

# Moses, the Ten Commandments, and a Big Mistake

## Exodus 19:1-32:35







The Israelites had been traveling for three months and finally reached Mount Sinai. God came to rest there and told them to get ready to meet with Him.

Moses relayed God's instructions, "You must be clean to meet with God. Wash your clothes and take a bath. You have three days to ready yourselves to meet with God, and on the third day God will meet with us. ON that day anyone who touches the mountain will die. Only when the ram's horn sounds can you go."

The third day came and God's cloud hovered over the mountain, lightning flashed and thunder boomed. God's voice rumbled from the cloud calling Moses up.

Moses climbed up the mountain and God instructed him on what man should do.





“I AM the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt. You are my people and I am your God.

Do not make an idol to worship. I love you too much to share with another.

Do not use my name as a joke or something you swear.

Rest, work six days and then rest, just as I did when I created the world.

Respect your Mom and Dad.

Do not murder.

Love only your husband or your wife.

Do not steal.

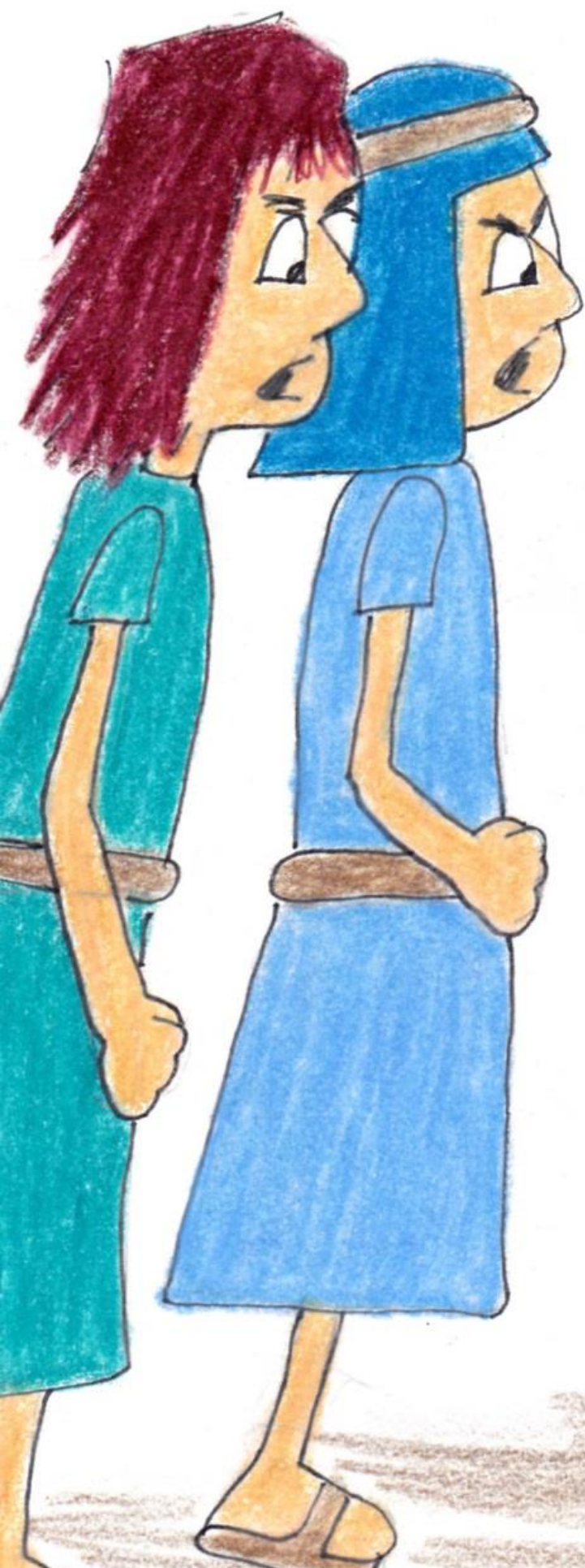
Do not lie about other people.

Do not want other people’s stuff.”

Moses listened eagerly to all God said. God continued to teach Moses for forty days. He taught Moses how to treat friends and how to treat strangers. God told him what to do when someone steals or if someone is murdered.

Moses listened and remembered it.





As Moses learned all of this, the people waited and waited for him. Finally they were fed up and went to Aaron, “Moses has obviously left us and who knows what will happen to us. You need to make us a god to worship.”

“Take off your rings and jewelry and bring them to me,” said Aaron.

They brought their gold and their jewelry, and Aaron made them a golden calf.

He presented it to them saying, “This is your God Israel who brought you out of Egypt. Tomorrow we will have a feast!”







The next day they got up and had a party before their fake god. They prayed and worshipped. They completely forgot the Real God.

God warned Moses, “Go down to your people because they have forgotten themselves and worship a false god. Leave and stop them before I destroy them.”

But Moses begged God, “Why would you destroy your people? The Egyptians will think You brought them out here to do evil and then how will Your name be praised? Remember the promises You made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

God remembered and relented.





Moses went down with the two tablets God had written His law on and saw all that the Israelites were doing. He was appalled.

He took the two stone tablets, the precious gifts of God's law and raised them above his head, screaming, "Enough! You forget yourselves and who God called you to be!"

Angrily Moses slammed the tablets onto the ground shattering them. He hurried down the mountain and pulled the statue down destroying it.





Moses confronted Aaron, “What have you done? How did they convince you to do this horrible thing?”

Aaron shifted his toe and looked at the ground, “They demanded I make a god for them, so I took their jewelry and put it in the fire and out came this calf.”

Moses’ jaw dropped listening to Aaron’s excuse. He looked over the camp and saw the people running around wildly. His jaw hardened and he turned away from his brother.

“We are leaving here now. God will not lead us now because His anger is too great and He might destroy you. He will send an angel to lead us.”

Sadly they picked up their tents and prepared to head out.

# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. What did they need to do to get ready to meet God?
2. What is a law about how to treat other people?
3. What did the people ask Aaron to make them? Did God like what they did? Why didn't he like that?
4. What is the most important command God gave?

## Middle Kids

1. Read Exodus 19:10-11. What are the Israelites to do to get ready for God? What do you do to get ready for God?
2. Do you think the order of the 10 Commandments is important? Why did God put them in that order?
3. Read Exodus 20:18. How did the Israelites react to God's presence? How do you react to God?



4. Read the section titles for Exodus 20-31.  
Why do you think God puts so much detail into what He tells them?

### Older Guys

1. Read Exodus 20:1-2. What do you learn about God from these two verses? Who is He?
2. Read Exodus 20:3-6. What parallels can you draw between God and a spouse in this situation. Think of an idol as someone your spouse is having an affair with. How would that feel?
3. Read Exodus 20:12. Is this a promise?
4. Reread the passage from Exodus 19:12-22 and 20:18-19. Why are they so afraid? Is there good reason for it?
5. How does Moses react to their fear? Read Exodus 20:20. Was that the best reaction? How would you feel if you had been there?
6. Read Exodus 23:20-26. What promise does God give His people?
7. Read Exodus 32:9-15. Why does God relent?

8. What excuse does Aaron give? Read Exodus 32:21-24.
9. Read Exodus 32:31-34. Can we take another person's place for their punishment?

## Activities

1. Get some cardstock and make a tablet shape. Copy the 10 Commandments onto it to help you remember them.
2. Go outside and find a small rock. Throw it on the ground as hard as you can. Were you able to chip or break the rock? Imagine how hard Moses threw down the stone tablets to break them.

## Online

1. 10 Commandments lapbook-  
<http://www.lapbooklessons.com/TenCommandmentsLapbook.html>
2. 10 Commandments printables and games-  
<http://www.biblestoryprintables.com/BiblePrintablesTenCommandments.html>



3. Lesson on why the commandments are important-<http://exploreandexpress-sheila.blogspot.com/2011/09/ten-best-ways-to-live.html>
4. 10 Commandments activities and snack-<http://bibleschoolteachers.blogspot.com/search/label/10%20Commandments>
5. Golden Calf craft-<http://churchhousecollection.blogspot.com/2013/01/paper-plate-golden-calf-craft-for-ten.html>

**Love God**

**Love Others**

**God loves us**

Put God  
first

Worship  
only God.

Respect  
your  
parents.

Do not  
murder.

Use God's  
name with  
respect.

Do not  
steal.

Be faithful in  
marriage.

Remember  
God's  
Sabbath.

Do not  
lie.

Do not be  
envious of  
others.