


HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT TWO: God Led His People

Lesson 2: God Gave Us Commandments

CONTENT:

1. The people of Israel witnessed fire, smoke and an earthquake on Mt Sinai. They also heard the sound of a trumpet and gathered at the foot of the mountain. God called Moses up to the top and gave him the commandments written on two stone tablets. He said, 'I am the Lord your god who set you free from slavery in Egypt. Now obey my commandments.'
2. There were 10 commandments: the first tablet had 3, and told the people how to love God. The second had 7 and explained how to love others.
3. Jesus also climbed a mountain and taught the people there. He taught them how to love God and others. He said that those who obey them will be great in heaven. He also said that if we really love God, we will obey his commandments.
4. Like the Israelites, God has set us free by sending us Jesus to die for us. Since he loves us so much, we should trust him and obey him. His commandments are 'the way' to be  happy and safe.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Learn Bible verse.

REFERENCES: Exodus 19:16-20; Deuteronomy 5:6, 22, 32-33. Matthew 5:1, 19.

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MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

- Have you ever climbed a mountain? Maybe some of you have gone by bus or car to a hill-station, and then climbed a hill or mountain. How do you feel when you are standing on a mountain top? [*Allow the students to share. Bring out:*]
- Mostly people build houses and live down on flat land, so when we climb up a mountain, we might find ourselves all alone. The air is cooler up there, and we can see far. As we look at the sky and the hills and valleys around, we feel closer to God and realise how great he is.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Last time we heard how God spoke to Moses on a mountain. Do you remember the name of the mountain? [*Mount Sinai*]
- God reminded Moses how he had rescued them and cared for them. Then he told Moses to ask the people a question. What did he ask? [*Will you obey me?*]

The people said, 'Yes! We will obey God!' and so they became God's own, special people.

Then God said to Moses, "Tell the people to get ready and come to the foot of the mountain after three days." So the people washed their clothes and made themselves clean.

On the third day they heard lightning and thunder. They ran out of their tents and saw fire on the mountain and thick smoke rising up. Then the whole mountain began to shake and there was a sound of a trumpet getting louder and louder.

By now the people were also shaking! They realised that something very great was happening. Moses gathered them all (there were thousands of them) and brought them to the foot of the

mountain as God had asked. Then God called out to Moses, and told him to come to the top of the mountain. (The people couldn't understand his words. They only heard thunder when God spoke.) Moses went up to the top of the mountain. When he came down again, he had two tablets of stone in his hands. They were covered with writing. Moses told the people, "These are God's commandments, written by his own hand. God said, 'I am the Lord your God, who set you free from being slaves in Egypt. I have looked after you. Now you must obey me, as you have promised. If you obey my commandments you will be happy and live long.'"

The people remembered all that God had done for them. They said, "God really does care for us. We will do all that he says."

[Give out handouts and let the students read the top half of the page and fill in the blanks:

I am the Lord your God who set you free from being slaves in Egypt.

If you obey my commandments you will be happy and live long."

One tablet had 3 commandments and told them how to LOVE GOD.

The other had 7 commandments and showed how to LOVE OTHERS.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we heard how God gave Moses 10 commandments. What did God say to the people?
[The children could read the answer from the handouts.]

Let me tell you a story about a boy who also was rescued from his enemies and how he felt. Mohan was a boy in the third standard. He had no brothers or sisters and so he usually walked home alone from school. His house was just 5 minutes from school if he took a short cut across a field.

But one evening he landed in trouble on his way home. As he climbed over the wall to cross the field, three big boys jumped out at him. Mohan recognised them at once. They were the trouble-makers of the school, always bullying the smaller children. Their chief was Raju, the PT master's son. Because of his father, everyone was afraid to complain about them.

The bullies caught Mohan and pushed him down. Raju sat on his legs and said, "You want to go home? Then what will you give us? How much money can you get tomorrow?" Mohan was so frightened, he couldn't even open his mouth. Just then he heard the sound of someone running. Someone shouted, "Hey! What are you doing? Leave him!" It was the voice of Sunil, the sports captain. The bullies didn't move. "Don't interfere... or you'll get into trouble yourself. Go home quietly."

But Sunil jumped over the wall and pushed Raju off Mohan. The others began to hit and fight him. Sunil shouted, "Run Mohan! Run home fast!" Mohan took his bag and ran as fast as he could.

The next day when the school bell rang for going home, Mohan saw Sunil outside his class. His face was cut and his eye was all blackened. He said, "Mohan, listen to me. It's not safe for you to go by that field. Wait for me today and I'll show you a safe way. I'll be free at 5 o'clock, after football practice."

Mohan sat down outside his class and waited. He thought, "How lucky I am to have a friend like Sunil. Even though he is a captain, he still wants to help me."

One of Mohan's friends saw him sitting there all alone, when all the other children had gone home. "Why are you waiting here all alone? God home!"

"Sunil told me to wait for him."

"Arrey, forget him! He must have forgotten about you. Chal, come with me."

But Mohan shook his head. "He saved me from the bullies. I will listen to him." He said.

At last Sunil came and the two boys walked home together. Sunil took him by the main road and showed him how to reach home safely. He said, "This road is longer, but you will be safe. Don't go by the short-cut again."

Mohan said, "Sunil, I will do whatever you tell me, because you saved me from those bullies."

- Imagine you were in Mohan's place. Would you listen to Sunil or not?... Why?

- God is like Sunil. He loves us so much that he even sent his Son Jesus to die for us and save us from the devil, and from our sins. He wants us to be safe and to reach our home in heaven safely. That why he gave us the commandments. They are like a road that leads to heaven. Once Jesus climbed a mountain and sat down there. Thousands of people came to listen to him. He taught them about the commandments and what God wants us to do. Like sunil, he wanted to show us a safe and good way to reach our home.. that means heaven. So he said, “Obey the commandments! Love God and love others. That is the way to be really great.”

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Close your eyes and think of Jesus. Imagine you are sitting on the mountain near him. Jesus looks at you and says, “I love you and have come to save you. Are you ready to obey my commandments? Are you ready to love God and love others? If you do, you will be safe and happy and you will reach heaven.”

Be quiet now, and answer Jesus in your mind.

IV. ACTIVITY:

[The students read the rest of the handout. If time permits, play a game of ‘Fire on the Mountain’ thus:
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- When the Israelites saw the fire on the mountain, Moses told them to run to the foot of the mountain and wait to see what God would say. Let’s play a game to remind us about that time. Remember that god gave 10 commandments. The first 3 were about loving god and the next 7 were about loving others. When I call a number, if it is a commandment about god, run to this side of the class and if it is about loving others, run to this side. [Indicate the right.]

[The students run around chanting ‘Fire on the Mountain! Run, run, run!’. When the teacher calls out a number all form groups of that number. Those who fail to form a group of the right number sit down. Play continues till just a few students are left, who are declared the winners.]

<p>Home assignment: Read handout at home. Learn the Bible verse.</p>
