

LESSON 4

GOD GIVES THE LAW

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People

SCRIPTURE: [Exodus 20](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: God brings the Israelites to Mount Sinai to covenant with them. He gives them His good commandments so the world will know they are His set-apart people.

MEMORY VERSE: So I want you to realize that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come. He keeps it with those who love him and obey his commandments. He shows them his love. —[Deuteronomy 7:9](#)

CURIOSITY Large Group or Small Group

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: When is a time you felt very special?
- Free Play
- Countdown
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder

**BELIEF Large Group**

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [Deuteronomy 7:9](#)

FAITH Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

EXTRA TIME Large Group or Small Group

An interactive activity to keep kids engaged during pick-up time and to reinforce the lesson.

- Moses Says

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

I was homeschooled until I went to high school. So my first few months of public school were good but challenging. I was different from the other kids—I didn't know all the slang; I hadn't had their experiences. I gradually adjusted and fit in. But there was always something different about me because I was a Christian. There were things I did and didn't do because of my faith.

In today's lesson, we see that God creates a people who are to be in the world but not of it. In many ways, they will operate like everyone else, but because of God's law and what it says, there will always be something different about them. Israel struggles with this all throughout the Old Testament. Many of us—and probably many of the kids you lead—struggle with this still today.

God calls His people to be set apart. It's not always easy. But when we walk in the way of the Lord and we look at His instructions, we realize His commands are good because He is good. We realize He's worth following.

God sets us apart to live for Him and to show others what He is like. That makes us different. But it's OK because our God is faithful.

—Denise Morris Snyder

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?**WHO?**

Moses is an important figure throughout Scripture. God called him to lead His chosen people out of Egyptian slavery. Moses received the law, and God made His covenant with him ([Exodus 19–24](#)). Moses wandered the wilderness because of Israel's disobedience and died without entering the Promised Land.

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**WHAT?**

God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt and delivered them from the pursuing Egyptian army. God called His people together at the base of Mount Sinai to make His covenant with them. God spoke to Moses, giving him the Law, and Moses brought it to the people.

WHERE?

Mount Sinai is the same “mountain of God” where God first called to Moses from the burning bush. God said Israel would return to worship Him here after being set free ([Exodus 3](#)). Today it's called Jabal Musa in Arabic, meaning “Mountain of Moses.”

WHEN?

Israel came to Mount Sinai on the first day of the third month after leaving Egypt. According to the Hebrew calendar, this may have been in late May or early June, since Passover is celebrated in the first month around March or April.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God led His people to Mount Sinai to receive the Law of God. It showed how they were to live as God's chosen people. In [Matthew 5–7](#), Jesus gave a sermon on a different mountain or hill. There Jesus said He had come to fulfill the Law, bringing all things to completion.

Large Group or Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Welcome Question

The following question will be written on the whiteboard: “When is a time you felt very special?”



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the [Welcome Question](#). Invite kids to share their answers with one another as they wait for everyone to arrive. If you have younger kids, read the question to them and listen to their answers.

Free Play

Tables will be set with games, toys, and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and build relationships with them.

This is also a great time for a bathroom reminder!

Countdown Video

Play the [countdown video](#) provided and then show it every week five minutes before your official start to signify clean up time.



Curiosity Questions

At your start time ...

Welcome the kids and let them know you're glad they came to church today. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **When is a time you felt very special?**

Hopefully we've all had lots of different times when we've felt special. Today we're going to learn how God chose a special people and gave them His commandments to set them apart as His own. But, first, it's time to be curious. Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

I'm curious ...

- **What are some ways God is different from us?**
- **What are some ways God wants us to be different—and special—from people who don't follow Him?**

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Commandments Declaration Slide

Display the [Commandments Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You that I belong to You. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for setting me apart! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)
And I am Your kid! (Repeat)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)
Thank You that I belong to You. (Repeat)
Thank You for setting me apart! (Repeat)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

FAITHFUL

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20

MEMORY VERSE: Deuteronomy 7:9

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, thank You for bringing us together to learn more about You and Your story today. Help us to listen well, to know Your Holy Spirit is with us, and to keep Your truth close to our hearts. Thank You for calling us Your own people and setting us apart. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story Intro

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), [Commandments Title Slide](#), [God Gives the Law God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the [Commandments Title Slide](#).



FOR OLDER KIDS: Invite the kids to grab their Bibles and turn to [Exodus 20](#). Let them know that Exodus is near the front of the Bible—the second book!

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!

Ask for four volunteers to read aloud. Invite the first to read [Exodus 20:2–4](#), the second to read verses [7–9](#), the third to read verses [12–17](#), and the fourth to read verses [20–23](#).

Then do one or both of the following:

- View [God Gives the Law God's Big Story Video](#)
- Use the following [God Gives the Law Experience It! Script](#)

Leader Tip: The goal of this lesson is that kids walk away with a deeper understanding of who they are as God's set-apart children! The law God gave Moses helps His people know the best way to live as reflections of Him to the world! If kids can recite the 10 Commandments, great! If they can understand more deeply what it means to walk as God's kids, even better!

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [God Gives the Law God's Big Story!](#)



LESSON 4 GOD GIVES THE LAW

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: table; chair; hairbrushes, pens, or pencils (2), [Need-to-Know News Slide](#)



Ahead of time, place a table at the front of the room with a chair behind it. This will serve as your news anchor desk. Recruit two kids to serve as reporters who'll help with the newscast. Give each kid a hairbrush, pen, or pencil to serve as a microphone to hold when speaking. Tell them they are to do the actions you describe in the story. The reporters will stand to one side of the table.

Display the [Need-to-Know News Slide](#).

Sit at the news anchor desk. **Welcome to Need-to-Know News. I'm your news anchor** (say your name), **and today we have a special report about God's people, the Hebrews. With me are two reporters** (say names of kid reporters), **who'll help bring this important story to you.**

God's people lived in Egypt for 400 years, and during that time they became strong and numerous. Egypt's king, the Pharaoh, feared the people's strength and made them work as slaves. During this time, God helped a Hebrew baby named Moses, who was saved by the Pharaoh's daughter and raised in the king's palace. Years later, God heard His people's cries for help and called Moses to lead them to freedom. Moses led the people out of Egypt and through the Red Sea as God held back the waters. When Pharaoh's army chased after them, God let the water fall back onto the Egyptians.

God's people—the people of Israel—have now escaped. They're finally free. But God isn't done with them yet. He's just getting started.

God has led the people to the base of a mountain called Mount Sinai, and we understand that there are big things happening there. Our reporters are on the scene and ready to fill us in.

Unfortunately, while we can see our reporters, we've lost all sound. They can hear me, but we can't hear them. As you can see, this is a desolate location, rocky, dry, and hot. See how our reporters are wiping sweat from their heads? Pause as reporters respond. See how they're panting because they're thirsty? Pause as reporters respond. I understand Moses has climbed up the mountain. Reporters, follow him—let's see you climb. Pause as reporters respond. Keep going ... keep going. And you're there!

On the mountain, God is telling Moses that He's making an unbreakable promise with His people. If they obey Him, God will set Israel apart as His treasured people and give them a special place in His plan for the world. That's big news! Moses is now climbing back down the mountain to tell the people what God has said. Reporters, hurry down the mountain. Climb! Climb faster! Pause as reporters respond. OK—you're down the mountain. Good job!

It looks as if the people are agreeing—they'll obey God and do everything God says. Now Moses is climbing back up the mountain to tell God the people have agreed to be His special nation. Follow him, reporters! Pause as reporters respond.

God instructed Moses to take two days to get the people ready to meet Him, and that's what Moses is doing. The people are washing their clothes and preparing themselves to meet the Lord. Do the same, reporters. Pretend to wash your clothes ... wash your hair ... brush your teeth ... hang your socks up to dry ... get yourselves ready! Pause as reporters respond to each instruction.

It's the morning of the third day, and thunder and lightning are filling the sky. God has come down in fire, and smoke is covering the mountain. "Then Moses spoke. And the voice of God answered him" (Exodus 19:19). God has called Moses to the top of the mountain, and He's giving Moses 10 Commandments—or laws—for the people to obey to set them apart from the other nations. Our reporters are on the scene.

Reporters, I think I can make out what's written on the tablets Moses is holding.

The people are to have no other gods, just God Himself. "Don't make statues of fake gods," God said. God wants them to only love Him, and He promises to love forever those who love and obey Him.

The people aren't to misuse God's name, but use it with respect and honor. This will show they love God and care about His reputation.

Next, the people are to honor God by setting apart a day each week to rest. They can work for six days, but on the seventh, they're to rest. Because our sound feed still is not working, reporters, can you please show us what resting on the seventh day might look like? Pause as reporters respond. This command is to be obeyed by their children, everyone in their houses, their animals, and even by those who've just moved to their towns. God Himself worked to create the entire world in six days, but on the seventh, He rested and enjoyed His creation. God wants His people to be like Him.

Another command is for God's people to honor and respect their parents. As a result, the people will experience good, fulfilling lives in the land God is giving them.

There are a few other commands. Do not murder. Do not break the promises they make when they get married. Do not steal. Do not lie to harm others. Do not be jealous of what their neighbor has.

The laws God is giving His people will become known as the 10 Commandments. God hasn't given them to limit His people, but to show His people how life is best lived—by loving God and loving each other. When the people of Israel keep these laws, everyone will know they belong to God. God sets apart His people.

And . . . wait . . . our sound is back! We can now hear our reporters, so let me ask them: **What was it like to witness such an amazing event?** Give the reporters a few seconds to share their thoughts, then cut them off as they are speaking. **I'm sorry, but we need to go to a commercial break. After the break we'll speak with our fashion reporter about today's hottest new fashion trend: wearing socks on your ears. Until then, this is Need-to-Know News.**

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SUPPLIES: Commandments Wonder Truth Slide

Display the [Commandments Wonder Truth Slide](#).



Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SETS APART HIS PEOPLE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God led His people to Mount Sinai to receive the Law of God. It showed how they were to live as God's chosen people. In [Matthew 5-7](#), Jesus gave a sermon on a mountain or hill. We call it the Sermon on the Mount. There Jesus said He had come to fulfill the Law. By dying on the cross and rising again, Jesus brought completion to all things. Through Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and our relationship with God made right! We are His set-apart people!

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse slide

Display the Memory Verse [Slide](#). The Memory Verse for the Faithful series is **Deuteronomy 7:9**. God made special promises to His people and set them apart to live for Him through the commandments He gave them. This verse reminds us that God keeps His promises and loves it when we obey His good commandments. Let's read the Memory Verse together!



Recite the verse together as a class. Then, cover the memory verse or remove Memory Verse slide from screen and say the verse again, pausing to leave out certain words, while kids shout the word that comes next. Do this several times, increasing the amount of fill-in-the-blanks each time.

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

MEMORY VERSE

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

—Deuteronomy 7:9 (NIV)

Questions: Younger Kids

- Where had God's people been just before they came to Mount Sinai?
- What were some of the commandments God gave His people?
- Why do you think God gave His people commandments?
- What do you think it means for someone to be "set apart"?
- How do the commandments set God's people apart?
- Why do you think God wants us to be set apart?

God showed up on Mount Sinai and gave His commandments to His people. His commands would help them to be set apart and live for Him, showing others what He is like. God invites us to be His set-apart people too. Let's spend some time praying and praising God for how amazing He is!

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share prayer requests and highlights from the week they want to thank God for. Consider sharing some of your own praises and requests as well. Then allow a few volunteers to pray for one another and close by thanking God for setting us apart as His people and caring for us.

Questions: Older Kids

- Who was the man who helped lead the Israelites out of Egypt?
- What is an unbreakable promise called in the Bible?
- What were some of the commandments God gave His people?
- Why does God want us to obey Him and His commands?
- What does it mean to be God's set-apart people?
- What are some ways you can be set apart for God?

God gave His people good commandments so they could obey Him and show their love for Him. He set them apart, inviting them to live differently than others who don't love and follow Him. God invites us to be His set-apart people too. Let's take some time to pray and ask God to help us live for Him!

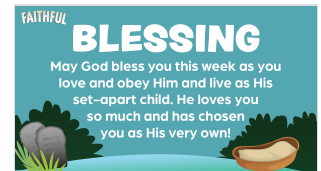
Prayer Time: Older Kids

Encourage kids to share some prayer requests about areas where they need the Lord to help them be set apart and live for Him. They may want to share with a partner or with the whole group. Encourage a few people to pray for the whole group and close by thanking God for helping us live His way with the help of His Spirit.

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May God bless you this week as you love and obey Him and live as His set-apart child. He loves you so much and has chosen you as His very own!



Large Group or Small Group

Use the following activity to keep kids engaged during pick-up time and to reinforce the lesson.

GAME 4: MOSES SAYS

SUPPLIES: whiteboard and dry-erase marker or chart paper and marker

**Works well with the
God Gives the Law
lesson!**

This modified version of Simon Says illustrates how impossible it becomes to follow instructions if there are too many of them. As additional “laws” accumulate, it becomes more and more difficult to follow them all, until at last it becomes impossible!

To begin the game, choose one kid to represent Moses or ask for a volunteer.

Friends, this is Moses. Say "Hi," Moses. Give the kid who is pretending to be Moses the chance to greet everyone. **Anything Moses writes on the board is law. If Moses writes, "Wiggle your fingers," you must wiggle your fingers and may not stop wiggling them. If Moses writes, "Don't look at me," you must look away.** To the kid playing Moses, explain: **The only thing you, Moses, may not write is a law that would undo one of your previous laws. If you write, "Sit down," you can't later write, "Stand up." Everyone, you must continue following all the laws.**

With each new law Moses writes, it will become more and more difficult for kids to follow them all. If they make a mistake or are unable to continue following all the laws, they're out. The last remaining kid gets to be Moses in the next round.

When God gave the 10 Commandments to Moses to give to the people, it was not a game, and God's laws were good laws. But, at times, each of us fails to follow God's laws. That's why we need the forgiveness Jesus offers us. We can thank God for Jesus, for His forgiveness, and for the way His Holy Spirit helps us to follow God. God set His people apart by issuing special laws through Moses. Today, God sets His people apart through faith in Jesus.