

YOUTH



LEVEL 3

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 9



Israel at Mount Sinai

ISRAEL AT MOUNT SINAI

The Israelites continued their journey from Egypt to the land of Canaan. They followed the pillar of a cloud from God that led them through the wilderness.

Upon reaching Mt. Sinai, the cloud stopped, signalling the Israelites to set up camp. Moses then went up the mountain to receive instructions from God.

“Tell the Israelites that if they will obey my laws, they shall be a very special people unto me,” God said.

Moses came down the mountain and repeated God’s words to the people. “All that God has said we will do,” they told Moses.

Moses then went back up the mountain and told God their answer. Of course God already was aware of it, but He had further instructions for Moses to give to the people.

God told Moses that He would come down to them in a thick cloud. “Tell the Israelites to wash themselves and their clothing,”

God said. “In three days I will come down to Mt. Sinai in the sight of all the people.

“Set up boundaries to prevent them from going up the mountain or touching it,” God warned. “Whoever touches it, whether man or animal, shall die. When the people hear a long trumpet blast, they shall come near the mountain.”

In the morning of the third day, an awesome sight greeted the people. A thick cloud appeared on the mountain. The top of the mountain seemed to be on fire as large clouds of smoke billowed upward. Flashes of lightning were followed by ear-splitting thunder! Suddenly, there was a long trumpet blast, announcing the arrival of God upon the mountain. All the people trembled.

“Moses, come up the mountain!” God thundered.

Before Moses had climbed very far, God told him to return and warn the people not to come too

close to the mountain. After Moses warned the Israelites, God thundered out the Ten Commandments. These are God's laws that show the way to happiness, good health, protection and prosperity.

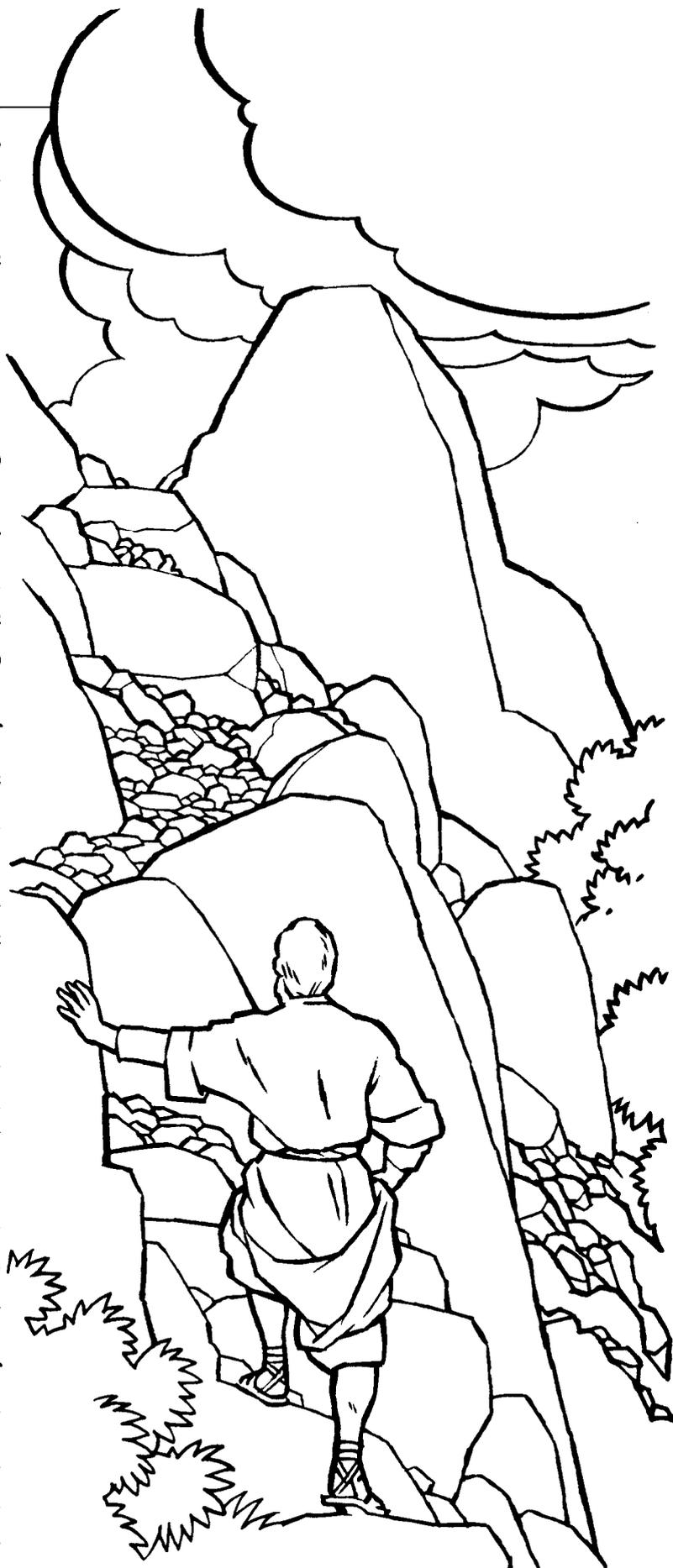
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt. You shall have no other gods but me!" boomed the powerful voice. The Being who spoke was the member of the God Family who later became Jesus Christ.

"You shall not make images of things in heaven or on earth for the purpose of bowing down to them in worship! I am a jealous God. I punish those who hate me, but show mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not use my name in a careless or disrespectful way. I will punish those who do not use my name with respect!

"Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy! You shall work and do all that you need to during the first six days of the week. But the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. On that day you shall do no work. Your God renewed the earth in six days and rested on the seventh. He therefore



made the seventh day holy time!”

These first four commandments show man’s duty to God. They show how we are to love God. The remaining six commandments show our duty to other people. They show us how to love one another.

“Show special honor and respect to your parents,” God continued. “If you honor them, you will live a long and happy life.” This commandment means that we should listen to our parents and do what they tell us. (On a separate sheet of paper, list some of the many nice things your parents do for you.)

“You shall not murder!” God commanded. This also means that we should not even hate other people. We should be kind and friendly to everyone.

“You shall not commit adultery!” God’s voice echoed. This means that a man should have only one wife and be loyal to her. It also means that we should be modest in our conduct toward others.

“You shall not steal!” God continued. Have you ever taken something that did not belong to you? Taking something that is not yours is stealing. A person who steals often ends up breaking some of the other commandments as well.

“You shall not lie!” When

caught doing something they should not be doing, some will say, “I didn’t do it!” That is lying and must not be done. God wants us to always tell the truth, even if we don’t want to.

God then concluded the Ten Commandments by saying, “You shall not covet [wrongfully desire to have] things that are not yours.” Have you ever wanted a friend’s toy, game or doll so much that you wanted to take it? God says you should be happy that your friend has them, and be satisfied with what you already have. Your friend may let you play with his toys, but you should not want to take any of his things from him.

On the lines below, list some of the nice things God has given you.

You may have forgotten you had so many blessings! Are you thankful to God for them?

ISRAEL AGREES TO OBEY GOD

After God spoke the Ten Commandments, the people moved away from the mountain. They were fearful of God’s closeness and awesome display of power.

“You speak to us,” the Israelites said to Moses, “and we will listen. But don’t let God speak to us anymore, lest we die.”

God heard their plea. He called Moses to come near. After telling the people they could return to their tents, Moses went up Mt. Sinai.

It was then that God gave other laws to Moses. These are called judgments. They are rules that further define the rights, responsibilities and duties God wanted the people to have toward one another. They include how to deal with murderers, thieves, sorcerers and the disorderly; how to settle various charges and claims; how to observe God’s annual Sabbaths (God’s Holy Days); and even how to handle vicious animals.

When Moses returned to the Israelites in the valley below, he repeated God’s words to them. “All the words which God has said we will do,” the people said. Moses then wrote down all the words God had spoken to him in what is called the Book of the Covenant.

In the morning Moses built an altar at the bottom of Mt. Sinai. Around the altar were placed 12 stone pillars. Each pillar stood for one of the 12 tribes. On the altar were offered animal sacrifices.

Moses then read the Book of the Covenant to the people. When he finished, the people agreed together, “We will do all that God has said, and we will be obedient!”

Moses then took some of the blood from the slain animals and sprinkled it on the people. This act ratified (made official and binding) the covenant, or agreement, between God and the nation of Israel. The Israelites agreed to obey God’s laws, and God promised to, in turn, bless them for their obedience.

THE GOLDEN CALF

The cloud continued to cover the upper part of Mt. Sinai. God told Moses to come up the mountain and receive the tablets of stone upon which He had written the Ten Commandments. Knowing that he might be gone for a long time, Moses left Aaron and Hur in charge of the people. He chose only Joshua to go up the mountain with him.

For six days Moses and Joshua waited in the heavy vapor of the cloud. On the seventh day, God told Moses to climb higher up the mountain. Joshua would stay where he was and wait for Moses to return. *(Continued on page 8)*

ISRAEL AT MOUNT SINAI GAME

Object of the game Help Moses climb down Mt. Sinai to the camp of Israel. As he moves along the mountain paths and through the cave to the camp, you must recite each of the Ten Commandments written on the two tablets of stone Moses is carrying.

Setting up the game A coin, piece of paper and pencil are needed to play the game. In addition, each player will need a playing piece or token (button, pebble or other small object) to represent Moses.

Playing the game Players should place their tokens on the space marked "MOSES," and then decide who begins the game. Play goes clockwise around the gameboard starting with that person. Each player takes his turn by flipping the coin and moving his token the appropriate number of spaces. (One side of the coin represents a move of one space, and the other side two spaces.) The token may be moved in any direction.

If you land on a blank space, answer a question from the list below. If you land on a numbered space, recite from memory that commandment (use the exact wording from the King James Version). A commandment must be recited each time you land on a numbered space—even if you have landed there before.

If you answer a question incorrectly or recite a commandment incorrectly, stay on that space until you are able to do it correctly. (You may

review Exodus 20 or this lesson while the other players take their turns.)

When you recite a commandment correctly, write the number of it on the sheet of paper until all ten are recited. At that point head for the camp of Israel, taking the shortest route during each of your following turns. You no longer have to recite commandments or answer questions.

Special spaces When you land on spaces 3, 7, and 8 you must stop and recite the commandment. However, on your next turn, a flip of the coin will determine which direction to move your token.

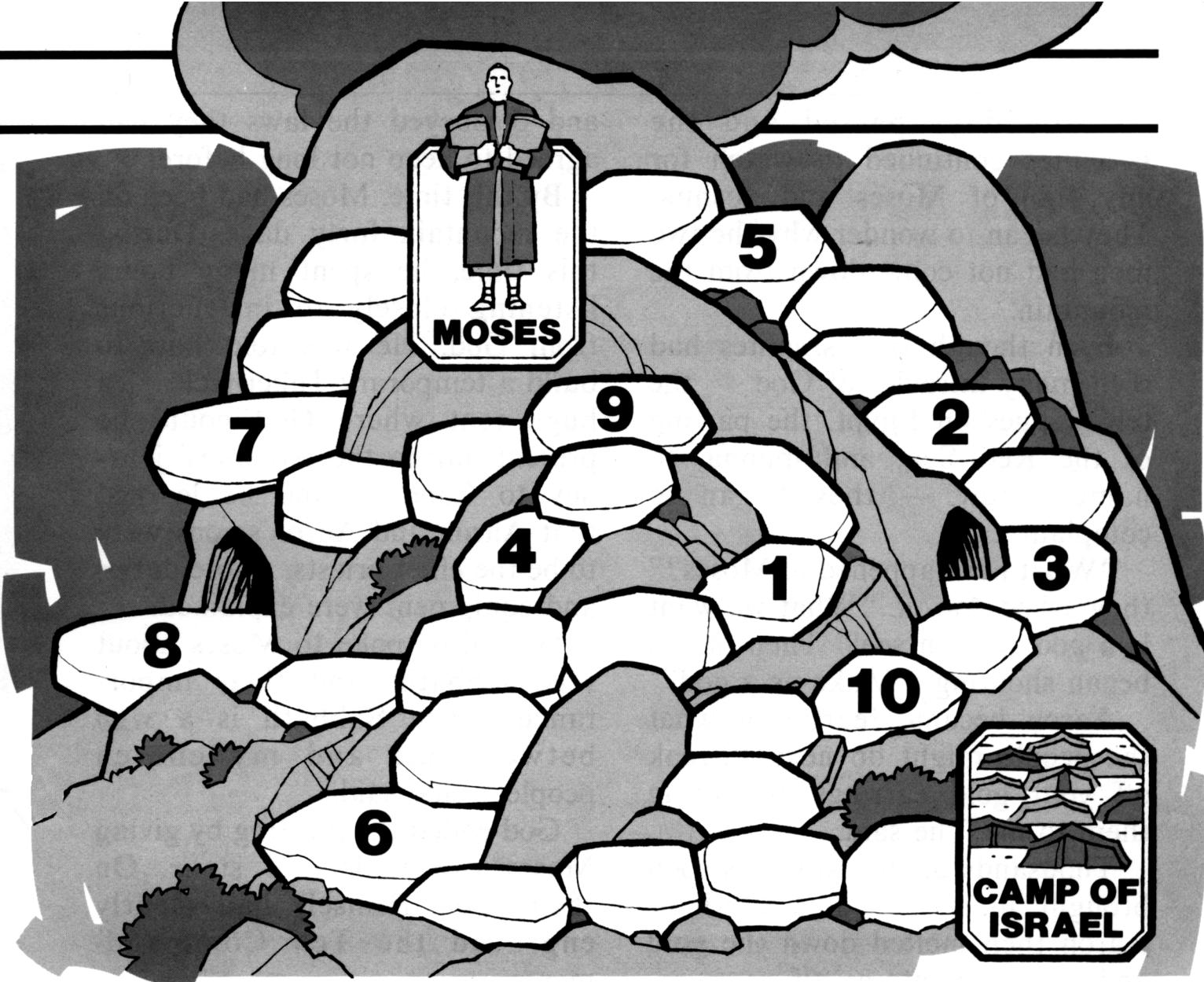
When on spaces 3 or 8 (openings to a long cave through the mountain), and the flip of the coin on your next turn indicates a move of one space, move your token to the numbered space at the *opposite* end of the tunnel and recite the commandment. If the coin requires a move of two spaces, move your token along the path two spaces, *without* going through the tunnel.

When on space 7, and the flip of the coin indicates a move of one space, jump down to space 8 and recite the commandment. If the coin requires you to move two spaces, continue along the path. However, you may not jump up from space 8 to space 7.

Winning the game The first player to reach the space marked "CAMP OF ISRAEL," after having correctly recited the Ten Commandments, is the winner!

Questions and Statements

1. The cloud leading the Israelites through the wilderness stopped at Mt. ____.
2. God told Moses that He would come down upon the mountain in a ____.
3. When God came to Mt. Sinai, there were flashes of ____ and ear-splitting ____.
4. While the people trembled, God spoke the ____.
5. The Being who spoke was the member of the God Family who later became ____.
6. The first four commandments show man's duty to ____.
7. The last six commandments show us how to ____ one another.
8. Does God want us to have any other gods?
9. Should we make images of things on earth or in heaven for the purpose of worshipping them?
10. We are not to use God's ____ in a careless or disrespectful way.
11. We are to remember the ____, the ____ day of the week, and keep it ____.
12. What is God's promise to those who honor their parents?
13. We should not murder, nor should we ____ other people.
14. What does God's command against committing adultery mean?



15. If we take something that does not belong to us, we are ____.
16. God commands us to tell the truth. If we do not, we are ____.
17. We are not to wrongfully desire something that is not ours. If we do, we are ____.
18. God called Moses up the mountain and gave him other laws called ____.
19. Moses wrote the judgments down in the ____ of the ____.
20. What did God promise the Israelites if they obeyed Him?
21. Later, God again told Moses to come up Mt. Sinai. God then gave him two ____ of stone on which He had written the ____.
22. God told Moses that the Sabbath was to be a ____ between God and His people.
23. Moses was on the mountain for ____ days.
24. What did the Israelites begin to do after Moses had been gone for many days?
25. The Israelites worshipped the ____ that Aaron made.
26. What did Moses do in anger when he saw the golden calf and the people dancing wildly around it?
27. Moses ordered the calf to be melted down and ____ into fine powder.
28. Why did God not destroy the Israelites for their disobedience?
29. God had Moses ____ two stone tablets and bring them up the mountain. On these God wrote the ____.
30. Why were the Israelites frightened by Moses when he returned from Mt. Sinai?

Many days passed and the Israelites continued to watch for any sign of Moses and Joshua. They began to wonder why the two men had not come down from the mountain.

Even though the Israelites had seen many miracles of God — the ten plagues on Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and manna, to name a few — they began to complain.

“What has happened to Moses?” they asked Aaron. “What we want is a god we can see!” Then others began shouting, “Make us a god!”

Aaron became fearful of what the people might do next. “Break off your gold earrings and bring them to me,” he said.

Thousands of the Israelites soon brought him their gold earrings. Aaron then melted down the gold and formed it into a calf.

Seeing the golden calf, the people shouted, “This is the god that brought us out of Egypt!”

Aaron then built an altar before the golden calf. “Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord!” he announced.

Early the next morning, many of the people sacrificed animals before the golden calf. They sat down to a big feast, and conducted themselves in a very indecent manner. They forgot about God

and disobeyed the laws they had agreed to keep not long before.

By this time, Moses had been on the mountain forty days. During this time, he spent many hours listening closely to instructions from God. He was told how to build a temporary Tabernacle — a huge tent where God could be present during the Israelites’ journey to Canaan. And he learned that Aaron and Aaron’s sons were to be the chief priests, whose duties and equipment were explained.

God also spoke to Moses about His Sabbaths and their importance. “The Sabbath is a *sign* between me and my chosen people,” God said.

God ended the meeting by giving Moses two tablets of stone. On them God Himself had clearly engraved the Ten Commandments.

“Return quickly to the camp,” God said. “The Israelites are breaking my commandments. They have made an idol which they are worshipping and sacrificing to. Now let me alone, for I am angry with them. I will destroy them and make of you a great nation!”

“Why are you angry with your people whom you brought out of Egypt with great power?” Moses



pleaded. "If you destroy them, the Egyptians will say you took your people out into the wilderness to kill them. Please turn from your anger and don't harm your people." So God decided not to destroy Israel.

ISRAEL PUNISHED FOR DISOBEDIENCE

Moses then hurried down the mountain to where Joshua was patiently waiting. As he and Joshua went further down the moun-

tain, they heard the noise of the people.

Moses was shocked and angry when he saw them dancing wildly around the golden calf. In a fit of anger, he hurled the two tablets of stone to the ground with such force that they broke in pieces!

"Build a roaring fire at once!" Moses loudly commanded. "Melt down the golden calf and then grind the gold into fine powder. Put the powder into the water for everyone to drink!" This would

remind the people of their sin as they drank the water.

The Levites, people of the tribe of Levi, remained obedient to God and had not worshipped the golden calf. So God had them punish many of the Israelites who had worshipped it.

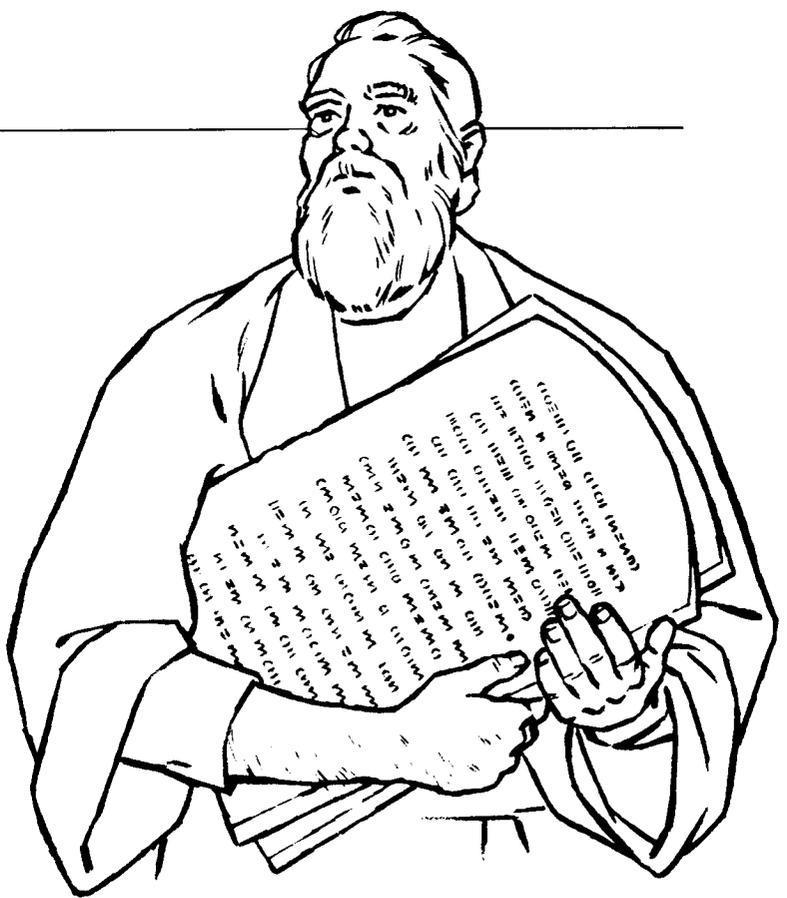
After this, Moses once again asked God to spare the people and not destroy them because of their rebellion. Since the Israelites were sorry for what they had done, God decided to be merciful and spared them. He also said that He would continue to guide the nation.

MOSES RETURNS TO MOUNT SINAI

“Cut two stone tablets and bring them with you when you come up the mountain,” God instructed Moses. “I will write out the Ten Commandments again.”

Moses asked God if it would be possible to see Him. “You cannot see my face, for no person shall see it and live. But I will show you my back,” God told Moses. “I will pass very near you so that you can see my glory. Remain in a cave on the mountain until I pass by.”

Early the next morning, Moses went up Mt. Sinai with the two stone tablets. As he looked out of



the cave where he was waiting, Moses heard God’s voice boom out like thunder. Suddenly, a dazzling light appeared. It became so bright that it nearly blinded him. Moses then caught a glimpse of the back of the brilliant figure of God as He passed by the cave.

“I am merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,” God proclaimed.

Trembling and overawed at the spectacular sight, Moses bowed his head and worshipped.

God then renewed His covenant, or agreement, with Israel. He also wrote once again the Ten Commandments on the stone tablets Moses brought with him.

After 40 days and nights on the mountain with God, Moses returned to the camp in the valley below. When the people saw him, they were startled and backed away. "Look at his face!" they said fearfully.

Moses did not know that his face was shining from having been so close to God. He covered his face with a veil, so as not to frighten the Israelites — especially the children.

Moses then told the people what God had spoken to him. He reminded them how important it is to obey God's Commandments and keep all of His Sabbaths.

Do You Remember?

Fill in the answers to the questions below. Then use a separate sheet of paper for the drawings you will be asked to make. Be sure to keep them with this lesson.

1. Who spoke the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai?
_____.
2. How many commandments are there? _____.
3. Draw a picture of you and your family keeping the Fourth Commandment.
4. In the Fourth Commandment, God says we are to work

_____ days and rest on the
_____ day.

5. Draw a picture showing a way to honor your parents.
6. What does God say not to do in the Second Commandment?
_____.
7. How should we use God's name? _____.
8. Draw a picture of someone breaking the Eighth Commandment in school. Then draw a large X over it!
9. Who waited on Mt. Sinai while Moses went up higher?
_____.
10. What happened in the valley while Moses was on the mountain? _____

_____.

FIND THE WORDS

Find the words below in the lesson and circle them. Then write their meanings on a separate sheet of paper. Use a dictionary if you need help.

covenant	dazzling
images	vapor
respect	ratified
boundaries	gracious
longsuffering	spectacular

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BIBLE MEMORY

Deuteronomy 30:15-16

DRAW THE PICTURES

Follow the instructions in the squares below by drawing pictures of some of the things you read about in this lesson. Be sure to color the pictures when you have finished.

Draw a picture of the mountain where Moses received the two tablets of stone.

Draw a picture of the pillar of a cloud that led the Israelites through the wilderness.

Draw a picture of the two stone tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments.

Draw a picture of a roaring fire around the golden calf.