



Reviewing the Top Ten

Pathway Point: 🌐 God's treasured people choose to obey.

In-focus verse: "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6a).

Travel Itinerary

When God repeats his law in Deuteronomy, I see our Sovereign Lord down on his knees, begging Israel to follow him. I feel God's heart beating, see his arms outstretched, and hear his cries: "Love me, obey me, cling to me!" God even provided blessings for obedience and deadly curses for disobedience. Some would say it was rather a "no-brainer" proposition. Did Israel choose obedience and life? No. Do we?

Just as the children of Israel had completed their desert trek and were being launched into their new land, your children are wrapping up their journeys through God's loving laws. When they leave your classroom, they will be faced with many opportunities to obey or disobey God's laws. This lesson emphasizes that they have a choice to live as God's treasured possessions if they obey. Since none of us can obey fully, be sure to do the last activity to show them that, ultimately, it's not our obedience, but our faith in Jesus Christ that gives us the hope of life.

DEPARTURE PRAYER

(10 minutes)

Show the children that a relationship with God includes talking to God through prayer. Say the lines with the children. Open your Bible, and show them God's reply in Scripture. Personalize it.

Children: Dear Lord, thank you for your commandments. Please help us to obey.

God's reply in the Bible: Children, let my commandments become a part of your heart. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

Children: Thank you for choosing us to be your treasured people who choose to obey you.

God's reply in the Bible: I didn't pick you because you are smart or strong. I chose you because I love you (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

Children: We love you, too. Help us to love and obey your Laws. Amen.



Out of all the lessons in this book, please be sure to do the "One-Way Sign" activity in this lesson. Today's point is that God's treasured people choose to obey. We don't want to let the kids leave class, disobey, and feel they are out of God's family. Make sure you tell them clearly that they need to decide to obey and try to obey, but being in God's family is a matter of faith in Christ. See John 1:12.

Items to Pack: party items, such as cake, balloons, horn blowers, streamers, confetti; and, for each child, paper, pencils



(25 minutes) A No-Brainer

In this activity, children will choose between having a party and doing nothing.

Preparation: Set up the party on one side of the room. On the other side, leave a defined area with only a few chairs. The idea is to make one side attractive and the other side sparse. As the kids come in, have them sit in the middle, between the party (blessings) side and the sparse (curses) side.

Say: You have a choice today of which side you choose to be on—the blessings side or the curses side. To be on the blessings side, you have to obey me. You have to go over to the table and write out all the commandments. If you choose to disobey me, you can go to the other side of the room and sit quietly on a chair. The choice is yours.

Let the kids decide. Use this time as a review of the commandments. You may want to pass around some photocopies of the commandments (page 10) to help the kids who can't remember all of them. The older kids can help the younger ones. When all have finished, you can have an obedience party and celebrate with cake and confetti.

While kids are eating, ask:

- Why did you choose to be on the blessings side?
- What did you have to do to be part of the obedience party?

Say: God lets us choose whether we will obey his commandments or not. If we do, he heaps tons of blessings on us. We become his precious treasure, his celebration! If we won't obey, bad things can come our way. The people of Israel were also given the choice of blessings for obeying God's commandments or curses for disobeying. Listen to their choices. Read aloud Deuteronomy 11:26-28, 28:1-13, and 28:15-20.

Ask:

- What choices did the Israelites have?
- What do you think they chose to do?
- What would you have chosen if you were an Israelite?
- What do you choose today?

Say: God gave the Israelites an easy decision, a "no-brainer." Let's see from the story if ☺ God's treasured people chose to obey him.



(20 minutes)

God's People Disobey (Exodus 24, 32, and 34)

Preparation: Choose someone to act as Moses during the story. Have a partition set up with someone ready to hand the commandments to "Moses."

Say: Remember when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments? Thunder crashed and lightning flashed to show how serious God is about his laws. The people responded with one voice: "Everything the Lord has said we will do." (Have the children repeat: "Everything the Lord has said we will do.") They ☺ chose to obey because they wanted to be God's treasured people. They didn't how hard it would be.

God asked Moses to build an altar (a pile of rocks) and to burn an animal on it.

TOUR GUIDE TIP

Copy the commandments (p. 10), but cover some of the words for the little ones to fill in. For example, for "You shall not lie," cover the word "lie," and ask the children what word belongs in the blank. For the older kids, cover up all the words, leaving only the shape of the tablets.

Items to Pack: toy cow, music, player for music, 2 sets of foam tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them, pitcher of water, yellow or orange flavored drink powder, and, for each child, stone, cup, paper towel

(Have all the kids put their stones in a pile.) Now this may sound strange to you, but God wanted the people to understand one very important thing: It is the blood that makes up for our sins (Leviticus 17:11). *(Have the kids repeat: "It is the blood that makes up for our sins.")* Even though 🙏 God's treasured people choose to obey, there will be times when we don't. So God, in his kindness, allows something else to pay the price for our sins.

Moses climbed back up the mountain, and God gave Moses two tablets of stone, inscribed by the finger of God. God's very own hand wrote out his ten loving laws. *(Have the person behind the partition give Moses the commandments.)*

While Moses was with God, the Israelites, God's chosen, handpicked, special, treasured people chose to disobey. They said, "We don't know what has happened to Moses." *(Have the kids repeat: "We don't know what has happened to Moses.")* They told Aaron, Moses' brother, to make them an idol, or a fake god. And Aaron did it! He actually had them throw all their gold, even their earrings, into the fire. He shaped the gold into a calf, or a baby cow. The people gave a party for their little cow idol. They said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." *(Turn on some music, and have the kids circle around the toy cow.)*

Just then, Moses came down from the mountain. He saw the people dancing and laughing around their idol. Moses' anger burned. He raised those stone tablets over his head and threw them down, smashing them to pieces. *(Moses smashes the commandments.)* The music stopped. *(Stop the music.)* The people stood there, caught. Uh-oh. They knew they were in big trouble.

Moses didn't say a word. He just took that calf and threw it in the fire. They watched it melt—first the tail, then the hind legs, then the rest of it. Then Moses took that melted gold and began pounding it, and pounding it, and pounding it until it was as thin as powder. Then he took that gold powder and scattered it in the water. *(Moses sprinkles flavored drink powder into the water.)*

"Drink it," he yelled. *(Pour the drink into the kids' cups, and have them drink it.)*

As the people swallowed their fake little god, they saw how foolish they had been. God was tired of their sin. He was ready to destroy them. Moses said, "Whoever is for the Lord, come to me." *(Have the kids go to Moses.)* God's treasured people must choose to obey, no matter how hard it is. Moses knew that he had to stop the people's sin before God destroyed all of them.

With a sigh, Moses climbed back up the mountain. He carried two new blank stone tablets. *(Moses lays the tablets down.)* He stayed on that mountain for forty more days and forty more nights without eating any food or drinking any water. What was he doing that whole time? Moses was lying on the cold, jagged rocks, with his face down. Was he taking a nap? No. He was begging God to spare the people. (See Deuteronomy 9:18; 10:10-11, 25-26.) *(Have Moses lie down and plead for the people. Have the person behind the partition flip over the tablets.)*

When Moses got up, what did he see? God's loving laws, written once more by the finger of God. He hugged those two tablets to his chest. Moses knew that God was giving the Israelites a second chance. And that's the kind of God we have, a God who always gives us a second and a third, fourth, fifth *(have the kids hold up two fingers, then three, and so on)*, and ninetieth chance, if only we ask for forgiveness. This time when

SCENIC ROUTE

You can make this story unforgettable by making Moses' face really glow!

Have him put some white face paint on his face, and use a black light. Make sure Moses isn't wearing white clothes because the white clothes will compete for attention with his face. If you don't have a black light, it would be worthwhile to purchase one. You'll use this investment many times. Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 to the older kids, and explain further about the New Covenant. Have them create veils of their own from pieces of cloth, and write the verse from 2 Corinthians 3:16 on their veils.

Moses came down the mountain, he didn't hear any music, but the people all shrank back from him in fear. Why? Because this time Moses' face was glowing. It was shining so brightly that he actually had to put a veil over his face. *(Have the kids put paper towels over their faces.)* The Law is like the veil; it is between God and man. But when Jesus forgives us, the veil is taken away. *(Have the kids take their towels off.)*

Ask:

- How did God's treasured people disobey?
- Why did God not destroy them?
- How does God forgive us today?

Say: God didn't destroy all of his treasured people, not even when they made an idol, because Moses begged for forgiveness. Today, Jesus' blood forgives us.

Items to Pack: poster board, marker, masking tape, paper, scissors



(15 minutes)

God's Dream Come True

In this activity, children will find their names hidden among many to know how special they are to God.

Preparation: Cut the paper into strips. Write each child's name on a separate slip of paper. On extra slips, write other first names.

Ask:

- What is your big dream in life?
- Did you know God has a dream too?

Draw two closed eyes and a smile on the poster board. Draw a big thought balloon coming from the smiling face. On the bottom, write, "God's Dream."

Say and write on the top: You are God's dream come true, his treasure.

Ask:

- As God's special treasures, how should you behave?

Scatter the slips of paper on the floor around the room. Tell children to find their own names and tape them into God's dream balloon to show that they are God's dream come true, his special treasure. (You'll use this at the end of the lesson as well.)

SCENIC ROUTE

To make this activity more personal, take pictures of the kids with an instant-print camera, and hang the pictures under their names. Also, before class, highlight the last names of the kids in your class in a phone book. Then have them each look up their own last names, emphasizing how God seeks them out.

SOUVENIRS

(15 minutes)

Rights and Responsibilities of the Crown

In this activity, the children will make crowns and decorate them.

Preparation: Make a crown for yourself first.

Have kids cut out the crown along the bold lines. Display the crown you made. While kids work, ask:

- Can you name a queen, king, prince, or princess?
- What is his or her job?
- How are you like a prince or princess in God's eyes?
- What are your jobs as children of the King?

Items to Pack: tape or stapler, and, for every child, scissors, pen, crayons or markers, 1 photocopy of the "Rights and Responsibilities" handout (p. 113) preferably copied on card stock; optional, flat plastic jewelry, glue and/or glitter crayons

Say: Being a prince or princess can be great, but it can be tough, too. King David had the love and respect of thousands of people, but he also had to go out and fight wars. When you wear a crown, you have rights *and* responsibilities. You are princes and princesses, children of the King! God chose you out of all the people on earth to be his treasures. But God asks you to act like kingdom kids. He said, "If you obey me fully, you will be my kingdom leaders." (See Exodus 19:5-6.)

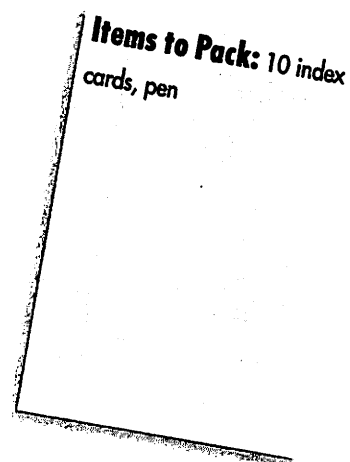
Have the kids use pen to write, "God's treasured people choose to obey," on the flip side of the crown. They can color and decorate the crown with plastic jewelry. Staple each child's crown to fit his or her head. Have kids parade around the room wearing their crowns, while you read to them from Deuteronomy 10:12-15 from *The Living Bible*.

(20 minutes)

Choices of the Chosen

In this activity, children will review the commandments by acting them out.

Write each of the Ten Commandments on a different index card, letting the kids say them as you write them. Have the kids form groups of three or four, making sure that the younger kids are on teams with older kids. Give each group commandment cards. Depending on how many groups you have, you may need to give some groups more than two cards. Each team is to tell and act out a short story about a child who was tempted to break the commandment it has. The other kids are to guess which commandment the skit or story is about. For example, a team can make up a story about a girl who was so busy with ballet lessons that she forgot about God. After each correct guess, reiterate the point, saying, 🎯 "God's treasured people choose to obey him."



(15 minutes)

Top Ten Team

In this activity, the children will design T-shirts for God's elect.

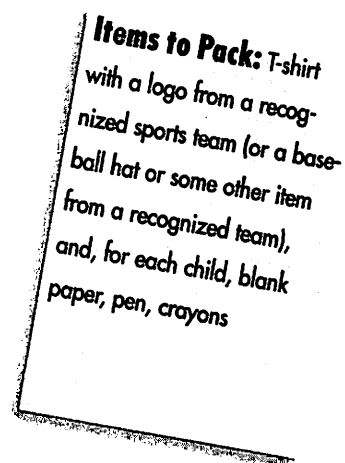
Hold up the T-shirt and ask:

- If I wear this shirt, what does this say about me?
- How is being God's treasured people like being on a team?

Say: God said that we are 🎯 his treasured people, and we show that we are his treasured people when we choose to obey. We can cheer each other on to obey God's laws.

Hand children blank sheets of paper, and show them how to draw the simple outline of a T-shirt. Ask them to design a T-shirt for the class that shows they all agree to keep God's laws. Some ideas for names are "Kingdom Kids," "Covenant Club," "Commandment Keepers," and "Top Ten Team." Share their design ideas with the group.

You can take one of the designs to a T-shirt store and ask them to print it on T-shirts that the kids can wear on the last day of class, or you can buy transfer paper at a craft store to put the design on T-shirts yourself. Or use fabric marker to write the selected name on individual T-shirts, and let the kids make handprints with both hands dipped in fabric paint.



**TOUR
GUIDE
TIP**

When reviewing these commandments, show the children that the first four commandments deal with our relationship to God. They can be summarized by Jesus' answer to the question, "What is the most important commandment?" His answer was, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second part of Jesus' answer was "Love your neighbor as yourself." This addresses the rest of the commandments, which deal with our relationships to others.

Items to Pack: the poster from the "God's Dream Come True" activity

Items to Pack: the crowns from the "Rights and Responsibilities of the Crown" activity, poster board, marker

**TRAVEL-ALONG
COMMANDMENT
SONG**

(10 minutes)

Teach kids this last stanza. Break the kids up into teams of ten, if possible. Have each team memorize the song and motions. Assign each team one of the stanzas, and tell them to stand up to do the motions when it's their turn. See pages 6-8 to review the full song.

To show God your love, come on, try to obey. *(Hold hands out.)*

But when you mess up, God shows the way. *(Cover face with hands, then move hands away.)*

The commandments point us to the cross. *(Point up.)*

Jesus died for you. Now make him your boss. *(Make a cross.)*

ONE WAY

(10 minutes)

The Big Problem With a Little Word

In this activity, the children will realize that they are disqualified but not hopeless.

Have all the kids stand in front of the poster. Ask them to go through God's commandments one at a time. After each commandment, ask them if they have always obeyed it.

Say: God said that you would be his treasured people. If you haven't obeyed, take your name off the poster, and lay it on the ground.

After you've gone through all the commandments and all names have been taken off, ask:

- What happens when you are separated from God?

Say: It looks hopeless. God gives us laws, and even though we try, we still break them. But listen to this. "But now God has shown us a different way to heaven—not by 'being good enough' and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way (though not new, really, for the Scriptures told about it long ago). Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us 'not guilty'—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins...no matter who we are or what we have been like" (Romans 3:21-22 TLB).

Now turn your name over, and write on the back: "I am God's treasure." Take your paper home with you as a reminder to trust Jesus to take away your sins.

**HOME
AGAIN
PRAYER**

(10 minutes)

Put one chair for each child in a circle facing in. Leave a space in the circle for children to go in and out. Put a crown on each chair. Tell the children that the circle represents God's castle. Use the poster board as a drawbridge.

Say: Jesus Christ laid down his life (lay down the poster board, and draw a cross on it) to bring you to God.

Read 1 Peter 3:18. Have the kids walk over the drawbridge, enter God's kingdom, and wear their crowns as you say the following prayer:

Dear King Jesus, thank you so much for laying down your life to bring me to God. Thank you for choosing me to be your special treasure. I choose to obey you. When I am tempted to break your loving laws, please help me to remember that I am a child of God. Amen.

Rights and Responsibilities

