

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 1
The Children of Israel—Sovereignly Cared For By God

Point to Emphasize: God was sovereignly caring for the Israelites to make them a great nation.

Reference Reading: Exodus 1—2

Memory Verse: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession... (1 Peter 2:9a)

Story Sample

You all know for a fact that someone cares for you when you actually see them doing something for you. What if I tell you that sometimes even when it doesn't seem like it, God is caring for you? Today we are beginning some stories from the book of Exodus in which we will see how God cared for the children of Israel in a sovereign way. Due to the famine, Jacob and his family, 70 in all at first, ended up in Egypt. From 70, they increased and multiplied and their number reached two million! Their descendants continued living in Egypt for 400 years. Wow, that is a LONG time!

Because there were many more Israelites than there were Egyptians, the new Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites would rise up as a mighty army against the Egyptians. So, he made two plans to destroy them. But God was sovereign. God was the Ruler over the whole situation. It did not matter what was happening around the Israelites, God was still sovereign to care for them and to preserve them!

Pharaoh's first plan was to make the children of Israel his slaves. He set task masters over them and forced them to labor for him, in order to prevent them from being able to work and take care of their families. This turned the Israelites' life from one of abundance and ease into one of harshness and rigor. They built two treasure cities for two Pharaohs that ruled Egypt. The Israelites needed to build these cities with bricks and mortar so that the Egyptians could store their treasure. They had no liberty, no rights and no rest. Their lives were bitter with hard labor. *BUT* the more they were afflicted, the more the children of Israel multiplied and the more they spread out until the Egyptians came to dread them.

Since Pharaoh's first plan to weaken the children of Israel by enslaving them did not work, he came up with a second and even more evil plot. He made a plan to terminate the children of Israel. So, he called two Hebrew midwives to him. Midwives are like our today's nurses who help with the delivery of babies. There were no hospitals to go to when you had a baby so these skilled nurses would come to your house and help the mother deliver the baby. Pharaoh told these midwives that as they helped the Hebrew women deliver their babies they were to put any baby boy to death. Only the baby girls were to live. Can you imagine that? Well, after Pharaoh's command, something different was happening in the Hebrew houses. Every time a Hebrew woman was delivering their baby, the baby was born BEFORE the midwives arrived! God made the Hebrew women vigorous (STRONG) and able to give birth in a quick, strong way.

The way the sovereign God cared for the Israelites against Pharaoh's evil plots was just incredible! First, the more they were afflicted by being enslaved, the more God multiplied them. And then, God made the Israelites woman stronger so they would deliver their babies before the midwives arrive to their home. Isn't this incredible? God is always caring for the ones He chose in a sovereign way. The way God sovereignly cared for the Israelites, the same way He has also cared for me too many times. One day... *[Storyteller, insert your personal story.]*

Since Pharaoh did not get what he wanted with the midwives and the baby boys continue to be born, he forced all the Hebrew people to carry out his evil plot of terminating all the baby boys. He commanded them to put all the baby boys that were being born in the river. Next week we will see what happens!

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 2

Moses—A Prepared Person, Called By God

Point to Emphasize: God prepared Moses to be the right person to serve God's people.

Reference Reading: Exodus 1—3

Memory Verse: ...He will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21b)

Story Sample

As we learned last week, God was sovereignly caring for the children of Israel even when they were being mistreated by Pharaoh. Actually, God was preparing them to return to the land He had promised them so many years before! For this, God needed a man and He prepared Moses.

You might know how Moses' life was preserved. Pharaoh had ordered all the baby boys to be cast into the river. Moses' mother decided to place the baby in a papyrus basket which she sealed with tar and pitch to make it waterproof. Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket, got the baby out of the water and named him Moses. Miriam (Moses' sister), who was still watching over him in the river to see what would happen to him, saw Pharaoh's daughter taking the baby. Miriam went up to her and she offered to look for a Hebrew woman who would take care of the baby. Pharaoh's daughter accepted and Miriam took Moses to their mother! Moses remained with his family during the early years of his life learning to love and to follow God.

God had a very special purpose for Moses, but for Moses to be able to accomplish that purpose he needed the best and highest education. God arranged for Moses to return to Pharaoh's daughter and become her son. Pharaoh's palace was the top school at that time. Moses studied hard. He learned Egyptian, math and science. He may have studied until he was 25 or older. When Moses was a boy, he applied himself to learn so many things! He also learned how to behave. Moses remained as the son of Pharaoh's daughter until he was nearly 40. By the age of 40, Moses had three things he needed. He had the knowledge and fear of God, he had the highest education, and he had an excellent behavior.

Was he ready now to help God free the children of Israel? Not yet. This is what is really interesting. God had to wait until Moses was fully prepared before He could call him to help Him take the children of Israel out of Egypt.

I knew I wanted to be a community helper. Since I was about your age I would play with my sisters pretending I was a doctor or a nurse. It took me many years of schooling, but now, after all the years of preparation, I can help the community and by doing that, many times, I have been useful to God too. *[Storyteller, insert a personal example or preparing yourself for a long time to be able to be useful for something.]* To be useful to God requires us to be prepared. It takes many years of preparation.

After Moses was 40 years old, he was led by God to leave Egypt and go into the wilderness. This very educated man became a lowly shepherd for another 40 years in the desert. It was during this time that Moses learned humility, patience and compassion, among other good character traits. One day Moses was at the backside of a mountain in the wilderness. And as he was leading the flock of sheep, Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. Now if we put a real flame of fire into a bush, what would happen? That's right! It would soon be burned up. The branches would catch on fire and burn until they are all consumed, completely

burned up. But this bush kept burning yet never burned up! Moses turned to take a really good look at this because he had never seen such a thing before! Then as he looked, someone called his name from out of the thorn bush. What a wonder! First, there was a flame within a bush, but the bush did not get burned. Then someone called to him out of the bush! Moses realized that it was God who was talking to him. Now Moses, *a man*, was there with God. And what a talk God was having with Moses! God was telling Moses that He was going to free His people out of the slavery of Egypt and that He would bring them up to the land He had promised Abraham.

God was only able to share His plan with Moses when he was fully prepared. Moses first learned to love and follow God. Later on, he obtained the highest education. Then, God led Moses to the wilderness for 40 years to learn humility, patience and compassion. It was only at that point that Moses was fully prepared to serve God's people. It took many years for Moses to be fully prepared. In the same way, we all need to go through many years of preparation to become useful to God. Let's be those who use the next decades to be prepared unto every good work and be useful to God!

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 3 Moses—Going to Pharaoh

Point to Emphasize: God does not give up, and we should not let discouragement cause us to give up.

Reference Reading: Exodus 5—11

Memory Verse: ...Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Story Sample

God wanted Pharaoh to let His people go so they could hold a feast to Him. So God sent Moses and Aaron, his brother, to tell Pharaoh to let His people go. But Pharaoh didn't feel the same way about this plan. Pharaoh has had free labor for 400 years. The children of Israel had multiplied so much. There were so many of them and Pharaoh had all the men work as slaves to make bricks and build buildings for him. He was not going to let his slaves go. Do you know how he responded? He said, "NO!"

Because Pharaoh would not give in, God had to send plagues. Not one, not two, not five...but ten! One after the other, every one worse than the one before it. First there were three bothering things: blood water, frogs, and lice. Then seven things that caused injuries—to people, to cattle, even to the environment: swarms of flies, pestilence to livestock, boils, hail with fire, locust, complete darkness, and death of the firstborns. *[Storyteller, it would be better to expound on only 1 or 2 plagues than to give details on each plague. Choose only from the first 9. Don't use #10—it will be used next week.]*

Plague after plague, it seemed Pharaoh would let the people go, but after each plague was gone, he would say, "No" again. He didn't know God, and he wasn't about to let the children of Israel go. If you were Moses, wouldn't you have been discouraged? Well, Moses did get discouraged.

God was able to use Moses not because he was a perfect person. In fact, Moses got discouraged a few times and didn't trust in God when things got tough with Pharaoh. Isn't that just like us? Don't we sometimes find it hard to believe that things will be okay when things look really bad?

One time I got really sick. So sick that I had to stay in bed and sleep a lot for nearly three weeks and couldn't do much else. That's a very long time to be sick. I had to miss out on a lot of fun things to do and fun places to go to. At one point it looked like I was getting better and I started getting encouraged. Then I realized I wasn't completely well yet and after that I got sick with something else. Things just kept getting worse and worse that I didn't think I could ever feel like my normal self again. So, I kept getting more and more discouraged. *[Storyteller, tell a story of how you didn't give up or let discouragement cause you to give up.]*

This also happened to Moses. He got discouraged and didn't trust God. He would go to Pharaoh and Pharaoh would say, "No" and make things worse for the children of Israel. Then they would blame Moses. Well, even though Moses was discouraged, he went back to God and talked with God. God told Moses that He would fulfill every promise. He was not only the promising God, He was the fulfilling God—He would do it. God had to teach Moses not to give up. Moses had to learn to trust in God even when things didn't look good or Pharaoh said "no" yet again. So

Moses had to keep going back to Pharaoh again and again...twelve times in total! Until finally, Pharaoh let God's people go!

On one hand, we can see that Pharaoh was stubborn, and the Bible says he hardened his heart. That meant his heart did not care for what God wanted or for the children of Israel. Therefore God needed to send the plagues. On the other hand we see that Moses trusted that God would deliver His people from Pharaoh. Whenever Moses got discouraged, he would go back to God and would be encouraged again. After a few times of going back to Pharaoh, he knew that God would not give up and that God would win.

Though we can't do all of the things that Moses did to Pharaoh, there is one thing we can do. We can never give up when we think something is right. Sometimes we want our friends to come to children's meeting with us and they keep saying, "No." Don't let that discourage you! Remember this story of Moses and never give up! Just keep going back again and again to invite them. One day they will come!

Next week, we will see how God won and Pharaoh finally set God's people free.

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 4 **The Exodus from Egypt—the Passover**

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who follow the instructions of those who care for us.

Reference Reading: Exodus 12—13

Memory Verse: Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise at the end of your days. (Proverbs 19:20)

Story Sample

Have any of you ever gone on a trip? Now, do you just jump in the car and go? Don't you need to make a lot of plans and do a lot of things before you go? My grandson's family went on a trip recently. They needed to decide where to go (the Grand Canyon), how to get there (they took their car and used GPS to find their way), what to pack (warm clothes for the day they had snow, and cool clothes for the day it was hot), who will take care of their pets (Grandma and Grandpa) and water the plants, and get the mail (again Grandma and Grandpa), and so on. It takes a lot of planning to go away on a trip! *[Storyteller, use your own plans for a trip.]*

Well, God needed to get His people out of Egypt. So He had a plan. God had a very exact plan for getting His people out of Egypt. Now, that plan was very detailed and each step was very important. You may think some parts of this plan do not make sense or are not needed or they are too complicated to follow. However, it was God's plan and His people needed to follow it.

So the children of Israel did everything just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron. They carried out God's plan exactly. Each household chose a lamb and roasted it. It was a lamb without blemish. Along with the roasted lamb each family prepared bitter herbs and unleavened bread to eat. And how were they dressed as they ate this meal? With their loins girded, sandals on their feet and staff in their hand. While they were eating, they were expecting to leave soon. Also, as God had instructed, before they started eating, they took the blood of the lamb and applied it on the outside of their house, upon the doorpost and the lintel.

At midnight, when all the children of Israel had finished eating the lamb in their houses with the blood on their doorpost, God's last plague began. Jehovah struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, to the firstborn of cattle. All the firstborns in all Egypt died. Only those in the houses who ate the lamb and had the blood on the doorpost were passed over. And who was in the houses eating the lamb with the blood on the doorpost? God's people! They were in their houses with their families. So God's judgment passed over them. Not one of them was touched.

This was the last of the plagues we talked about last week. In every Egyptian home the firstborn died. Pharaoh, all his servants, and all the Egyptians arose that night and all of the firstborn in their families were dead. There was a great cry in Egypt! Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night and commanded them to get out of Egypt. He told them to take all their families, all their cattle and go to serve Jehovah. And all the Egyptians urged the people of Israel to go quickly. They wanted them to go as fast as they could. The Egyptians were afraid that if the children of Israel did not leave Egypt they all might die.

And the children of Israel took their dough, their kneading bowls and their clothes upon their shoulders. And they asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and clothing just as

Moses had told them to. It was counted as their pay for all their years of slave labor. And Jehovah gave the people of Israel favor in the sight of the Egyptians so that they let them have what they asked for. Thus the children of Israel plundered the Egyptians.

Those were really detailed plans, weren't they? And some of them didn't seem to make a whole lot of sense, did they? Often times, adults have a plan for us and we might want to omit steps or skip parts of it thinking that they are not needed or they are too complicated.

The other day, I was in a building and there was a fire drill. Right away, I just wanted to get out of the building! But I wasn't sure where to go. Suddenly, a fire marshal showed up and told me the plan to get out of the building. It was a longer way than I would have taken, but once I got outside, I saw that it was the safest way and the best place for me to be safe. I'm so glad that someone came up with a plan, and that by following it I was safe!

We need to be those who can follow the plan established in a detailed way, exactly the way it was given, whether that plan is given by our parents, teachers, policeman or whoever is responsible. They know the best way.

So, in the end, because the Israelites followed the plan exactly, the result was that their firstborn lived and Pharaoh let them go. They were finally free from Pharaoh! Just like God had told them! God will always do what He says He will do! We just need to follow His plan!

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 5

The Exodus from Egypt—Crossing the Red Sea

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who trust in the faithful God, who cares for His people and fulfills His promises.

Reference Reading: Exodus 13:20—14:31

Memory Verse: Trust in Jehovah with all your heart... (Proverbs 3:5)

Story Sample

God is faithful and He cares for His people and fulfills His promises. Last week we saw that the children of Israel were finally preparing to leave Egypt. God gave Moses the plan to be carried out, but God was also watching over His people to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

As the people left Egypt, Jehovah God went before them and led the way. During the day, He went before them in a pillar of cloud. At night, He was in a pillar of fire to give them light. This way, they could travel by day or by night. They did not need a map because Jehovah was always before them leading the way in the pillar of cloud or in the pillar of fire. They were on their way at last!

Back in Egypt, when Pharaoh was told that the children of Israel had fled, he and his servants once again changed their heart and regretted letting God's people leave. So Pharaoh set up a chase to go after them. He got all the chariots of Egypt, and he and the Egyptians pursued after the children of Israel with all the horses, chariots, horsemen, and army. The children of Israel were camped by the sea when they saw Pharaoh and his army with their chariots coming for them. They got scared and cried out to Jehovah. They cried out to Moses asking him why he had brought them out of Egypt. They thought for sure Pharaoh would capture them and show no mercy.

What had the children of Israel forgotten? They had forgotten that God promised to bring them out of Egypt into Canaan, had forgotten all the things God did to force Pharaoh to let them go, and had forgotten God's faithfulness and care. Oh, how easily we forget! Sometimes someone does something very nice to us, like our brother or sister sharing with us the cool toy they got as a reward. But then later they accidentally break the brick toy we were working so hard on building, and we forget how nice they had been to us and we get angry with them.

But Moses told the people not to be afraid, because Jehovah will fight for them and save them from the Egyptians. Oh, this is great! Now we get to see Jehovah fight the Egyptian armies. Jehovah, who was in front of the children of Israel as a pillar of cloud, moved to their rear and stood between them and the Egyptians. The Egyptians could not see the children of Israel, and when the children of Israel looked behind them, all they saw was the cloud. At night the cloud was light to them, while the Egyptians had darkness.

Now let's see what happened next. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and Jehovah caused a strong wind to blow, parting the waters and drying up the land so the children of Israel could walk through. The waters stood like a big wall on either side. And you know what happened next? The Egyptians pursued them—Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen went in after them right into the sea. Then Jehovah looked down upon the Egyptians and made them all confused. He caused their chariot wheels to swerve and made it difficult for them to drive. The Egyptians realized that Jehovah was doing this, so they turned to try to escape.

Right at that moment Jehovah said to Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea so that the waters would come back over the Egyptians with all their chariots. And Moses did. The sea washed back in as the Egyptians were trying to escape, covering the chariots and the horsemen, even all the army of Pharaoh. Not one of them was left. But the children of Israel were safe. That day Jehovah saved Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel believed in Jehovah and in Moses.

Wow! God was so faithful to take care of Israel and to fulfill His promises. He carried them through with the pillar of cloud, with the pillar of fire and by parting the Red Sea so they could go through and be saved from the Egyptians. In the very same way, God in His faithfulness is caring for each one of us. Yes, we might not see a pillar of cloud directing our way and yes, we might not see God opening up a sea in front of us. However, if we trust God we will see the amazing things He is doing in our lives in order to carry us through. We can surely trust in Him.

[Storyteller, insert your own story of how you care or were care for by someone.]

We can be those who trust in God through our parents and those above us, like our serving ones, grandparents, aunts and uncles. We can see God's faithfulness in the way they care for us and the way they take care of our needs.

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 6
The Children of Israel—Praising, then Complaining

Point to Emphasize: We need to praise and thank God and not complain.

Reference Reading: Exodus 15

Memory Verse: I will praise You... / Your works are wonderful, / And my soul knows it well.
(Psalm 139:14)

Story Sample

The Lord really took care of His people in a great way, didn't He? Who would have ever thought that the Israelites could have escaped the Egyptians? And who would have ever thought He would have done it in such a big way as to open the Red Sea and let the Israelites cross over? There is no One like God!

So, how do you think the people felt after all this had happened? Do you think they just thought "Oh well, that was nice, now let's just go on"? No, I don't think so. Do you think they felt happy? Do you think they felt grateful? Do you think they felt cared for? Yes, I think they were feeling all these things. So, how could they express all these feelings they must have had? Well, they did it by praising.

Who can tell me what *praise* means? The dictionary says: 1) Words of approval or admiration; 2) To worship and express thanks to. So, when your mom and dad get your report card and they tell you how wonderful you performed, those are words of approval, or praise. And when you hear your parents say, "PRAISE THE LORD!", they are worshipping and thanking God.

Well, I'm sure the Israelites really felt like praising God after they crossed the Red Sea, and they did their praising by singing a song. Singing is a great way to praise God. Exodus chapter 15 even gives all the words of the song that they sang. They sang, "I will sing to Jehovah, for He has triumphed gloriously; / The horse and its rider He has cast into the sea... This is my God, and I will praise Him..." (Exodus 15:2-3). We don't know the tune of the song but I surely like the words of the song. They were singing to God, praising Him for what He had done!

Can you remember any praising songs? Can you name some we could sing? [*E.g. Oh We Will Praise; Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children; Would You Like to Praise the Lord, etc. Storyteller sing 2 or 3 songs.*]

Doesn't singing make you happy? It makes God happy too! As the Israelites were praising God, do you think they had long, sad, frowning faces? No, of course not! That's because praising causes us to be happy.

Unfortunately, the praising didn't last long. Right after all the singing and praising, the children of Israel began to complain. First they complained that there was no water, and when they did find water they complained that it was too bitter to drink. What a short memory they had! But aren't we all like this? When I was young I used to love to go to a place called Red Rock Canyon and play on the rocks. But my parents worked a lot, so we didn't get to go very often. When we did get to go, I would always say, "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU", because I was so happy. But I also can't tell you how many times we would get home and an hour later I was complaining and would say, "I'm bored, there's nothing to do!" How quickly I'd forget! [*Storyteller, tell a story from your experience.*]

And that's just what the Israelites did. They forgot what God had done for them and started complaining. Moses had to cry out to Jehovah once again on their behalf, and God showed him a tree. Moses cast the tree into the bitter waters, and the waters became sweet. Once again the faithful God came in to care for His people.

With this story we see that no matter how much we complain, God still takes care of us. However, we don't want to be those who complain. A complainer is a person who is constantly miserable and not happy. A complainer is always grumbling and whining.

Would you rather be one who complains all the time or one who praises all the time? I want to be one who is full of praise!

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 7
The Children of Israel—God Feeding His People

Point to Emphasize: In the same way that God cared for the Israelites, he takes care of us.

Reference Reading: Exodus 16

Memory Verse: ...Your Father knows the things that you have need of before you ask Him.
(Matthew 6:8)

Story Sample

The children of Israel were on this long journey, travelling so far, and after a while they started to get hungry. Because they were hungry, they started to complain. They remembered how much food they had when they were in Egypt, and they complained to Moses and Aaron. Their complaints went so far, even to saying that they were going to die of hunger out in the wilderness!

But God had a plan to feed them. Even though He wasn't happy with their complaining, He still had the best plan to care for their needs. God told Moses and Aaron, "I will now rain bread from heaven for you." (Exodus 16:4). And sure enough, in the morning, the whole ground was covered in dew, and when the dew evaporated, the children of Israel saw fine round flakes on the ground. They were small, white flakes, and they were very mysterious. None of the children of Israel knew what they were. So when they saw the flakes, they said, "Manna?"—which means "what is it?" And that's how manna got its name. "What is it?" they asked, and Moses told them, "It is the bread which Jehovah has given you to eat" (v. 15).

There were some rules related to this bread, this manna, though: Everyone in a household had to gather a certain amount per person, and they were to finish it that day. They could boil it or bake it, but they had to eat it all; there could be no leftovers. Some of the children of Israel didn't pay attention to this rule, and their leftover manna rotted—it got worms and stank! Every day, the children of Israel had to gather enough for that one day, but on the sixth day they had to gather enough for two days. The Sabbath Day was for resting, and no manna would fall on that day, so whatever they gathered on the sixth day had to last for another day. This was the only time leftovers stayed fresh.

The Bible tells us that the manna tasted like wafers made of honey—doesn't that sound delicious? The food that God sent was sweet to the taste. That wasn't the only food that God sent, either. He also sent quail—a kind of small bird, like a chicken—for them to eat. He gave them water, too. All along this long journey, God was taking care of the children of Israel. Every time they thought they needed something, it ended up that God had already prepared it for them. In fact, He even took care of their clothes and shoes—did you know that? They wandered for forty years, but their clothes and their shoes never wore out! How can that be? It was because God was taking care of them! *[Storyteller insert your own example about God taking care of a need you had.]*

The children of Israel complained because they were hungry, but God sent them food. Once they were fed, they were able to stop complaining and keep following Him. Instead of complaining, we can be those who trust that God will take care of everything we need!

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 8 **Moses—The Ten Commandments (1)**

Point to Emphasize: We can learn about God through His rules.

Reference Reading: Exodus 20

Memory Verse: If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (John 14:15)

Story Sample

In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt they encamped in the wilderness of Sinai. God called Moses up onto a mountain and into His presence and began to speak to him. What Moses received from God we have come to know as the Ten Commandments, or the Ten Words. This was wonderful! God gave these words to the children of Israel not only to tell them how to behave, but even more, He wanted the people to know what He was like.

Can anyone of you tell me one of the rules your mom has for you at home? For example, my mom had a rule that we could not go out and play after school until our homework was all done. It was very important to her that we were diligent. Now as an adult, I can see that it was not only just a rule, but that rule also spoke something about what kind of person my mom was. She was diligent and responsible and always did her work before she had fun. So who can give me an example of one of your rules at home? *[Storyteller, when they give an example, be sure to point out what that tells them about their mom.]*

Today, let's go through the first five commandments, and then next week we can talk about the last five.

1. "You shall have no other gods before Me." This means we shouldn't worship anything or anyone except God. We can see in this commandment that God is jealous. He wants our love only for Him. This is very important to God, which is why it is the very first commandment.
2. "You shall not make for yourself an idol." Similar to the first commandment, we should never have any statues or images of other gods, nor should we set up anything to take God's place. *[This could be TV or sports celebrities, video games, etc.]*
3. "You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain." God's name is very important to Him and we should never use it in a careless way. Today it is very common for people even your age to use the expression "OMG." I don't think God likes that very much, because His name is precious, not common.
4. "Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it." This one might be a little hard to understand when you first read it. Let me explain. As we can see in Genesis, God created everything in six days, then on the seventh day He rested because He was satisfied and didn't need to do any more. Now He wants us to have a day of rest to remember His creation and that He Himself did everything, not us.
5. "Honor your father and your mother." You all know this commandment, don't you? I'm sure you are told nearly every day that you need to obey your parents. But do you know why this is important to God? Just like you came from your parents, your parents also came from God. He is our source, where we all come from.

Who in this room honor their parents in everything they say? By now, we have come to find out how hard it might be to follow God's commandments. I want to tell you that we need to be those who follow God's commandments. By honoring our parents, we honor God and we even get to know so much more about God.

These first five commandments tell us a lot about God, don't they? Just as creation shows us who the Creator is or what He is like, so do the things He says or writes. In Exodus 20 God says a lot about Himself in these Ten Words. Next week we will talk about the last five commandments, which have so much to do with our actions and behavior.

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 9 **Moses—The Ten Commandments (2)**

Point to Emphasize: We can learn to obey God's words to us so we can become proper persons.

Reference Reading: Exodus 20

Memory Verse: Therefore you shall keep My commandments and do them; I am Jehovah.
(Leviticus 22:31)

Story Sample

Last week we talked about the first five commandments that God gave Moses to give to the people. This week, we will talk about the last five. We learned that God's commandments, or laws, are not just things that we need to do; they also tell us something about who God is. And they are also God's speaking and words to us. The first five have to do with God. And the last five have to do with us.

These are the last five commandments:

6. "You shall not kill." Because God is the One who gave us life, we should not take any person's life. Only God gives life and takes life.
7. "You shall not commit adultery." This means that a man and a woman should be married to only one another and be faithful to each other.
8. "You shall not steal." We should not take anything that does not belong to us. God provides us with everything we need—there is no reason for us to steal.
9. "You shall not testify with false testimony against your neighbor." False testimony refers to lying. God wants us to love one another. This includes not saying bad things about other people or lying about them, whether they are or not your friends.
10. "You shall not covet." Don't we sometimes want what others have? Maybe we have never stolen before and will never do that, but if we are envious of things that other people have, that is coveting and is also like stealing in our heart. Remember that God always gives us what we need. We will never lack anything if we trust in Him. There is no need to compare what we have or not have with others.

Maybe you have never failed at the 6th commandment and you're not married like in the 7th, but maybe you took your brother's ball without permission, or you told a lie, or you wanted someone's special pencil.

When I was younger, something happened with one of the girls at my school. I didn't know her very well, but one day one of her friends started saying things about her that were not very nice. That person started telling people, who started telling other people, so that soon, everyone started saying the same thing about her, including me. I just repeated what they said, even though I didn't really know if it was true or not. Well one day, I happened to talk to this girl, and I found out that what people were saying was not true at all. There was just a misunderstanding, but now people were saying things about her that were not true. She was so hurt, and I felt so terrible that I participated in saying false things about her. Everything turned out fine in the end, but back then I did not even realize that God told us not to give false testimony against our neighbor—our neighbor could be anyone around us: our classmates, our

friends, the children in our neighborhood, even our brothers and sisters. *[Storyteller, insert your own story related to one of the last five commandments.]*

God gave us rules to show us how proper people should behave. Because we are God's people, like the children of Israel, we should behave like God's people. Both in all the small things and all the big things we can learn to do what God has spoken to us. This week, let's practice to be proper persons and behave like God's people. If there is one commandment you failed at this past week, next week let's try to do better at that.

Intermediate Level, Block 4, Week 10 **The Tabernacle—God’s Dwelling Place**

Point to Emphasize: God wants to be close to His people and we want to be close to Him.

Reference Reading: Exodus 25—27

Memory Verse: One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That I do seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life. (Psalm 27:4)

Story Sample

We have learned that Moses received the law, the Ten Commandments. Now, there was something else that God gave Moses when he was on the mountain. God gave Moses the blueprints of a house. This was not an ordinary house. This house was a house for God to meet with man and for man to meet with God. What?! Think about this, the very God who was only appearing to Moses, now wanted to be much closer to all of the children of Israel! Do you know what this house was called? The tabernacle! So, God spoke to Moses the plans for making Him a house where all His glory would come and He would dwell among His people.

Who in this room have seen the works of an architect? An architect designs buildings. An architect draws on paper or on a computer before the builders can begin to work. I have seen some amazing buildings that look so impressive and complicated at the same time. Some of you might have observed the blueprints or the construction of a meeting hall or of a house. Maybe you have been involved in a remodel of your house or a family member’s. When my husband and I moved into our house, we were so happy! However, the moment I walked in, it did not feel like my house. So, immediately I grabbed a piece of paper and started to draw how I wanted each room in the house to look. I pictured an open kitchen and a large living room to have many guests over for eating and singing! It was a LOT of work, but now the house looks exactly as I had planned! *[Storyteller, insert your own story of participating in the building of a meeting hall, a house or remodel project following the plans or drawings from an architect or a builder.]*

Well, I’m sure you have seen many buildings in your life, but the plans that God gave Moses for the tabernacle were like no other! This was not to be an ordinary house. God was going to live among men! So, God gave very specific instructions about every aspect of the tabernacle. God told Moses what materials he needed to use. There were twelve kinds of materials of three categories to be used in the building of the tabernacle: minerals, plants, and animals. The minerals Moses was to use were gold, silver, bronze, onyx stone, and other precious stones. From the plant life, Moses was to use linen of different colors: blue, purple, scarlet, and the linen had to be fine linen. Moses was to also use acacia wood, oil, and spices. Finally, from the animal life, Moses was to use goats’ hair, rams’ hide, and porpoises’ skin. Can you picture this tabernacle in your head? Wow! I can only imagine how this house would look like!

God was also very specific on the pattern of the tabernacle. God told Moses how the boards of the tabernacle were to be placed, with all their measurements and numbers. There were some veils and some curtains to be used. Lastly, God was also very specific about the contents of the tabernacle. Moses was to build some furnishings. Just to name a few, Moses was to make something called the ark of the testimony, the table of the bread of the presence, and the lampstand. God told Moses which material to use and how to make each one. God is the best architect!

As you continue to grow you will learn more about this tabernacle, but for now I want you to remember a few things. First, I want you to remember that God may not have been happy being so far away from the people He loved. God wanted to live among the children of Israel. Second, I want you to remember that God was very specific about each aspect of the tabernacle. Each material, each measurement, each furnishing was for a purpose and was to be built accordingly. After all, it was God's house! God doesn't want to be far from us. He always wants to be very close to His dear ones! God wanted to be close to His people. Don't you want to be one who is always close to God?