

The Law

Storyteller (spreads out the Desert Bag): This is the Desert Bag. So many wonderful and important things happen in the desert, we need to know what it is like. We can't get the whole desert into our church, so here is just a little piece of the desert. *The Storyteller smooths the sand while s/he talks*. The desert is a dangerous place. There is little water, and almost nothing grows there. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night.

Exodus 19.9-20.20

The LORD said to Moses, "I will come to you in a thick cloud and let the people hear me speak to you. Then they will always trust you." Again Moses reported to the people what the LORD had told him.

Once more the LORD spoke to Moses:

Go back and tell the people that today and tomorrow they must get themselves ready to meet me. They must wash their clothes and be ready by the day after tomorrow, when I will come down to Mount Sinai, where all of them can see me.

Warn the people that they are forbidden to touch any part of the mountain. Anyone who does will be put to death, either with stones or arrows, and no one must touch the body of a person killed in this way. Even an animal that touches this mountain must be put to death. You may go up the mountain only after a signal is given on the trumpet.

After Moses went down the mountain, he gave orders for the people to wash their clothes and make themselves acceptable to worship God. He told them to be ready in three days and not to have sex in the meantime.

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning. A thick cloud covered the mountain, a loud trumpet blast was heard, and everyone in camp trembled with fear. Moses led them out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had come down in a flaming fire. Smoke poured out of the mountain just like a furnace, and the whole mountain shook. The trumpet blew louder and louder. Moses spoke, and God answered him with thunder.

The LORD came down to the top of Mount Sinai and told Moses to meet him there. Then he said, "Moses, go and

God's people travelled through the desert when they left Egypt to go to the land that God promised them.

- Story Materials**
- Desert Bag
 - Large rock
 - Heart-shaped Law box with tiles

When God's people left Egypt, they were not slaves any more. They were free. *Put Moses and Aaron and some People of God figures in the desert bag*. God led them from place to place through the desert until they came to Mount Sinai. *Put the large rock, representing Mount Sinai, on the top left corner of the desert bag (near your left knee)*. The mountain was covered with smoke because God was there. *Hold your hands over the mountain*. So Moses and Aaron went up the mountain alone. *Move Moses and Aaron up the mountain*. God gave them the Law for God's people to live by. Moses and Aaron came down the mountain, and gave the Law to God's people

Put the heart-shaped box next to the desert bag and take its lid off. Take out the law tablets one by one, and place them upright in the sand in two rows:

1. Do not worship any god except God
2. Do not worship idols.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Keep holy the Sabbath.

These are ways that we show love for God.

5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. Do not murder.

warn the people not to cross the boundary that you set at the foot of the mountain. They must not cross it to come and look at me, because if they do, many of them will die. Only the priests may come near me, and they must obey strict rules before I let them. If they don't, they will be punished."

Moses replied, "The people cannot come up the mountain. You warned us to stay away because it is holy."

Then the LORD told Moses, "Go down and bring Aaron back here with you. But the priests and people must not try to push their way through, or I will rush at them like a flood!"

After Moses had gone back down, he told the people what the LORD had said.

God said to the people of Israel:

I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves. Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me. You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day—not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.

Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.

Do not murder.

7. Do not be unfaithful to your husband or wife.

8. Do not steal.

9. Do not tell lies about others.

10. Do not want what belongs to others.

These are ways that we show love for other people.

How can we have enough love, so that we can keep God's laws?

Lay down in the sand the tile that reads "Love Others." We love others ... lay down in the sand the tile that reads "Love God" ... because we love God. Lay down in the sand the tile that reads "God Loves Us."

We love God, because God first loved us. *Put the lid on the Heart box and hold it out toward the children.*

Be faithful in marriage.

Do not steal.

Do not tell lies about others.

Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.