



Tippy's Mouse House

The Ten Commandments: Love God

BIG IDEA: God shows me how to love.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 19:1-20:11

KEY VERSE: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 (NirV)

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

In Exodus 19, the Israelites are being introduced to their God for the first time. They had experienced His power through the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. They had experienced His provision through receiving bread sent from heaven and receiving water from a rock. They had experienced His patience through their continual grumbling and complaining in the dry desert mountains. They had experienced many of God's attributes, yet as a people, they had not formally made His acquaintance until Mount Sinai. However, even at this sacred mountain they would not meet God face to face, for this would prove to be too much for anyone. (Exodus 33:20) Instead, they would hear His voice booming from the cloud-covered peak. A voice that shook the mountain as it delivered the Ten Commandments—God's holy law.

It's through the law that God's people would understand His holiness. And it's only when we understand God's holiness that we truly understand God. It is through God's law, through His commandments, that we know what pleases Him and furthermore how to worship Him with our lives. And most importantly, it's only through God's law that we fully and completely understand our need for a Savior.

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GO! Contributor

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UNIT DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Tippy's Mouse House! Just as mice are prone to do, Tippy has tiptoed into the preschool room and scurried off with the Bible story pictures. Together, the preschoolers get to peek into Tippy's Mouse House and search for the pictures amongst all the other doodads Tippy has collected. It's a super sweet search that culminates in the discovery of God's provision and perfect love.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

Slide: show "Tippy's Mouse House" title graphic
Music: (optional) play upbeat music as children enter the storytelling area

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Note: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome—smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. When the children have all arrived, play one or two upbeat worship songs of your choosing and lead the kids in singing.

Music: play one or two upbeat worship songs

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (*Clap on each number.*)
Digs a hole right under me. (*Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.*)
Slowly I start sinking down. (*Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.*)
Until I'm sitting on the ground. (*Sit down on ground or chair.*)

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello my preschool friends! I'm so happy you're here today! I need your help. You see, our Bible story pictures are missing again! Who do you think might have taken them? (*Children answer.*) I think you're right—it was Tippy the Mouse! We've got to find those pictures so we can tell today's Bible story.

During today's true Bible story, we're going to learn that **God shows me how to love**. That's our Big Idea for the day. Can you say that with me? (*Repeat Big Idea with children.*) **God shows me how to love**. It's true: **God shows me how to love**. In fact, our memory verse tells us how to love God. Let me teach it to you.

"Love the Lord your God (*hug yourself*) with all your heart (*cover heart with both hands*) and with all your soul (*reach praise hands in the air*). Love him with all your mind (*point to head*)."
Matthew 22:37 (*put palms together like you're holding a book*).

Let's do that together. (*Repeat Memory Verse with children 2 or 3 times.*)

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STORY TIME RULES

Wow—nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

(Note: Play the “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

TIPPY’S MOUSE HOUSE INTRO

For those of you who don’t know, this is Tippy. *(Hold up picture of Tippy.)* Can you wave and say, “Hi Tippy!” *(Children wave and say hi.)* Last night, Tippy tiptoed into our room and took our Bible story pictures back to her mouse house. There’s just one problem—now the pictures are mixed in with all the other doodads Tippy has collected. If you’re ready to start looking for the pictures, let’s tiptoe to Tippy’s house while we say the Tippy Tippy Tiptoe rhyme. Repeat this after me. *(Tiptoe in place with the children while quietly saying the following rhyme. Say one line at a time, then have the children repeat.)*

Video: (optional) play the “Tippy Rhyme” video

Tippy Tippy tiptoed into our church.
Scurried to our room for a mousy search.
Tippy took our pictures one by one.
Now begins the picture finding fun.

Great job! We’re at Tippy’s house! Let’s sit down as quiet as a mouse. *(Sit down with children.)* There’s just one more thing we need to do before we look inside Tippy’s mouse house and hear our Bible story. We need to get our Bible out. Let’s say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It’s true, it’s true, the Bible is true!

Slide: show the “Ten Commandments: Love God” slide

BIG BIBLE STORY—TEN COMMANDMENTS: LOVE GOD

Note: *Before the story begins, give each child a copy of “Tippy’s Mouse House” along with a crayon. Encourage the children to keep their paper face down when they’re not searching for a picture. Whenever you say, “Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house,” have the children flip the paper over, begin their search, and circle the picture once it’s found. Have a copy for yourself and circle each object along with the children so you can show them where it is hidden if needed.*

Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find the picture of a **stop sign**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* In the Bible, in the Book of Exodus, God wanted to meet with Moses on top of a mountain, but the rest of God’s people had to *stop* at the bottom of the mountain. No one else could even touch the mountain. Only Moses could come up to speak with God at the top.

Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find a **cloud**. *(Give the children a moment to*

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find the missing picture.) When God was ready to meet with Moses, a thick cloud covered the top of the mountain. There was lightning and thunder. Then God came down to the top of the mountain in fire. God was so mighty that the whole mountain trembled and shook when He arrived. Let's tremble and shake like the mountain. (*Shake with children.*)

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **mountain**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) God told Moses to climb up the mountain and to meet with Him at the top. Let's stand up and pretend like we're climbing the mountain. (*Pretend to climb a mountain while repeating the following with the children.*) We're climbing, we're climbing, we're climbing up the mountain. (*Repeat 3 times.*) And stop!

Let's peek inside Tippy's house one more time and see if we can find the **number 10**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When Moses got to the top of the mountain, God gave Him 10 commandments. A commandment is like a rule. We're going to learn the first 4 commandments. Hold up one finger and say "Rule #1." (*Do and say with children.*) Rule #1 is put God first. Now hold up two fingers and say "Rule #2." (*Do and say with children.*) Rule #2 is worship God only. Now hold up three fingers and say "Rule #3." (*Do and say with children.*) Rule #3 is say God's name with love. Now hold up four fingers and say "Rule #4." (*Do and say with children.*) Rule #4 is remember God's day of rest.

Next week, we'll learn six more commandments, but for now, let's stand up and sing a song to God.

MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Lead the children in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, ask the children to sit down again.)

Music: play one worship song

In our Bible story for today, God gave Moses and the Israelites 10 rules to follow. We learned 4 of the rules. Let's see if we can remember them together. Clap with me one time. (*Clap with children.*) **Rule #1 is put God first.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me two times. (*Clap with children.*) **Rule #2 is worship God only.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me three times. (*Clap with children.*) **Rule #3 is say God's name with love.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me four times. (*Clap with children.*) **Rule #4 is remember God's day of rest.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*)

Why do you think God gives us so many rules? (*Take answers.*) Great answers. God gives us rules because they show us how to love. The four rules we learned today show us how to love God. Let's pretend like we're giving God a BIG hug. (*Hug yourself with the children.*)

There's one more reason God gives us rules. The rules show us that we need Jesus. You see, we all make mistakes sometimes and we all break God's rules. But Jesus took the punishment for our mistakes (*hold arms out like a cross*) so that we could live with Him forever in Heaven. On the count of three, let's shout, "Hooray for Jesus!" (*Count to three and shout.*)

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TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Hey—I think we should tell our parents that **God shows me how to love**. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

(*Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1" or, for a non-video option, print out the "Topher's Big Idea Cards" ahead of time and hold up card #1. See the "Topher's Big Idea" document in the Resource Folder for more suggestions on how to perform the non-video option.*)

Video: play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1"

(*Whisper.*) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God shows me how to love**. On the count of 3, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to 3 and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Video: play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2"

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **God shows me how to love.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Video: play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3"

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank God for showing us how to love and for giving us Jesus. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

Dear God,
Thank you for your commandments.
They show me how to love You.
And thank you for giving me Jesus.
He takes away my sins.
Amen.