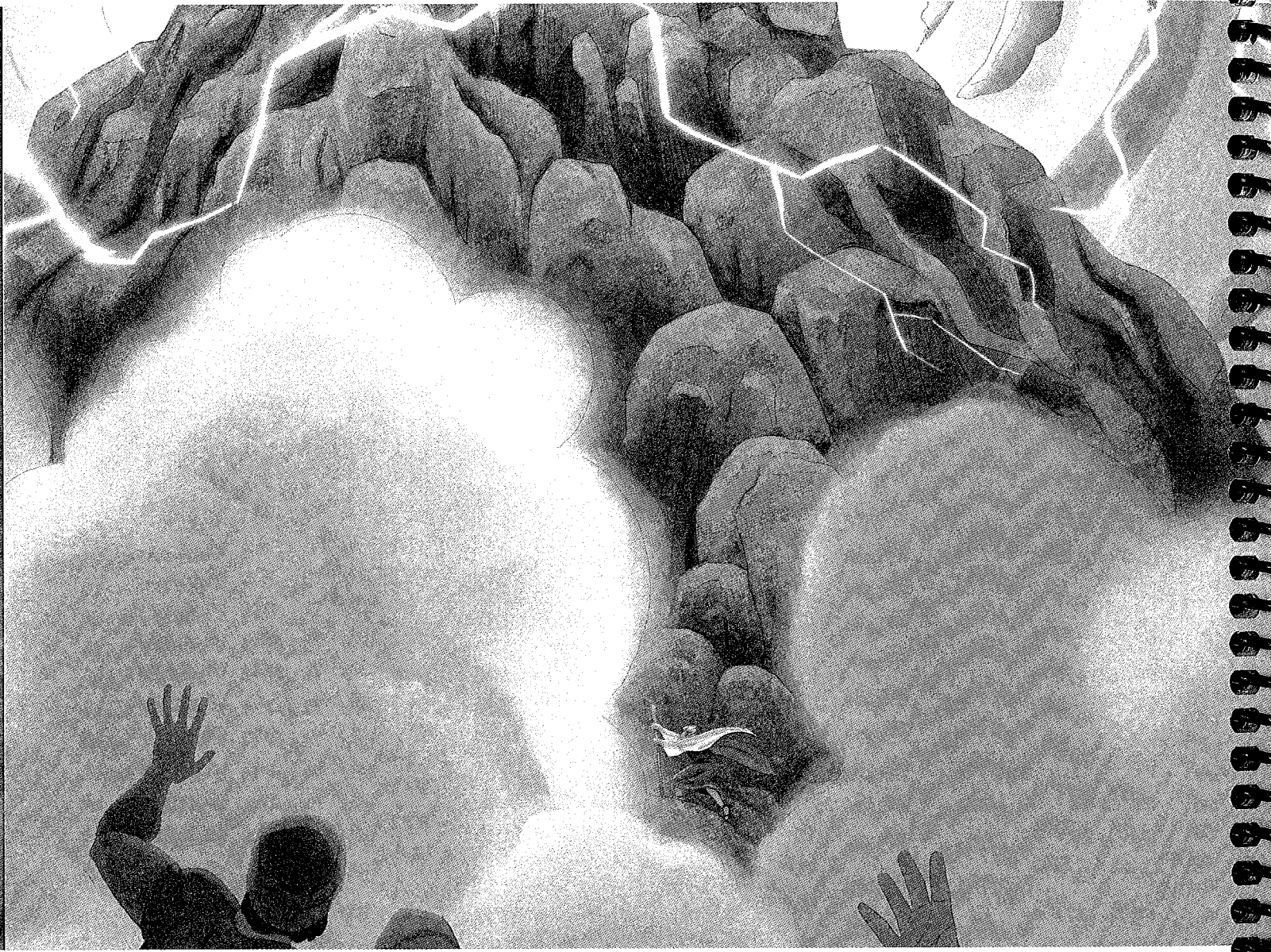


THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 19–20; 31



KEY PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 2:2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do we need to be saved? People are sinful and cannot save themselves.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God gave His people commandments so they would know how to honor Him and live rightly. Because of sin, no one is able to keep these commandments perfectly. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect, sinless life. Jesus died and rose again so that sinners can be forgiven.

STORY POINT: God gave commands to His people to show them how to love Him and others.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Today's reading takes place only three months after God delivered His people from Egyptian slavery. The Lord spoke to Moses concerning the ways he was to lead Israel into their next season of life as God's chosen and set-apart people. They were to worship God through holy lives that honored Him alone as God.

Why were the Ten Commandments necessary for God's people? How do these commands show us our need for a Savior?

God reminded the Israelites of who He is and all He accomplished to free them from Egypt, drawing them away from slavery and into a place where they could freely worship Him as God. He instructed them to carefully listen to His commands, keep His covenant, and be His own special people. He decreed the Ten Commandments, explaining the lifestyle that would extend honor not only to Himself, but also to their neighbors. He explained how they were to revere Him as God and to love one another in all they said and did.

The external threat of slavery was not the only obstacle stopping the Israelites from freely worshiping God; they had to combat their internal inclinations to sin against Him and one another. God took great care to deliver His law to the Israelites in a way that evoked awe and reverence toward Himself. He presented these statutes to show His people how they were to be set apart or live differently from other people who didn't follow Him. However, because of their sinful nature, the people could never achieve perfect obedience. So to fulfill His perfect law, God would send Jesus to do what sinners couldn't—live in perfect obedience. Jesus offered Himself up for the forgiveness of sins and defeated the power of sin so we could be made right before the Father through faith in His Son.

The giving of the law was never the end goal; it was always God's plan to redeem a people for Himself through the death and resurrection of His Son. Help kids see that because they cannot measure up to the law's requirements, our hope rests in Christ alone. Lead them to see God's greatness and what He has done to offer them salvation.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel