



Tippy's Mouse House

The Ten Commandments: Love People

BIG IDEA: God shows me how to love.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 19:1-20:21; 31:18-32:19

KEY VERSE: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Matthew 22:39

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I recently traveled to Northern California to go hiking with my brothers. As we drove up and down miles and miles of mountain roads to get to our remote location, I came to greatly appreciate two things—speed limit signs and guard rails. When the speed limit dropped from 55 mph to 20 mph as we approached a winding path, I quickly obeyed. Sometimes I even went under the speed limit, which is noteworthy for me. These roads were not for the faint of heart as there were sheer cliffs looming just outside the car. Without the guard rails, I think I would have been paralyzed with fear and unable to move forward. As I hiked through the beautiful National Park, I reflected on the experience. I realized that the laws and barriers placed on the roadside were a blessing, much like the laws God has given us. Instead of keeping me from experiencing life, they allow me to experience it to the full. (Psalm 19)

If you stand up in front of the kids of your church and announce that you're going to focus all your time on rules, you probably won't hear a round of applause. The word "rules" sounds confining to kids, so it's important to help them understand that God's rules bring freedom. As Moses went on his hike up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, the Israelites decided to have a party. God isn't against parties, but this one was different. Instead of celebrating the life and love given to them by their Creator, they created their own god—a golden calf.

We have all broken the Ten Commandments because we are all sinners, just like the ancient Israelites. Instead of embracing God's rules as a blessing, we see them as confining. Even though God's laws are good, they were never intended to bring salvation. The Mosaic Law shows us that we are sinners in need of a Savior. When Jesus came, he did something we never could—He kept the law perfectly. Romans 10:4 says, "Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law on our behalf and now gives us the freedom to live our lives as a gift of love to God and others. After all, that is what the law was always based on—love for God and love for others. (Matthew 22:36-40)

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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! Can you believe it? It happened again! Our Bible story pictures are missing and I think I know who might have taken them. *(Children might shout 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 other people. Let me teach it to you.

"Love *(hug yourself)* your neighbor *(point to children)* as you love *(hug yourself)* yourself *(point to self)*." Matthew 22:39 *(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 People” slide

BIG BIBLE STORY—TEN COMMANDMENTS: LOVE PEOPLE

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 a **mountain**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* God told Moses to climb up a mountain called Mount Sinai *(pronounced sahy-nahy)*. Can you say Mount Sinai with me? *(Repeat with children.)* Let’s stand up and pretend like we’re climbing up 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!

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Let's peek inside Tippy's house 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. Last week we learned the first 4 commandments. Now we're going to learn the next 6. Hold up five fingers and say "Rule #5." (*Do and say with children.*) **Rule #5 is obey your parents.** Now hold up six fingers and say "Rule #6." (*Do and say with children.*) **Rule #6 is don't hurt other people.** Now hold up seven fingers and say "Rule #7." (*Do and say with children.*) **Rule #7 is keep your promise to the one you marry.** Now hold up eight fingers and say "Rule #8." (*Do and say with children.*) **Rule #8 is don't steal.** Now hold up nine fingers and say "Rule #9." (*Do and say with children.*) **Rule #9 is always tell the truth.** Now hold up ten fingers and say "Rule #10." (*Do and say with children.*) **Rule #10 is don't wish for other people's stuff.**

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find **two flat pieces of stone**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When God was finished telling Moses His commandments, God used His own finger to write the 10 commandments on two flat pieces of stone. The pieces of stone were called tablets. Moses took the two tablets and began walking down the mountain. Let's pretend like we're walking down the mountain. (*Walk in place while repeating the following with the children.*) We're walking, we're walking, we're walking down the mountain. (*Repeat 3 times.*) And stop!

Let's peek inside Tippy's house one more time and see if we can find a **cow**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When Moses got to the bottom of the mountain, He saw the Israelites worshipping a golden statue shaped like a cow. The Israelites were already breaking the first commandment—worship God only. Moses was very upset. He threw the two stone tablets on the ground and they broke into pieces. It was a very sad day for God's people. Can you show me your sad face? (*Make a sad face with the children.*)

The Israelites worshipped a cow made of gold, but we are going to worship the one true God. 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 6 of the rules today. Let's see if we can remember them together. Clap with me five times. (*Clap and count with children.*) **Rule #5 is obey your parents.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me six times. (*Clap and count.*) **Rule #6 is don't hurt other people.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me seven times. (*Clap and count.*) **Rule #7 is keep your promise to the one you marry.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me eight times. (*Clap and count.*) **Rule #8 is don't steal.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me nine times. (*Clap and count.*) **Rule #9 is always tell the truth.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*) Clap with me ten times. (*Clap and count.*) **Rule #10 don't wish for other people's stuff.** Let's say that together. (*Repeat with children.*)

God gives us those rules because they show us how to love. The six rules we learned today show us how to love other people. I have an idea—give someone next to you a high five and

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say, "I love you." (*High five a couple children and say, "I love you."*)

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.*)

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 other people 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 other people.
And thank you for giving me Jesus.
He takes away my sins.
Amen.