

# Week 12

## The Ten Commandments

God's people were camping by a big mountain. God said, "I saved you from the bad king Pharaoh. I took care of you in the desert. I love you and want you to be My special people. They shall be My treasure." The people agreed to obey God.

There was thunder and lightning and thick smoke over the mountain. The people heard a loud trumpet blast, and they felt the mountain shake. Then Moses climbed up the mountain to meet God. The Lord God would tell Moses how the people were to live as God's children.

(\*) God told Moses, "I am the Lord your God. I want My people to obey ten special rules that I will give them." God wrote the rules on two flat pieces of stone and gave them to Moses. Then Moses carried them down the mountain and read them to God's people. Now God's people knew that God wanted them to love Him more than they loved anyone else. He wanted them to love each other too.

God's rules can be summarized in the word *respect*: respect God; respect God's name; respect God's Word; respect leaders; respect life; respect gender; respect property; respect reputations; respect what you have; respect

relationships. The ten rules are called the Ten Commandments.

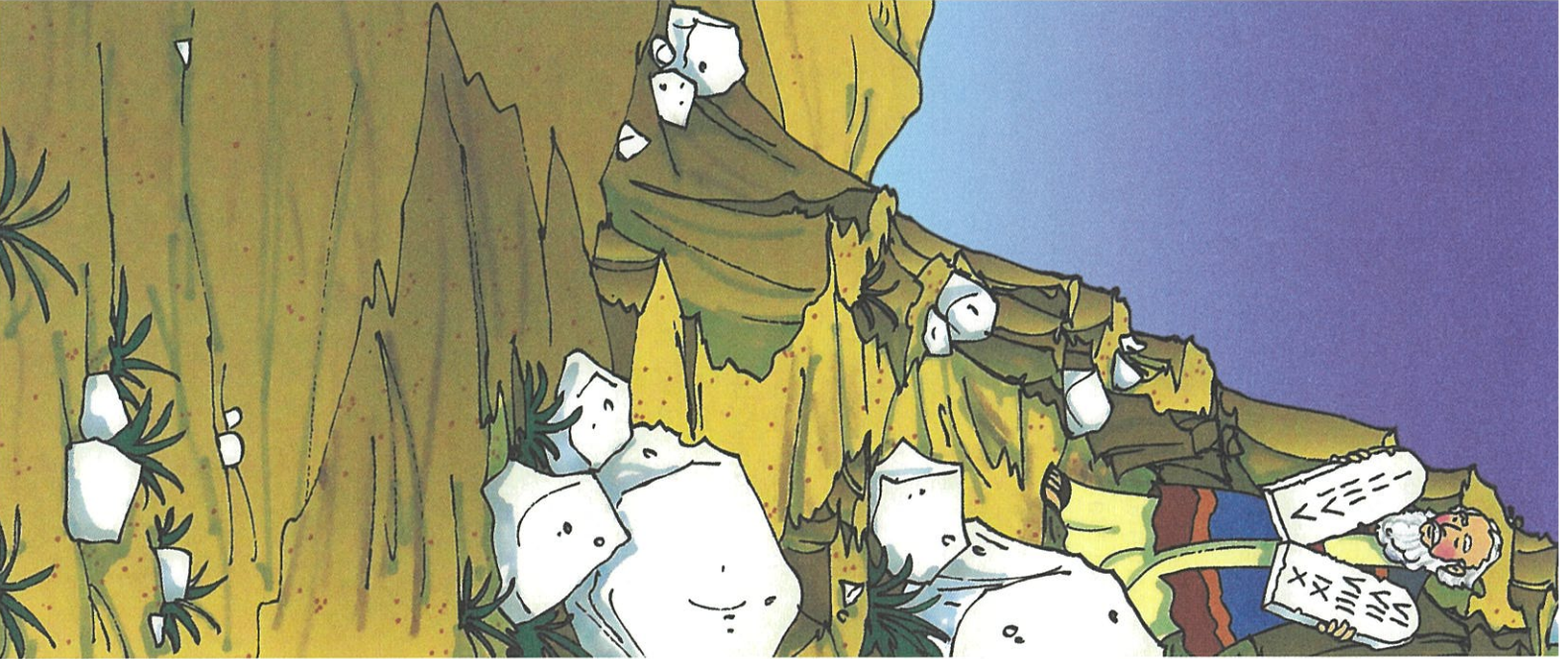
*Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (\*), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

### Think about It

Because of our human nature, we all do wrong things and sin, disobeying the Ten Commandments. But God keeps His part of the agreement and continues to love us. He sent Jesus to take away our sins and to help us live as God's people. Now, instead of seeing commands in Exodus 19-20, we see God's guides for a better life, living as His people in Christ.

### Bible Words

Love the Lord  
your God.  
Deuteronomy 6:5



## Dear Family,

In this week's lesson, God declared His love for His people. He invited them to be His "treasured possession" (Exodus 19:5). The people agreed, and Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. To young children, we teach about these commandments as rules. Simply put, God wants us to love Him first and to love others as we love ourselves.

We follow rules every day. Rules help us to treat one another fairly and to keep us safe. In your family, talk about how the rules in your home help your family live together in love. God's rules do that too.

Because we are sinners, the Law is like a mirror that shows us our sin. Help your child see that no one can keep God's rules. That's why God sent Jesus. He kept God's rules perfectly and took the punishment for all our sin.

For a teaching opportunity, play a simple board game like Candy Land with your child. Talk about the rules for playing the game. What happens if one of you breaks the rules? How do rules help us?

Ask God to help you learn to love Him and others above all else. Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 117–120 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

