



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 make a covenant—or unbreakable promise—with them. He gives them His good commandments so the world will know they are His set-apart people.

WORD OF WONDER: Know that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. —from Deuteronomy 7:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Curiosity Activity: Who Is Set Apart?
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: You Are With Me, House of the Lord
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People
SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20
WORD OF WONDER: From Deuteronomy 7:9

I was homeschooled until I went to high school. So my first few months of public school were good, but challenging. I was different than 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?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

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.

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.



LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People

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WORD OF WONDER: From Deuteronomy 7:9

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Curiosity Activity: Who Is Set Apart?

Gather kids together in the middle of the room.

"In God's big story today, we're going to learn how God's special people were set apart. Let's play a game where some people will be set apart."

Have kids sit down. Read each of the statements below and have the kids who fit the description stand after you read each line. Invite all of the kids to sit down again after each round.

- If you have brown hair, stand up.
- If you have a brother, stand up.
- If you have a sister, stand up.
- If you have a dog at home, stand up.
- If you like to eat cookies, stand up.
- If you like to eat pizza, stand up.
- If you are three years old, stand up.
- If you are four years old, stand up.
- If you are five years old, stand up.
- If you love God, stand up.

Leader Tip: Make sure that each kid gets a chance to stand up a few times! It's OK to come up with things that you know would apply to certain kids, so everyone has a chance to play.

Each of you stood up according to something special about you! God chose to give His instructions (or rules) to a group of people to show that they were His special people. We'll learn today about how God sets apart His people."

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the Curious Cat..

Leader: It looks like Tac the Cat has come to visit! Let's all say hi to Tac!

Tac the Cat: *(Sounding sad.)* Hi there.

Leader: Uh-oh. What's the matter, Tac? You don't sound very happy.

Tac the Cat: We just had a family meeting, and my parents gave us a list of new family rules to follow.

Why do we need to follow rules? I don't like rules!

Leader: Ah, I see. Well, what were some of the rules your parents gave you?

Tac the Cat: Let's see. No fighting. No scratching in the house. Respect other people's things. **Leader:**

Those sound like some good rules that will help your family. Why do you not like them?

Tac the Cat: I don't like people telling me what to do! I want to live by my own rules.

Leader: I see. Well, rules are there to keep us safe and help us live in the right way. It reminds me of a story from the Bible where God shared some important rules to help His people.

Tac the Cat: More rules? Were the people upset?

Leader: Well, we don't know about that, but the point of the story is that God wanted His people to be special for Him and live for Him. God gives rules to help His people live right. We'll learn more about it in our story today.

Tac the Cat: So I should obey God's rules and I should obey my mom and dad too?

Leader: You got it, Tac! God gives us rules to follow so everyone knows that God's people are special and belong to Him.

Tac the Cat: I want to be special! I want to follow God's rules ... and I guess my parents' rules, too!

Leader: That's a good idea, Tac!

Tac the Cat: I guess I will go tell my parents I'm sorry for being mad and that I want to obey their rules

Leader: OK, Tac! See you later!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Why do we have rules? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever wondered why you have to follow a certain rule? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God helps His people know how to live?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is GOD SETS APART HIS PEOPLE. Today we'll discover how God sets apart His people."

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat.)

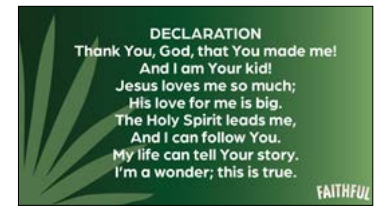
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words, with this prayer as a guide if needed **God, thank You for being here with us today. Help us listen to what You have to say to us today. Reveal Your love for Your special people to each and every one of us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God is faithful to His special people. Let's sing about our faithful God together!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: You Are With Me, House of the Lord

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's hear watch of God's big story, which comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), pillowcase or bag, tape (optional), string (several feet, optional), clothespins (optional)

RESOURCES: [Commandments Sheets](#)

Before kids arrive, print the Commandments Sheets and cut apart each of the 10 tablets. Place the Ten Commandments in a pillowcase or special bag. You might also attach string to a wall to create a storyline to add the commandments to as you tell the story. You can clothespin the commandments in order on the storyline as kids pull them from the bag.

"It's time for God's big story! Our story today is about how God spoke to a man named Moses and gave an important message. Everyone use your listening ears and listen for me to say, "Moses." When you hear me say, "Moses," raise your hand. When I say, "Moses," I am going to pick someone to come and pull something out of the bag here. Are you ready?"



Leader Tip: You can have the kids hold on to the commandments they take from the bag. However, if you feel that will be a distraction, invite the kids to place the commandments on a storytelling line.

God helped a man named Moses (pause and pick one kid to come choose a tablet from your bag) **lead His people to the base of a mountain called Mount Sinai. Moses** (pick one kid to come choose a tablet from your bag) **climbed up the mountain. There God told Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **that if His people would obey Him, God would give them a special place in His plan for the world. Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **told the people what God had said. The people told Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **they would obey God. Then Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **climbed back up the mountain.**

Next, God told Moses (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **to tell the people to get ready. God came down in fire, and smoke covered the mountain. God called Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **to the top of the mountain, where He gave Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **Ten Commandments—or laws—for the people to obey to set them apart from the other nations. These were very important rules from God. Moses** (pick one kid to choose a tablet) **shared the rules with God's people.**

The papers we have been picking out each list one of the Ten Commandments. Let's read what they say.

Take the papers from the kids and ask the kids to help put them in order according to the numbers on the tablets. Read aloud the commandments on the tablets:

- 1. Have no other gods besides God. There is only one God!**
- 2. Don't worship idols. Idols are fake gods.**
- 3. Keep God's name holy. That means to only say God's name when talking to or about God.**
- 4. Set apart one day to rest. The Bible calls it the Sabbath when people set apart one day each week for God.**

5. Honor your parents with what you say and do.
6. Don't kill.
7. Keep your promises to your husband or wife.
8. Don't steal.
9. Don't lie.
10. Don't be jealous of what other people have.

These are the Ten Commandments. God didn't give them to be harsh with His people but to show them the best way to live—by loving God and loving each other. When the people of Israel kept these laws, everyone would know that God's people were special and belonged to Him. God sets apart His people."

You may want to keep the storyline up for Responding in Worship later.

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 Ten Commandments, great! If they can understand more deeply what it means to walk as God's kids, even better!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SETS APART HIS PEOPLE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen 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 different mountain. 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 completed all things. Through Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and our relationship with God made right! We are His set-apart people!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for making them special and setting apart His people. Use your own words, with this prayer as an example if needed.

God, thank You for making each of us special. Thank You for loving us. Thank You for choosing us. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words, with this blessing as an example if needed.

Blessing: May you never forget that you are part of God's chosen people who have been set apart. Never forget how special you are and how much God loves you.