



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



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

MOUSE HUNT

Supplies: Pom poms (10)

Directions: Tell the children they're going on a hunt for 10 mice. Have the children cover and close their eyes. Place the 10 pom poms around the playtime area. (Don't hide them too hard.) Tell the children to open their eyes, find the pom poms, and return them to you. When finished, have the group count the 10 mice aloud to be sure they caught them all. Repeat the activity multiple times.

Say: You kids are really good at counting to 10! In today's true Bible story, God gives Moses 10 of something. Let's listen carefully during the story to see what God gives to Moses.

Question: What do you think God is going to give to Moses in the story?

☆ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

WHISPER CIRCLE (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, we learned about 4 of God's 10 Commandments. We're going to play a game to help us remember those 4 commandments.

Directions: Sit with the children in a circle. Begin by whispering the first commandment to the child next to you. (See commandments below.) Have them whisper it to the child next to them. Continue until the commandment has been whispered all the way around the circle. Have the last child repeat out loud what they heard. It will have probably changed. Finally, tell the children what the commandment was and have them repeat it after you. Repeat for each commandment.

Commandments:

1. Put God first.
2. Worship God only.
3. Say God's name with love.
4. Remember God's day of rest.

Question: These 4 commandments show us how to love God. What are some other things we can do to show God we love Him?

2.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



THE BIG MESS UP (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Directions: Tell the children to perform the following challenges without messing up. Challenge 1: Repeatedly hop on one foot without letting the other foot touch the floor. Challenge 2: Sit perfectly still without moving a muscle. Challenge 3: Don't laugh or smile while the leader makes silly faces. During the challenges, point out when the children mess up. After each challenge, ask the children how long they lasted without messing up.

Say: You tried to be perfect, but at some point, we all messed up. That's how it is with the 10 commandments. We all mess up and break God's rules sometimes. That's why God gives us Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our mistakes so that we could live with Him forever in Heaven.

Question: Is there a rule at your house that you have a hard time keeping? (Note: remind the children that Jesus can forgive them when they mess up and break a rule.)

TIPPY AND FRIENDS (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Dice (1 per group)

Today's Bible verse:

"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*).

Directions: Practice the Bible verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, tell the children they're going to say the Bible verse while pretending to be Tippy the Mouse or one of her friends. Allow the children to take turns rolling the dice, then recite the Bible verse while performing the corresponding animal action below.

Animal Actions:

1. Tiptoe like Tippy the Mouse.
2. Crawl like Tommy the Turtle.
3. Wiggle like Willy the Worm.
4. Stomp like Ellie the Elephant.
5. Wave your arms like Ollie the Octopus.
6. Choose your own animal movement.

TIPTOE LIKE TIPPY (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Bible story pictures (1 set per group)

Directions: Tell the children they get to pretend to be Tippy the Mouse and tiptoe around the room in search of the Bible story pictures. Have them close and cover their eyes while you hide the Bible story pictures around the room. (They are the same pictures from the Large Group storytelling time.) When finished, have the children open their eyes and tiptoe around the room in search of the pictures. Give clues if needed. After finding the pictures, the children can tiptoe back to you in the "Mouse House." Finally, have the children place the pictures in the order of the story, then ask them to use each picture to recount what happened in the story.

2.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



RULE BREAKERS (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons.

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to think of a rule they have broken and draw a picture of it. When finished, have the children show their picture and tell about it.

Say: We all mess up and break God's rules sometimes. That's why God gave us Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our mistakes so we can live with Him forever in Heaven. Let's say a prayer and ask Jesus to forgive us for breaking God's rules.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by asking God to forgive the children for doing the things in their drawings and by thanking God for giving us Jesus.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: Why do you think God gives us rules? (Answer: The rules show us how to love God and how to love other people. The rules show us that we need Jesus.)

Question: Why do you think God still loves us when we mess up and break His rules?