

# GOD'S COMMANDMENTS; OUR RESPONSE

Theme : To understand God's laws, our failure to keep them and God's answer

Grade 9 - Unit 1 Lesson 4

## Teacher's Preparation

1. Review the relationship between God, Abraham, and Moses. Were they worthy to be chosen for God's work? ( Genesis 12, Genesis 16, Exodus 3, Exodus 33:7-11, Numbers 20:1-12)
2. Examine the details of the Mosaic Laws (Exodus 19,20)
3. Review how the Israelites were different from other cultures.
4. Examine how the Israelites were disobedient to God's laws (Exodus 32). What punishment did they deserve?
5. Understand the importance of needing a Savior to restore the relationship between God and his people (New Covenant Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 10:1-18).

Moses was the messenger to the Israelites to convey God's commandments to them, "*Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine*" (Exodus 19:5) They were expected to follow God's commandments out of love for their creator who led them out of Egypt, but they decided to put other things ahead of Him and turned to idols. This act of worshiping an idol was a sin, a blatant disregard of the first commandment, "Thou shall have no other God before me." The sins of the Israelite nations is in stark contrast to lives of their leaders (eg Moses and Abraham). The importance of following God and his desires, "the commandments" must be expressed clearly. The Israelites broke God's law, and the Lord was angry. We should recognize hope is found in the redemptive work of God alone, through the Holy Spirit, paid for by the blood of Jesus. God sees our sinful state and chooses to intervene despite who we are. Thus the Mosaic covenant serves as a reminder of: 1) God's demand for perfection 2) Our hopeless inability to deliver that perfection. It is in this hopelessness that we must point children to the hope found only in the Grace and Mercy of Jesus Christ. Each child must be acknowledge that they can live up to the God's expectations alone and must put their entire faith in Christ as our redeemer.

### Aim:

To understand that God bridged the gap between man and Him because He loves us and we were unable to keep his commandments

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## Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## Exodus 20:1-21

Then God spoke all these words:

2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me.

4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your

son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." 21 Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

### Aim:

To understand that God bridged the gap between man and Him because He loves us and we were unable to keep his commandments

## Student Introduction

Have you ever been punished by your parents for disobedience? How do you feel being punished? Do you think your parents enjoy punishing you?

God was hurt when the Israelites did not listen or follow his commands. He had protected them and delivered them from the Egyptians. Just like our parents expect obedience from us, our Heavenly Father expects us to who obey Him. God selected Israel as his chosen people and they were expected to follow His commandments. The laws taught them how to live spiritually as well as socially. If the laws God gave were not followed, the Israelites would be guilty of sin. This sin results in a punishment and more importantly a separation from God.

Do you ever feel it difficult to be obedient to God? Many times in life, if we look at the Holiness of God and compare it to the sinfulness in our personal lives, we might think we will never be good enough to approach God. Because of our sinful nature, we should be separated from Him. But God found another way to bridge the gap between man and himself. He paid the price for our sin.

## Bible Exposition

When reading through Genesis 3, we can see that human beings have always rebelled against God since their beginning. This rebellion is how sin entered the world. The effects of sin are still with us today. More importantly, we continue to sin just like Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. Sin is that which separates us from God. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had a direct relationship with God. This relationship was severed by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

In the story of Noah, we see the depth of God's anger towards sin, yet we see God making a promise to Noah after the flood. God made a covenant with Noah that He would never destroy the earth in the same manner. It is a covenant that stands to this day.

Compare and contrast this with the Mosaic covenant. The Ten Commandments is also referred to as the Mosaic covenant or the Sinai covenant. The Ten Commandments were

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*The wages of sin is  
death*

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## Activities

Discuss in a group:

Of the Ten Commandments, which one deserves the greatest punishment for not keeping it?

It is there a difference between a big sin and little sin?

Are there different prices to be paid for different sins?

Do we treat people differently based on the sins they commit?

rules for the Israelites to follow. If the Israelites broke these rules, they would have to face God's wrath.

While the Israelites were waiting for Moses to come down from the mountain with the new covenant, their patience grew thin and they asked Aaron to make them an idol. Even before they could forge a covenant with the Lord, they managed to find a way to sin. The response of the Israelites throughout Scripture to the Mosaic covenant reminds us that we need Divine help, because we can not do it on our own.

The Ten Commandments provide guidelines on how the Jews were to worship God and how to treat others. They were explicit on what was not to be done, as eight of the commandments begin with "You shall not". This describes the type of relationship that the people had with the God that delivered them from Egypt. A child is often told what not to do by their parents: do not touch the stove, do not go outside without your coat, etc. God was instructing an immature people.

Our goal is to honor God, not because we are afraid of the consequences, but rather as a response to the Lord's love for us. We need to be fearful, but love must drive our actions. If we are unable to follow the Law as laid down in the Ten Commandments, can we ever have hope? The answer is YES! God established a Covenant through Jesus Christ. As we read in Jeremiah 31:31-34, this is the new covenant that the Lord said He would provide and create with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Only in Jesus Christ can we find our everlasting covenant with the Lord. As you reflect on the words of the Ten Commandments, and your inability to honor them in your daily life, you should be reminded that you need Jesus – now more than ever.

Whether it be the what God told Adam and Eve not to do or the Ten Commandments He instructed the Jews to follow, we see mankind unable to honor the commandments of God. It would be just if God punished us for our inability to follow his commandments. Rather than punish us, He allowed His only son to suffer and die for our punishment. Christ died to reestablish the relationship between God and man that was lost in the Garden of Eden. He is the only answer and the only way to the Father. It is through His sacrifice that he taught us what true love is. It is the cross that is the symbol of this love.

## Lesson Review

### Short Answer

1. What is the Mosaic Covenant?
2. What was promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and who was it fulfilled through?

### Essay

1. If we did not have Christ and only the Mosaic covenant, how would things be different today?

## Values for Life:

- God's gave us the commandments because he loved us. Just like our parents discipline us, God disciplines us because he loves us.
- God knows we are rebellious at heart, thus He planned a way to redeem His children knowing we always turn away from Him.

## Memory Verse

And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Hebrews 10:10**

## Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are sometimes puzzled by what you have done and what you will do. Lord, please send Your Holy Spirit to guide our minds and hearts. You have revealed to us that only Christ's sacrifice satisfies Your demands, thus we pray that we know Jesus personally. Guide us by the power of your Spirit to submit our lives to your Son Jesus Christ.

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*"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

*Jeremiah 31:34b*

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