

The BIBLE Story

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19–20

After the **Israelites** escaped from Egypt, they came into the wilderness and **set up camp at the base of a mountain** called Mount Sinai. **God wanted to make a covenant, or special agreement, with His people.**

Moses went up the mountain. God said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites these words: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I rescued you. If you listen carefully to Me and keep My covenant, you will be My people.’”

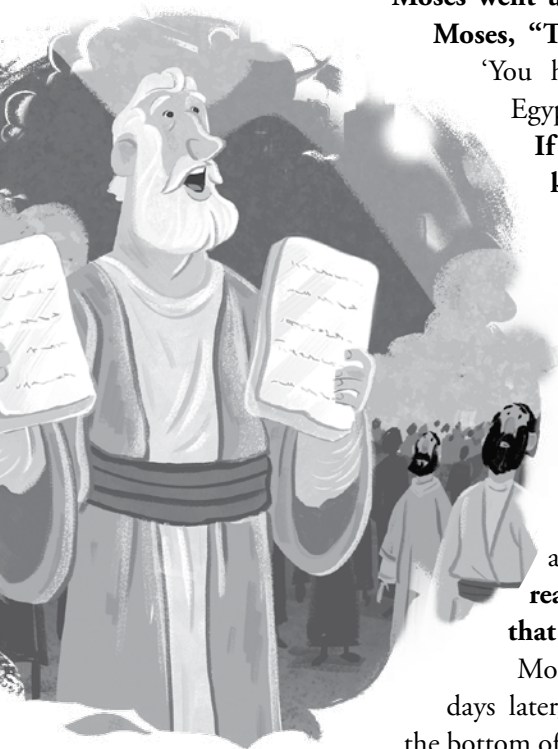
Moses went back to the people and **told them what God said. The Israelites said, “We will do everything the Lord said.”**

Moses went back to the Lord. **God said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a thick cloud. Get the people ready to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you.”**

Moses got the people ready. Three days later, Moses brought the people to the bottom of the mountain. God came down the mountain in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. The mountain shook, and they heard a loud trumpet sound.

God said, “I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt. I set you free from slavery.”

Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The first four



commandments told the Israelites how to have a right relationship with God: **“Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”** The last six commandments told the Israelites how to have a right relationship with other people: **“You must honor your father and mother. You must not murder. You must keep your marriage promises. You must not steal. You must not lie. You must not want what belongs to someone else.”**

When the people heard God talking to Moses, they were afraid. “Do not be afraid,” Moses said. “God wants you to fear Him so that you will not sin.”

The Israelites stood back, and Moses went up the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for many days. God gave Moses more laws. **When God was finished speaking to Moses, He gave Moses two stone tablets. God had written on the tablets with His own finger.**

Christ Connection: God gave us rules to show that He is holy. Our sin keeps us away from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to Him. Jesus is holy; He never sinned. We can trust Him to forgive our sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use sound effects:** Download a loud trumpet sound effect. Play at the appropriate moment in the Bible story. Consider leading children to play out the ground shaking as well.
- **Count to 10:** As you say each commandment, hold up a finger until you have all 10 fingers up. Say the commandments again, leading preschoolers to hold up their fingers with you.