

Adventures with GOD!

THE WORD OF GOD WRITTEN ON STONES (C.3.SPRING.3)

Biblical Reference	Exodus 24:12-18 and Deuteronomy 5:6-22
Key Verse	Psalm 119:97
Key Concept	The laws in God's word are given for my benefit and delight.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name the 10 commandments 2. Act out the encounter between God and Moses 3. Draw the stones that contain the law of God

Life Application

God gave the law to God's people, Israel, on stone tablets. The story of God giving Moses the Ten Commandments is fascinating. This lesson is a good time to review and help the children memorize the Ten Commandments. Remind children that the Ten Commandments are God's good law given for our benefit, for us to live wisely in relationship with our Creator.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Small gift boxes or illustrations of gifts, Bible, a large stone, a big box	10 minutes
Learning centers	See instructions	10 minutes
Activity		10 minutes
Key Verse	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Exodus 24:12-18 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Bible Exploration: In preparation for this lesson, wrap up a bunch of small boxes, placing one of the Ten Commandments in each of them. Next, wrap up a large stone in a big gift box. Begin by asking children to review what they learned about how God communicates through nature and creation. This lesson will focus on another way God speaks to people. Pull out the big gift box, and open it up to reveal the large stone. Ask children what they see. Why in the world would a stone be a gift? Ask children what they learned about the word of God as it was given to Moses in Exodus 24:12-18. The Scriptures tell us that Moses was given God's word, written on stones. How in the world can we write on stone? Invite someone to try with a pencil, another person to try with a marker, etc. Why would God write on stones?

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The word of God that Moses received was extremely important, because it contained God's laws. Hand out the small gift boxes to children and invite them to open them to see what's inside. Allow each child to read his or her particular verse. Ask children if they recognize the verses. What is important about these particular verses? Where do they come from? Ask children to open up their Bibles to Deuteronomy 5. Read the text and talk through the Ten Commandments together. Why can we consider these commandments to be a gift? How do these commandments help us follow God? How do they help us make decisions?

In the Learning Centers, children will have the opportunity to learn more about God's law written on stone.

Learning centers: Have the instructions ready to go at each center. Explain to children that they can choose which learning center to go to. Explain the different options, and ask if they have any questions. When children are finished at their Learning Centers, invite them to all come together and sit in a circle. The Learning Centers this week focus on the word of God written on stones. Even though the Ten Commandments were given thousands of years ago, God still invites us to follow these precious laws. Allow children to share what they learned about the Ten Commandments, and why they are still important for us today.

Activity: This week there are several different activity options to help children to reflect on the Ten Commandments. Choose one of the activities, or let children select from a variety of options.

Key Verse: Use the illustrations provided on page 8, or ask children to draw a picture of the stones with God's word and the Key Verse. Also, this would be a good time to create an illustration for the mural.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

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O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

This Learning Center will explore the meaning of the Ten Commandments and how to apply them to our lives. Children will reflect on how Jesus Christ defined the Ten Commandments in the New Testament.

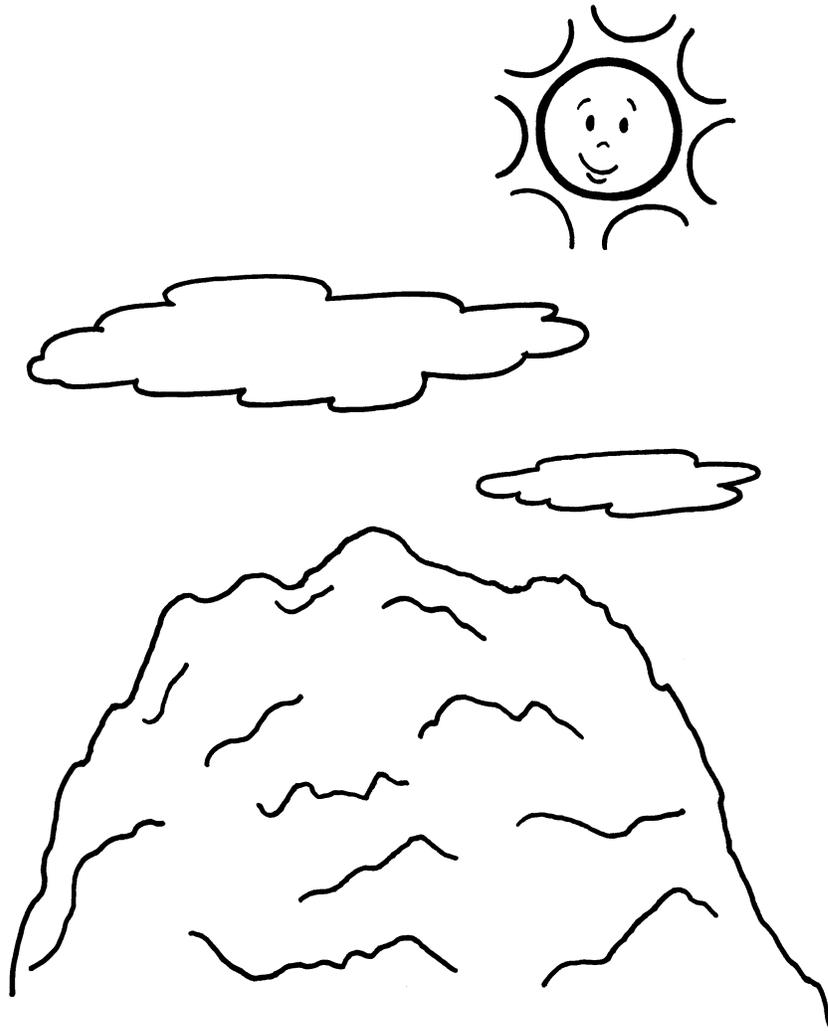
1. Read Deuteronomy 5:6-21 and make a list of the Ten Commandments on a large sheet of white paper.
2. Read Matthew 5:17-48 and with a different color marker, write how Jesus defined and clarified the Ten Commandments.
3. Prepare an explanation of the Ten Commandments to share with the rest of the group.

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CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

This Learning Center will explore how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Children will create a drama to act out the story.

1. Read the story of Moses and his encounter with God, noting the particular details of the story.
2. Prepare a drama to act out for the rest of the group that depicts the encounter.



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CENTER OF APPLICATION

This Learning Center will explore how the Ten Commandments should affect our lives. Make tablets out of clay or playdoh, and reflect on the following questions.

1. Using clay or playdoh, make two tablets representing the stones where the Ten Commandments were written. What are key words from the Ten Commandments? Using a tooth pick or pencil, write those words on the clay tablets.
2. Spend some time reflecting, and then write specific examples of times in your life when you have had to decide if you will follow God's word (particularly the Ten Commandments) or not.
3. Answer the following questions:

What do we do with a gift?

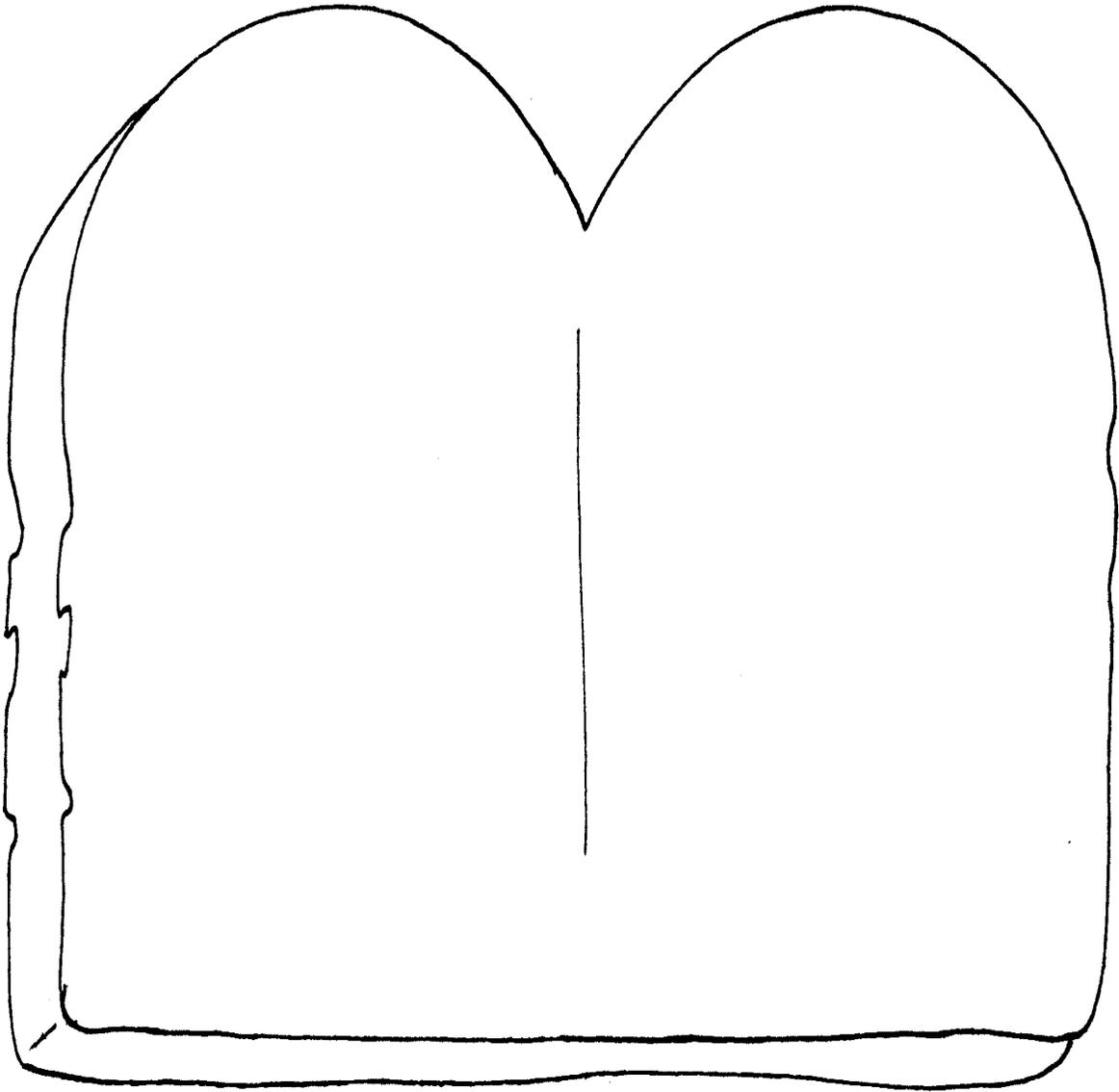
How is creation a gift from God?

Why should we take care of nature?

How do we take care of nature, which is a gift from God?

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ILLUSTRATION



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ACTIVITY SHEET

The people of God had to know the laws in order to know how to live and worship God. When the Israelites left Egypt, Moses guided them to Mount Sinai. It was there that God gave them the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were written on two stones. These Ten Commandments teach us what it means to live in relationship to God and to others. Read Exodus 20:1-17, then write the letter of the definition that corresponds to the commandment.

1. Do not have any gods other than me ____	a. Use God's name to give glory and honor
2. You will not make any images ____	b. You should be satisfied with what you have
3. You shall not misuse the Lord's name ____	c. Don't kill anyone
4. Remember to keep the Sabbath holy ____	d. Only worship God
5. Honor your mother and father ____	e. Don't take something that belongs to someone else
6. You shall not murder ____	f. Love only your wife or husband.
7. Don't commit adultery ____	g. Do worship or serve other gods
8. Don't steal ____	h. Keep one day of the week dedicated to God
9. You shall not give false testimony ____	i. Love and obey your parents
10. You shall not covet ____	j. Don't say lies about others.

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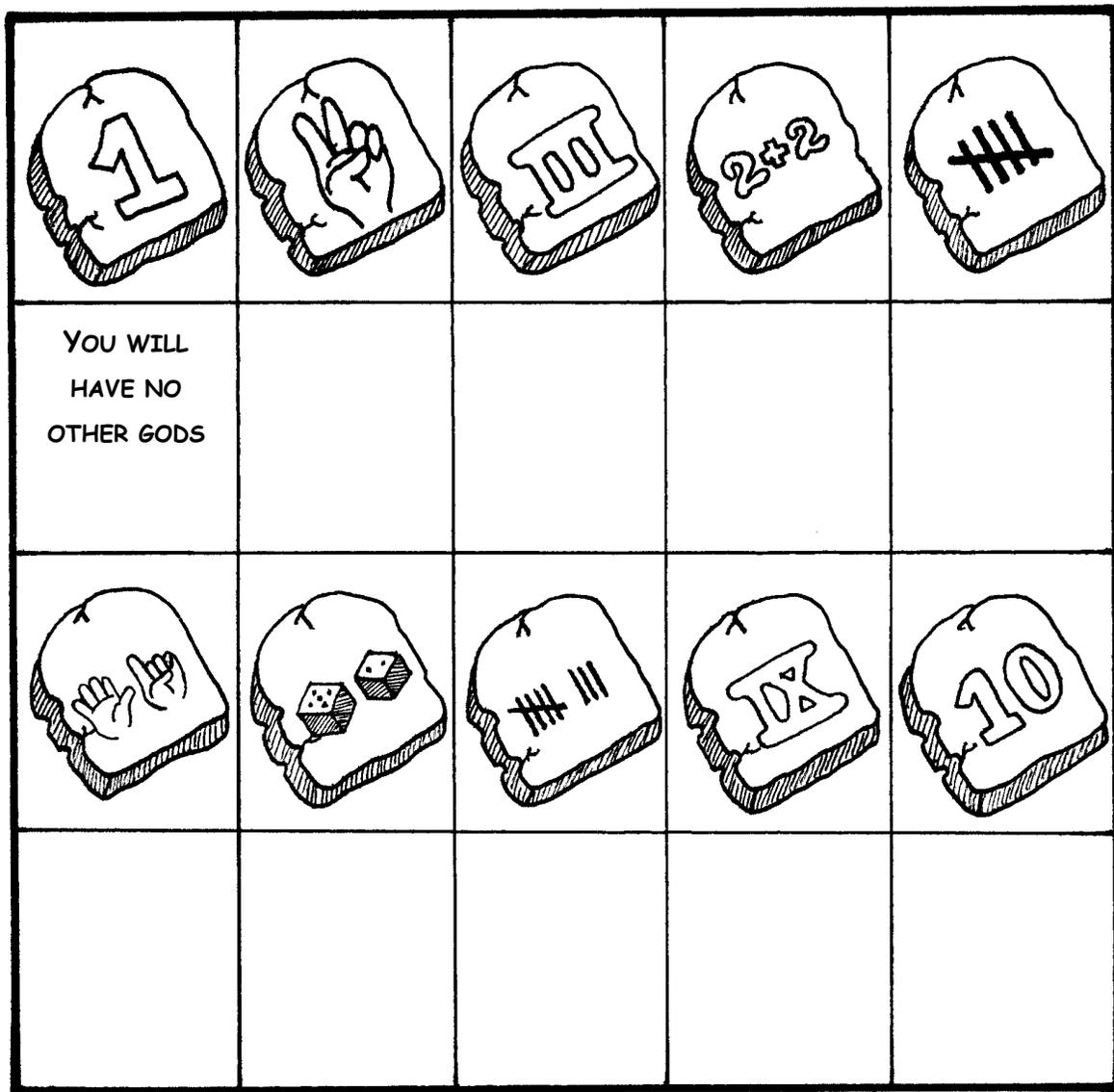
ILLUSTRATION



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GAME

For this memory game, number cards up to 10. On another set of 10 cards, write out the Ten Commandments. Have children turn the cards face down and try to make a match between the numbered card and the commandment by flipping over 2 cards. Make enough copies for children to play in groups.



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GAME

1. Cut out the cube pattern and fold along the dotted lines, taping the edges together.
2. Find a friend and read Exodus 20:1-17 together.
3. Throw the cube and see what it asks you to do.

