The Ten Commandments Rotation

Movie Workshop: Holywood Studio

Bible Text: Exodus 20:1-17

Memory Verse: Grades 1-3 The Ten Commandments, Grades 4-6 The Ten Commandments and their meanings expressed in the students own words. A copy of the Commandments and their meanings as printed in Luther’s Small Catechism is attached to the end of this lesson plan.

PURPOSE: To view and discuss a portion of Cecille B. DeMille’s movie, “The Ten Commandments:” Moses at the Burning Bush and receiving the Ten Commandments.

Objectives for the Rotation
At the end of the rotation, the students will:
• know that the Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God and that story is found in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament.
• understand that the Ten Commandments is not a rule checklist, but an attitude of the heart.
• know that the sum of the Ten Commandments is “to love the Lord with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our strength, and with all our minds and to love our neighbor as ourselves.”
• understand that the first three commandments deal with our relationship with God and the last seven deal with our relationships with our family, neighbors or community.
• Grades 1-3 memorize the Ten Commandments
• Grades 4-6 memorize the Ten Commandments and tell what they mean in the student’s own words.

Teacher Preparation in Advance:
• Read the scripture passages and lesson plan and watch the video Bible study on our website: www.gloriadeikids.org
• As you prayerfully contemplate the story and prepare to teach, read Exodus 19, 20, 31, and 32. Also read Exodus 1:1 - 15:21 to find out what happened before the
commands were given. (If you have time, read all of Exodus as a single adventure.)

• Become familiar with the Ten Commandments. A copy of the Commandments and their meanings as printed in Luther’s Small Catechism is attached to the end of this lesson plan.

• For Hebraic/Christian insight from Zola Levitt into the Ten Commandments, see http://www.levitt.com/hebrew/commandments.html. (Optional)

• Consider the age level adjustments needed each week (those included in the lesson plan and your own).

• The design of this workshop is very intentional. The activities and discussion questions for this workshop were designed to meet the goals of the entire rotation and the educational objectives of the Rotation Model (tm) at Gloria Dei. While we feel it is important to follow the serendipitous leading of the Holy Spirit, please do not change the lesson plan without consulting one of our Sunday School Design Team Members.

• Check out the space before your first Sunday workshop so that you know where everything is located and how to work the projection system.

• Preview the video. Be familiar with the places where the video should be stopped for discussion. From Neil MacQueen’s “Two Most Important SHOWING TIPS:
  1.) Use the PAUSE button. It’s your most powerful ‘video’ teaching tool.
  2.) Don’t be afraid to view an important scene a second time. Kids (and adults) watch movies over and over all the time.”

Materials:

• DVD: Cecil B. DeMille’s The Ten Commandments. By Big Paramount
• Popcorn and containers, hand wipes
• Faith Journal sheet (Copies will be waiting for you in the Movie Room.)
• Bibles
• Pencils

Lesson:
Greet the children and introduce yourself. Wear your name-tag. (Remember, you are interacting with a different group of students each week who may not know you.) Make sure the children are wearing name-tags.

Open with prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for always being with us. Bless us now as we learn more about your Commandments and help us to know them as an attitude of the heart. Amen.

Explain the purpose of this workshop: Explain to the class that you will be watching a portion of video on the life of Moses, whom God trusted to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land. Moses had complete trust in God, to guide his life, and because of this God used Moses as the leader to save the Israelites. It was during this time that God gave to Moses, a set of laws that He wanted His people to follow. We call these laws the Ten Commandments.
Set Up:
We are going to see two scenes/parts of the movie, “The Ten Commandments.” (For fun, you can point out that the poster on the wall is from the same movie!)

In the first scene we are going to see Moses meet God in the Burning Bush.

What do you think God’s voice sounds like? (Accept answers. Some might say big booming, some might say soft, some might say calm.)

In this movie, the director decided to have God’s voice be very calm and soft. You will need to listen very closely. Why does God tell Moses to bring the people out of Egypt to the mountain?

Show the first clip.

Play Scene #29 on Disc 1 (6 minutes) on the DVD. [The DVD is cued to begin at this scene with Moses meeting God at the Burning Bush.]

As the clip is playing, explain that the footage of the mountains is from the area where Mt. Sinai is located - this is area/mountains where the burning bush and the Ten Commandments took place. You can visit there today.

Once the scene is completed, ask the following questions:

Discuss the first clip:
• Where did Moses meet God? (In the burning bush. This was at Mt. Horab.)
• Was the bush on fire? (Yes, but it was not burning up.)
• Why did Moses have to take off his sandals? (He was standing on holy ground and removing one’s shoes is a sign of respect.)
• God heard the cries of His people and wanted Moses to free them. Did Moses say “yes” right away? (No. He said he was not a good speaker. God told Moses he would send Aaron, Moses’ brother with him. Aaron was a good speaker.)
• Why did God the people to come out to the dessert and be free? (He wanted the people to come to the mountain and worship Him and He would give them His laws and write them on their hearts.)
• How do you think Moses felt when he met God? How would you feel?

Set Up the Second Clip:

So, Moses and Aaron go to Egypt and talk with the pharaoh and tell pharaoh that God wants the Israelites to be free. Some grades will know more than others. Fill in what is needed but include the following in your set up:
Pharaoh says “No.” And the 10 plagues begin. Pharaoh says “No” each time. After the 10th plague, pharaoh says for all of the Israelites to leave. Moses leads them out and they follow God, who guides them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They get to the Red Sea and by this time pharaoh has changed his mind and sends his army after them. The people get scared. Moses prays to God. God tells Moses to extend his staff over the water. Moses does and the Red Sea opens and the people cross to safety. The continue to follow the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night until they reach the base of Mt. Sinai. Along the way, the people complain about no food and water and again God provides water, mana, and quail. They camp at the base of Mt. Sinai. God speaks in a booming thunder and the people get scared and Moses goes up Mt. Sinai to meet with God.

**For First and Second Grade:**

Show the second clip here that edits out the scene at the base of the mountain.

Once these scenes are completed, ask the class the following questions:

**Discuss the similarities and differences in Moses’ encounters with God.**

- In the movie, both involved fire.
- Soft, calm voice.
- Up on a mountain top.
- Moses took special time to be with God - kind of like our sabbath. The third commandment, “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.” What does this mean? We need to take time to be with God, and to listen to Him, not just have prayers be a one way thing.

**For First and Second Grade Skip from here to Closing.**

**For third through sixth graders, continue explaining:**

Moses is up with God for 40 days and nights. While he is up on the mountain, the people get scared and convince Aaron to build them a god that they can see, made of gold. They collect all of the gold and jewelry from the people and smelt it down and make a golden calf. The people start having a big party. The movie will toggle between Moses receiving the 10 Commandments and the party scene.

God is very angry that the people have lost faith and when Moses comes down the mountain, he breaks the tablets. Warn children that this scene might be scary for some and they do not have to watch.

The movie ends with Moses passing leadership to Joshua. Moses is not allowed to go into the Promised Land. Joshua becomes the new leader. Ask students to watch for what Moses hands to Joshua before he leaves.
Also point out that we’ve talked about the Ark of the Covenant and people in the movie refer to the Ark. Make sure that students do not confuse the golden calf with the Ark of the Covenant.

Show the second clip here.

Play Scene #43 to the end on Disc 2 (17 minutes) on the DVD. [This scene begins with Moses climbing Mt. Sinai to once again meet God. The scenes jump between Moses receiving the Ten Commandments and the Israelites misbehaving. When Moses comes down to meet the people, there is a very short, but graphic scene showing the destruction of the golden calf. This scene might be scary to younger children and they could be warned to close their eyes.]

Once these scenes are completed, ask the class the following questions:

Discuss the similarities and differences in Moses’ encounters with God.
- In the movie, both involved fire.
- Soft, calm voice.
- Up on a mountain top.
- Moses took special time to be with God - kind of like our sabbath. The third commandment, “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.” What does this mean? We need to take time to be with God, and to listen to Him, not just have prayers be a one way thing.

How did the Israelites feel when Moses was up on the mountain for so long a period of time? (They were afraid without a leader, perhaps they thought he had been killed or left them.)

What did the Israelites do to show their fear? (The created a new god to worship, made out of gold, and in the shape of a calf.)

God got mad that the people built a god, and lost faith in Him, but He did end up forgiving them.

How did Moses react when he saw what they were doing? (He was very upset and disappointed, and threw the tablets, causing the golden calf to fall over the side of the mountain.)

How did the Israelites have to prove that they would finally accept and obey God’s Commandments? The people had to wander in the dessert for 40 years before reaching the promised land. [For older kids - until all of the generations that were disobeying at the base of the mountain died, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua.]

Kids are often curious about why Moses didn’t get to go to the Promised land. What did Moses give to Joshua at the end of the movie? (His staff, his coat, and some books. What are those books? The Books of Moses! Also called the Pentateuch. The
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first five books of the Bible are attributed to Moses writing them. **What are the names of those books?** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Moses didn’t get to cross into the Promised Land because one of the times people were whining for water, Moses said that he, Moses provided the water and not God. Moses got to look upon the Promised Land, but not cross into it.

Students can see the Ark of the Covenant, held by the priests leading the way to the Promised Land. **What is in the Ark of the Covenant?** (The Ten Commandments, and eventually, The Books of Moses)

**Scripture/Bible Story:**

Help children find where this story takes place: Exodus 20: 1-17.

[Help the children to use their Bibles in looking up verses. **Remind them that ‘Exodus’ is the second book in the Bible and where we find the whole story of Moses and the Israelite people leaving Egypt - the Exodus.** Exodus is in the Old Testament. NOTE: We restate information about Bible organization in each workshop to be sensitive to visitors and new children in the class who may not have any knowledge of the Bible. We never want a child to feel like they do not belong because they do not know this information before they come to class.]

“God gave us the laws called the Ten Commandments so that we may live our lives in such a way as to respect God and put Him first in our lives. “

**Closing:**

Please pass out the **Faith Journal Sheets** and ask students to put their name on their sheet and clip it into their Faith Journal.

Read/Work through the **Faith Journal Sheet**.

**Closing Prayer:**

Dear God, we are thankful that you have given us rules to live by so that we know what you want us to do. Help us always to be able to ask for your forgiveness when we don’t obey. Help us to remember your laws and obey them. Amen.

**Tidy and Dismissal:**

• Ask children to help tidy the room. Give any specific instructions for clearing the workshop room.
• Shepherds will lead children to Closing Time.

**Resources:**

• Liz Weingart  [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org)