

HOOK

ROCK GAME

Tell the kids, there are only 2 rules in this game:

1. No moving
2. No talking

Because rocks don't move and rocks don't talk.

"God gave the people of Israel 10 rules to follow, and the people told God that they will obey all the rules. Did they succeed? Could they obey all of God's rules? What do you think?"

At this point, at least one of the children would have broken the rules of the Rock Game.

Explain to them that just as we find it difficult to obey all the rules, the people of Israel were not able to obey God's Laws — the 10 commandments.

STORY: EXODUS: The 10 Commandments (Exodus 19:1-20:17)

As we heard last week, Moses and the Israelites were journeying in the desert after leaving Egypt. The Israelites camped in the desert near Mount Sinai.

Then Moses climbed up the mountain to meet with God. The Lord spoke to him on the mountain and asked him to tell the people, "I carried you out of Egypt like an eagle and brought you here to me. If you obey my commands, you will be my own special people — a kingdom of priests".

So Moses climbed down the mountain and called the elders of the people together. Moses told the elders everything the Lord had commanded him to tell them. All the people said proudly, "We will obey everything the Lord says."

Then Moses went back up the mountain and told the Lord that the people would obey him. God gave Moses 10 commandments, which the people were to obey.

If they obeyed ALL the commandments, they would be blessed.

If they disobey the commandments, they would be cursed. Disobeying even just one commandment would mean they were guilty of breaking them all (James 2:10).

The commandments were:

GOD

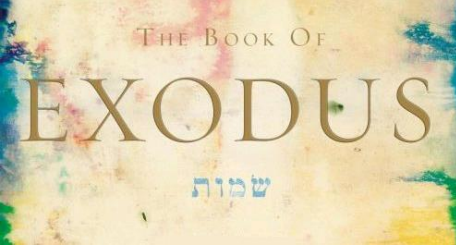
- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

The first 5 commandments were about how the people should relate to God, while the last 5 commandments were about how they should treat others.

<Go through the 10 commandments and explain each one briefly.>



Do you know that under each of these 10 Commandments, there were many other laws that God gave? Altogether there were more than 600 laws!

The people of Israel had told Moses, "We will obey everything the Lord says."

But after God gave the 10 commandments, before Moses could even come down from the mountain, the Israelites have already broken 2 commandments.

That's right. The people had asked Aaron to make a golden calf for them to worship.

What commandments did they break?

Number 1 and 2. Do not worship other gods. Do not make any idols

That day, because they broke the commandment, because they sinned, 3,000 people died as punishment.

LESSON

No one could keep God's perfect law ...

These were God's laws. God is perfect, so God's laws were perfect — They taught us what God's standards are and what He is like.

And if we want to be perfect, we would have to keep God's laws perfectly.

But because God's laws were perfect, you and I will find it very, very difficult to obey all of them. Sometimes it's very, very difficult to obey just even one.

How many of you ever wished you had your friend's toy/book? You've broken Commandment #10.

How many of you have ever told a lie to your parents? You've broken Commandment #9.

How many of you have taken your brother/sister's things without permission? You've broken Commandment #8.

How many of you have been rude or disobeyed your parents? You've broken Commandment #5.

If we break just 1 commandment, we have broken ALL the commandments. When we break a commandment, we sin — we miss God's mark of perfection.

So instead of blessings, we deserve punishment!

Ever since, the commandments were given, no one could keep all of God's perfect laws perfectly.

The Bible tells us, *"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

Except for the Perfect Man

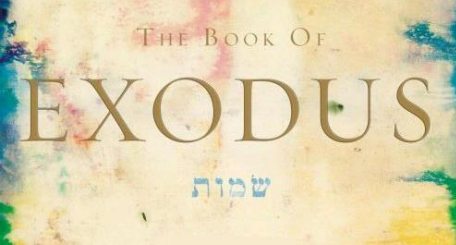
No one ... except the one perfect man, Jesus!

Jesus:

- Lived a sinless life — kept ALL God's laws
- Became the sacrifice for our sins
- Was raised from the dead, defeating sin and death

Because Jesus kept all of God's laws, He was entitled to all of God's blessings.

When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we receive all the blessing that Jesus paid for us at the cross.



The Holy Spirit helps us to do what is right

The people of Israel had the Law, but they had not power to keep it. The Law just told them how bad they were, but could not help them change. It's like holding the mirror — the mirror shows you that your face is dirty; it cannot help you clean your face; you try to clean it, but because your hands are dirty, your face becomes dirtier.

Because Jesus fulfilled the Law on our behalf, when we believe in Him, His Holy Spirit comes and lives in us. We become Jesus boys and girls.

We don't need a list of hundreds of rules to tell us what is right or wrong. The Holy Spirit teaches us what God wants us to do.

Hebrews 8:10 tells us, *"God will put His laws in our minds and write them on our heart."* It's no longer laws on stone but on minds and hearts!

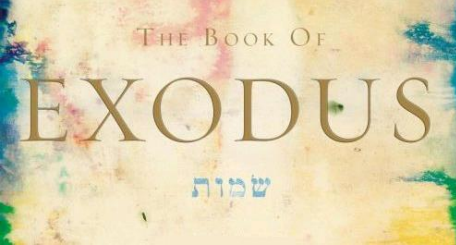
Even better ... the Holy Spirit helps us to do what is right.

We can't love people we don't like, but Jesus in us can.

We can't stop doing naughty things like beating our friend or fighting with our sister/brother, but Jesus in us can be kind and gentle to others.

When we feel we cannot love our friend, tell Jesus, "I cannot love my friend, but I know you can love him and you are in me". Instead of thinking all the not –so–nice things about your friend, think about how kind Jesus is and how much he loves you, and you will find yourself loving your friend!

And even when we fail and fall, we will not receive God's punishment anymore (although sometimes mummy and daddy will still discipline us). Instead, He still loves us unconditionally, and we have His blessings in our lives.



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Memory Verse Challenge

"I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts." **Galatians 3:13**

Games:

"Simon says"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Says

Catch the coins

Throw some coins, say, 50 sen, 20 sen, 10 sen and 5 sen. If anyone can catch them all, he wins. If not, he loses. Make it difficult, especially the 5 sen coin. This game is to illustrate the point that we are not able to keep all of God's commandments on our own. If we break one, we break them all.

Then choose a representative to catch the coins. This time make it easier so at least one of them can catch all the coins. Reward all the children where the representative catches all the coins. This is like in the case of Jesus, when he kept the commandments, and all of us get to enjoy the benefits, ie abundant and eternal life.

Close in prayer.