

# The Giving of the Law

Exodus 19:1-20, 24; 24:1-8



## 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."

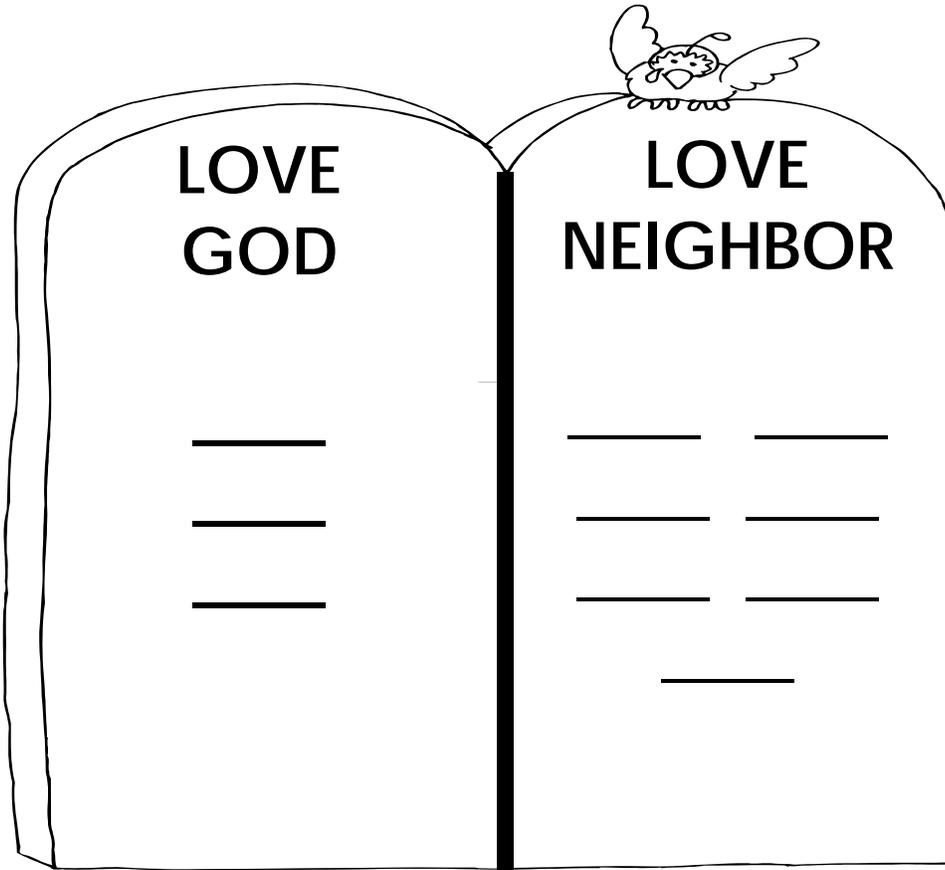
Then Moses approached the thick darkness where God was and God gave Moses His laws. Then Moses told the people all the Lord's words and they all said, "Everything the Lord has said we will do." Moses wrote down everything the Lord had said.

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.