

# LEAD SHEET

## EXODUS: AFTER THE SEA WAS PARTED - WK 8 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AUGUST 28, 2016

### THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: DIALOGUE WITH GOD

If you want to know God better, talk to Him!

### GETTING STARTED

#### General Discussion:

- Is it difficult to follow rules?  
*(It is when you do not know them!)*
- What rules are there in life that have consequences?  
*(Rules at home, school, the law, etc.)*
- Do you think of Christianity as having a lot of rules?  
*(Allow students to answer.)*
- What rules do you not understand in the Bible?  
*(Allow students to answer.)*

Today, we are going to talk about the most famous rules in the entire Bible—The 10 Commandments. These rules remind us that there is a way God wants us to live. However, this story also reminds us that God tells us what to do because He loves us and wants what is best for us.

### DIGGING IN

#### Read Exodus 20:1-11

The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does God “introduce” Himself? (*“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt.”*)
2. The first four commandments concern our relationship with God. Generally, how would you say we should relate to God? (*With respect, He should be the only one we worship; we should not substitute anything or anyone else in His place.*)
3. What do you think it means to “misuse” God’s name? (*Some translations render this “take God’s name in vain.” Either translation is fine, but the point is that we should not empty God’s name of meaning—to use His name as a swear or thoughtlessly.*)
4. Why is a Sabbath day important? (*God asks us to set aside a day to remember Him.*)

### **Read Exodus 20:12-17**

While the first four commandments concern our relationship with God, the last six of the Ten Commandments concern our relationship with one another. Some of those (murdering, stealing, etc.) seem obvious, but some may not be.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think it means to honor your father and mother? (*Obey, respect, etc.*)
2. What promise is attached with obeying that commandment? (*“So that you may live long in the land God is giving you.”*)
3. What do you think it means to “give false testimony against your neighbor”? (*Many people interpret this as “thou shalt not lie,” and lying is forbidden in other Scriptures. However, this specifically says we should not lie about our neighbors, particularly in legal settings. This is the key to a well-functioning society.*)

4. What do you think it means to covet? What is the difference between wanting something and coveting something? (*To desire something means you want it. To covet something means that you want it instead of someone else having it.*)

5. Which of these commandments is the hardest for someone your age to follow? (Allow students to answer.)

*(If you have time, you may want to look up passages in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus takes commands and elaborates. For example, Matthew 5:21ff clarifies teaching on murder, insisting that hating someone in your heart is equivalent with taking someone's life.)*

## **MAKING IT REAL**

Knowing and obeying the Ten Commandments is important. In the story of the Exodus, this incident reminds us of two things even more important.

### **1. God Keeps His Promises**

#### **Read Exodus 3:12 and Deuteronomy 5:2-4**

In the re-telling of the 10 Commandments in Deuteronomy (which occurs just before Israel enters the Promised Land), Moses reminds them that God spoke to them from Mount Horeb, which most believe is the same mountain as Mount Sinai. This is also, where God spoke to Moses through a burning bush.

Here stands Moses, exactly where God knew he would be, worshipping and making covenant with God before entering the Promised Land. It was a promised land. A promised exodus. A promised event. God has kept every promise.

#### **General Discussion:**

- What do you think it was like for Moses to be standing on that mountain, remembering when God first called him to return to Egypt? (*It must have been strange, encouraging, reassuring, etc.*)

• When someone breaks a promise, how do you usually feel? How do you feel different when someone makes good on his or her promise? *(When a promise is kept, we usually trust the person(s) who made the promise more. We do not lose faith in that person(s).)*

• God introduces Himself as the one who brought them out of Egypt. Standing where he is standing, what memories do you think Moses is reflecting on after going through so much? *(The plagues, the Red Sea, the cloud, the manna, the stress, the fear, etc.)*

## **2. God is Present**

### **Read Exodus 19:16-19**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What covers the mountain? *(A cloud.)*
2. What has been guiding the Israelis since they left Egypt? *(A cloud during the day, fire by night.)*
3. What other signs of God's presence did the Israelis experience? *(Thunder, lightning, a trumpet blast, the mountain trembled, etc.)*
4. Do you think Israel was convinced that God was near? *(Absolutely, we later read that they were terrified to get too close.)*

As it has been since they left Egypt, God is present for Israel. While He has been present in their suffering and rescue, He is now present in issuing commands for how they are to live as a people—relating to their God and their community.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray that your students not only obey the commandments, but also that they trust God, who keeps His promises and is always present.