

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY

**Week Eleven - The People At Sinai****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

The Ten Commandments God gave Israel at Mount Sinai are often oversimplified and/or misunderstood. Are these ten rules we must follow in order to be accepted by God or to have a moral and safe society? Pray that as you and the kids hear today's story, you will all see a God who first rescues, then gives His people a new identity and a purpose. These commandments are not only rules to be followed, but good news for a new life to be lived!

- **Big Idea:** God forms His people. He gives them an identity and a purpose.

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Simon Says**

Play a game of Simon Says and afterward tell the kids we are going to hear about commands God gave to Israel through Moses.

Sing Together

Story - from Exodus 19-20

Three months after leaving Egypt the Israelites set up camp in the Wilderness of Sinai, facing the same mountain God had once appeared to Moses at in a burning bush. As Moses went up to meet God again, God called down to him from the mountain, *“Speak to the People of Israel: ‘You’ve seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to me. If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you’ll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you’re special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.’”*

All the people said, *“We will do everything God tells us to do!”*

Then God told Moses, *“Get ready. I’m about to come to you in a thick cloud so all the people will see and hear and trust you when you speak my words to them. Tell them to get ready for a visit from the Holy God! They must scrub their clothes clean for two days so that on the third day when I arrive they’ll be ready. Put up barriers so they don’t get too close! Don’t let them climb up the mountain or even touch its edge. Whoever does will surely die! A long blast from the horn will signal that it’s safe to climb the mountain.”*

On the third day at daybreak, there were loud claps of thunder, flashes of lightning, a thick cloud covering the mountain, and an ear-piercing trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp shuddered in fear. Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God. They stood at attention at the base of the mountain.

God called Moses up to the peak and gave him a message to bring back down to the people. God said:

“I am God, the God who brought you out of Egypt, out of a life of slavery.

- 1) Have no other gods, only me.*
- 2) Do not make carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything. Don’t bow down to them and don’t serve them because I am God, your God.*
- 3) Be careful how you carry my name. Do not misrepresent me to the world.*
- 4) Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do, but the seventh day is a rest to God. Don’t do any work—not you or anyone in your household. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, the sea, and everything in them; then he rested on the seventh day.*
- 5) Honor your father and mother so that you’ll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.*
- 6) Do not murder.*
- 7) Do not commit adultery. Be faithful in your relationships.*
- 8) Do not steal.*
- 9) Do not lie about your neighbor.*
- 10) Do not lust after or be jealous of your neighbor’s possessions. Be happy with what God has given you.”*

All the people were afraid of the thunder, lightning, smoke, and the trumpet blast. They said to Moses, “*You speak to us and we’ll listen, but don’t have God speak to us or we’ll die.*”

Moses said, “*Don’t be afraid. God has come to meet you and give you a deep awe so that you won’t sin.*”

But the people kept their distance while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think God didn’t give these commands first before rescuing them from slavery? Wouldn’t He want to see how good they would be before choosing them as His people?
- God gave His people a new identity: *a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.* What do you think this means?
- How good was Israel at living up to these commands? How good are we at it?
- What has God done to save us from failing at living this way?
[Sent Jesus to rescue us!]

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for rescuing us from sin.

Thank You for a new identity as Your children, through Your Son Jesus.

Thank You for giving us a purpose in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

- **Craft:**

Have the kids trace both of their hands on a blank sheet of paper. One each finger, they will write one of the ten commandments.

See example sheet attached.

- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God’s Story.

This week, focus on the **Sabbath** rhythm. How can you and your family find a day this week to rest, trusting God will take care of what needs to happen, and celebrating His good world?

