountain nor touch it. It was not until Jesus died and the veil of the temple was split that men had free access to God through the sacrifice of Jesus. The glory of the Lord in connection with the giving of the Law was so terrifying that the people could not come into the presence of God. They begged Moses to speak with them rather than God (Exodus 20:19).

God revealed His will in the ten commandments of the "ten words." These were addressed in their original form to the nation of Israel (Exodus 20:2). These "ten words" were arranged in two tables. The numbering of the commandments is not revealed in Scripture. The first table deals with our relation to God and the second table with our relationship to our neighbor. The "ten words" are also found in Deuteronomy 5.

Moses wrote these words of the Lord (Exodus 24:1-8). Then he took the "Book of the Covenant" and read it to the people. This covenant was sealed with blood sprinkled on the people signifying the need for the forgiveness of sin. The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire in the eyes of the Children of Israel. Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:18).

Yet the law with all its glory brought only the knowledge of sin. Man could not keep it with its demands for perfect love toward God and man. The Old Testament Covenant with its sacrifices of blood and its Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16) pictured the need of a sinful people for a perfect sacrifice of blood for sin. The saving glory of the Lord was revealed in connection with the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, to die for the sins of the world (John 1:17).

#### STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, God's holy law reveals to us our own deep sinfulness. We are not holy and can not come to You. However, You sent Jesus to reveal to us the forgiveness of our sins. May we today learn more about Your holy Law and Your blessed Gospel. Through Jesus, make us a kingdom of priests. Amen.

#### PRESENTATION

Review the promises made to Abraham that the Lord would make a great nation of his descendants also how after 430, Jehovah led His people out of Egypt. The Lord would now make of this people a nation, out of whom would come the Savior. The covenant made at Sinai was basically a covenant of law. "You shall be holy for I the Lord, your God, am holy." It stressed the need for perfect holiness and obedience on the part of God's people. The Sinai Covenant also pictured the need for a sacrifice for the sins of the people. It was a "shadow" picture of Jesus and His death on the cross as an atoning sacrifice (Colossians 2).

Talk about the things the people had to do in Exodus 19 which emphasized the fact that God was a holy God and only those who were holy could come into His presence. Think of the contrast with modern theology which pictures God as a benevolent grandfather or Santa Claus figure.

As you have time, briefly go through the Ten Commandments as given by God on Mt. Sinai. Realize that these commandments in this form were given to the nation of Israel i.e. the Sabbath. Explain that God required His people to love Him (first through third commandments) and their neighbor (fourth through tenth commandments). Also realize that many other civil laws and religious ordinances were contained in the law as given on Mt. Sinai.

The glory of the holy God was indeed a consuming fire. This sinful people needed a mediator to go to God on their behalf and bring God's words back to them. How different is the coming of Jesus! In Jesus, the glory of God is revealed in connection with the salvation God provided for us, lost sinners. The glory of God is revealed in connection with the cross where Jesus died for the sins of the world. This is the "new" covenant of the forgiveness of sins the Gospel that Jesus established through His death and resurrection.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

It is important that the children learn of the holiness of God in connection with the Law and the "old" covenant at Sinai. It is more important that they know the Gospel and the "new" covenant at Calvary. The importance of Jesus' sacrifice for sin cannot be understood unless a person realizes his own personal sinfulness under the Law.

Discuss the significance of how the holiness of God is contrasted with the sinfulness of the people and how this applies to your children.

Apply some of the "Ten Commandments" to show that we have sinned against God and His holiness.

What did God have to do in order to save us from our sins? Lead them to an appreciation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

#### PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

#### Lower

Leviticus 19:2 - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Middle any of the above and...

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

<u>Upper</u> any of the above and...

Romans 3:20 - Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin

Romans 3:22-24 - For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

#### **HYMN CHOICES**

"The Law Of God Is Good And Wise" (TLH #295) "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" (TLH #246) "God Loved The World So That He Gave" (TLH #245)