

GOD'S LOVING COMMANDMENTS

BIG IDEA

God gave us special rules to live by – so that we can live free and blessed. They are like a big umbrella of God's protection over us.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a packet of gold wrapped chocolate coins

Create a treasure box (any box will do) and in it put the Ten Commandments (cut out from the appendix rolled into a scroll). Add the gold wrapped chocolate coins to the box

Adapt the treasure map in appendix to your place by filling in the blank. You could get carried away and burn the edges or rub it with a wet tea bag

Hide the treasure box in the place you have marked on the map

Find tea towels and ties for headdresses for Aaron and Moses

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

TAKE OUT THE TREASURE MAP and explain to the children that today they have a special mission.



We have a treasure map here and we need to follow the instructions on the map to find the hidden box of treasure.

Appoint a leader to read the map and lead the family to the hidden treasure. Have them bring it back to the table to open. Get them each to choose something out of the box.

Explain how the treasures they think might be the best (the gold coins) aren't necessarily the real ones. Share around the gold coins but leave the commandments in the box.

We are going to talk about some special rules that God gave us through Moses. The reason these rules are so important is that they are like our guide from God (who made us and who knows what is best for us as his family).

They are sort of like the secret of a 'blessed' life and like a huge umbrella of goodness protecting us from trouble and giving us real freedom.

Talk about why we have rules.

Ask what rules you have in your family. Write them on a big piece of paper.

- *Do we always keep them?*
- *What happens when we don't?*

We also have rules when we drive in the car. Who knows what some of those rules are? e.g. stop signs, give way signs, pedestrian crossings, traffic lights...

Just as we have rules in our family and on our roads, we also have rules in God's family. God gave them to us through a man called Moses – the same man who helped the Israelites escape Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea. The ten rules were written on tablets of stone. God gave us the rules to live by because He loves us and wants the best for us.

God says we must always love him first and others as much as ourselves and then everything else will fall into place.

DRESS CHILDREN UP WITH TEA TOWELS AS HEADRESSES.

Choose one child to be Moses and another to be Aaron. Any other children can be the rest of the children of Israel. Use a tabletop or chair for the top of Mount Sinai. Have Moses climb on top of the table/chair and everyone else stomp their feet to make thunder. Then read...

READ

“So there they all were. Grannies, granddads, babies, uncles, aunts, children, moms, and dads.

Out there in the middle of the desert. They had blisters from all the walking. They were hungry. And thirsty. And much, much too hot...

So God led them to a tall mountain. God wanted to talk to his people and show them what he was like. He wanted to help them know him better and tell them about the special land he was going to give them.

“The whole earth belongs to me!” God said. “But I have chosen you – you are my special family. I want you to live in a way that shows everyone else what I'm like – so they can know me too.”

God called Moses up the mountain. The great mountain shook. A thick cloud fell. Thunder roared. Lightning crackled. And God gave Moses Ten Rules, called “Commandments.”

(Hand the Ten Commandments to Moses)

“I want you to love me more than anything else in all the world – and know that I love you too,” God told them. “That's the most important thing of all.”

God gave them other rules, like don't make yourselves pretend gods; don't kill people; or steal; or lie. The rules showed God's people how to live, and how to be close to him, and how to be happy. They showed how life works best. ”)

Exodus 16, The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, pages 100-106, Zondervan © 2007

EXPLORE

Ask 'Moses' to read out the first four commandments (easy-to-understand version is in brackets). Taken from Exodus 20: 3-17 (AMP):

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
(Love God with all your heart.)
2. You shall not make for yourself any graven image. (Do not worship idols.)
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. (Don't use God's name as a swear word.)
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
(Keep the Sabbath as God's special day.)

These first four rules tell us how to behave toward God – that we should serve only Him, not make anything more important than God in our lives, not use God's name as a swear word and keep the seventh day a special day of resting and saying thank you.

Now ask 'Aaron' to read out the other six commandments.

5. Honour your father and mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery. (Husbands and wives keep your special love just for one another.)
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. (Do not tell lies about others.)
10. You shall not covet. (Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.)

The other six rules tell us how to behave toward each other – respecting our parents; not killing, being faithful, not stealing, not lying about others and not wanting something that belongs to someone else.

PRAY

Help us Lord to live by your rules so we can be the people you want us to be. One of your commandments I need to work on is _____.
Please help me God to do this. Amen.

LIVE

This week talk at the meal table about how we live our faith as a Christian family.

READ OUT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS AT THE DINNER TABLE DURING THIS WEEK AND ASK:

- Which commandment would this relate to?
- Is the person keeping it or breaking it?
- How would you handle this situation so that you still obey God's commands?

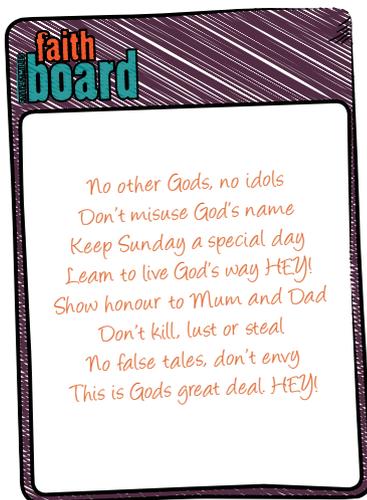
SCENARIOS

1. It is Sarah's 8th birthday and all of her friends have come for a party. When her friends give her presents, her little sister Emma gets very upset that she doesn't get any presents. "I want a present too!" she says and starts screaming and yelling and fussing.

2. Mum has made some chocolate chip cookies and asks everyone not to eat any because she is saving them for when the visitors come. When Mum answers the phone Jimmy eats three of them. When she comes back she looks at the cookies and asks Jimmy, Grace and Caleb, "Who ate some of those cookies?" "Not me!" say all three children.
3. All Jenna's friends are going to a new movie that's just come out. But Jenna's Mum and Dad have said that she is not allowed to go because they don't think the movie is suitable. Jenna gets very upset and says, "You are so unfair. Everyone else is allowed to go. You are the worst parents in the world. I'm going to go to that movie anyway!"

FAITH BOARD

(to the tune of "Jingle Bells")



"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

- Rosalynn Carter

OTHER IDEAS

1 Play Red Light Green Light

One person is chosen to be the traffic light, The rest stand on the other side of the room. The 'traffic light' child says "green light" and faces away from everyone else. While the others try to get close enough to touch the traffic light, the traffic light can at any time call out "red light" and turn around. If they catch anyone moving, they must return to the far side of the room. The first person to touch the traffic light gets to be the next traffic light.

2 Play Simon Says

Then ask why they moved the way they did on the game (because Simon said to...). Talk about how in life as Christians we act in certain ways because God has said to – showing love to God (commandments 1-4) and showing love to others (commandments 5-10).

3 When you are out driving

Talk about the rules of the road. Ask the children what the different signs mean (e.g. stop sign, give way). What happens when drivers don't obey them?

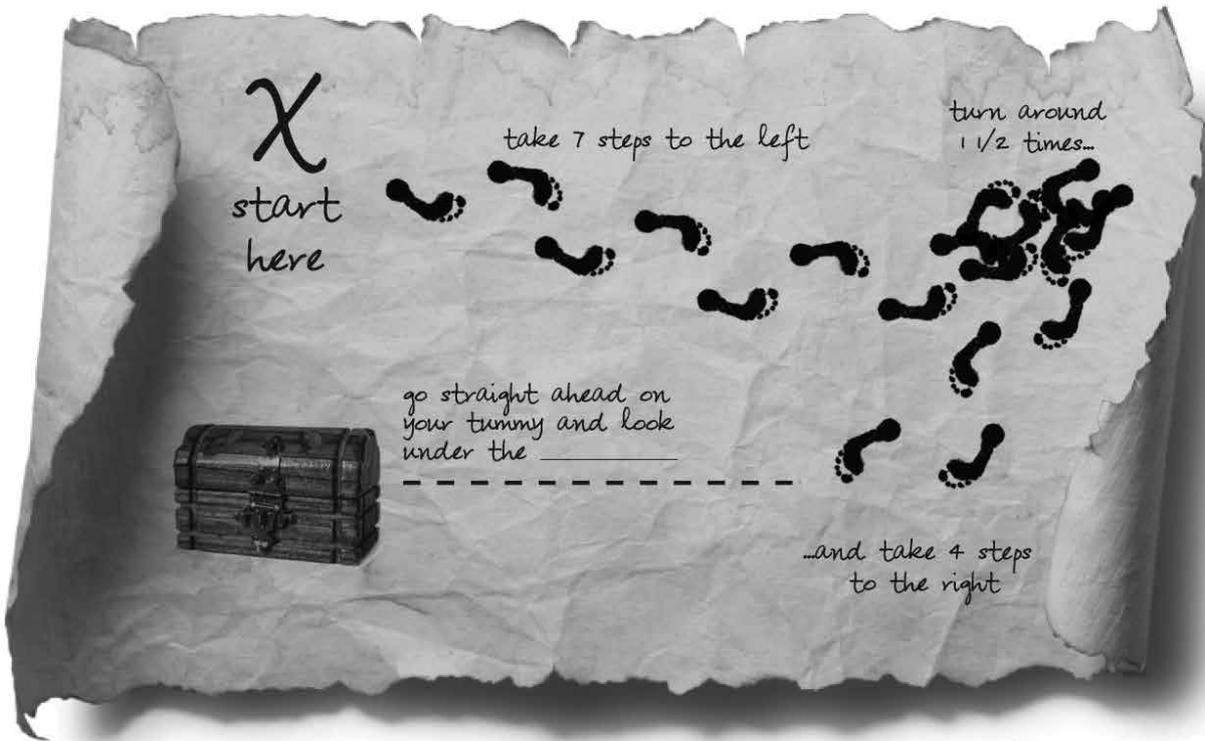
BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- A small pumpkin
- A tea light candle
- Glow in the dark sticks (optional)



SESSION EIGHT

TREASURE MAP





THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

(EXODUS 20: 3-17)

- 1. You shall have no other gods before me.**
(Love God with all your heart.)
- 2. You shall not make for yourself any graven image.**
(Do not worship idols.)
- 3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
(Don't use God's name as a swear word.)
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
(Keep the Sabbath as God's special day.)
- 5. Respect and obey your father and mother.**
- 6. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
(Keep the Sabbath as God's special day.)
- 7. You shall not commit adultery.**
(Husbands and wives keep your special love just for one another.)
- 8. You shall not steal.**
- 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.**
(Do not tell lies about others.)
- 10. You shall not covet.**
(Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.)