



Sunday School Lesson

September 10, 2023

Obeying God's Law

Exodus 20:18-26

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

September 10, 2023

2

Do you believe the Ten Commandments should apply to us today?

If so, why? If not, why not?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

September 10, 2023

3

To understand and appreciate the delivery (from God through His servant Moses) of the Law to the Children of Israel – and their response.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

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1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Moses

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

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3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Moses

Moses initially was a reluctant spokesperson for the Lord. He complained that he was not a good speaker. Exodus 4:10. God had a powerful plan for his life nonetheless.

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Moses's life and accomplishments are briefly summarized in the Biblical Chapter often known as the "Hall of Faith:" Hebrews 11:23-29.

Points of Information – Moses

The first five Books of our Bible – known as the Pentateuch – are attributed to the hand of Moses. Jesus confirmed the writing of Moses in John 5:45-47.

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The importance of Moses in Scripture cannot be overstated. Moses is mentioned almost 800 times in the Bible. The final reference is in Revelation 15:3, where he is called “the servant of God” (KJV).

Points of Information – Moses

Moses experienced a theophany – an in person encounter with God – on more than one occasion. Exodus 33:11 shows the close relationship between God and Moses: “The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” (NKJV)

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Jesus was observed – by His three closest Disciples (Peter, James and John) – talking with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew 17:1-3; Mark 9:2-4; Luke 9:28-30.

Points of Information – Moses

Moses lived for 120 years. Deuteronomy 34:7. His life can be divided into three periods of 40 years each:

1. In Egypt, as one of favor and ultimately as a prince in the palace of Pharaoh.
2. In the Midian desert, as a shepherd.
3. In the wilderness, as the leader of the Children of Israel.

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Lesson Context - 1

The Book of Exodus begins after the death of Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob (Israel).

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The Children of Israel multiplied immensely, despite the efforts of the King of Egypt to limit their population.

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Lesson Context - 2

In Exodus, we read how Moses was born, (fearfully) cast away, then found and raised by the daughter of Pharaoh – with his birth mother nearby. Moses rose with favor to prominence and power in the palace.

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Lesson Context - 3

The plight of the Children of Israel in Egypt is detailed. The Lord sent Moses to lead them – ultimately out of bondage.

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Multiple plagues were cast on the Egyptians, as the Pharaoh refused to let God's people go. The Passover occurred as the plague on the firstborn of Egypt happened. Finally, the Children of Israel were freed.

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Lesson Context - 4

13

The Lord once again spared the Children of Israel after they crossed the Red Sea.

Due to their disobedience, the Israelites wandered for decades in the wilderness.

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Lesson Context - 5

14

In the first section of the 20th Chapter of Exodus, we see Moses presenting the Ten Commandments (the Decalog) from the Lord to God's people.

In today's text, we see the reactions of the people.

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Text – UMI Outline #1

15

Exodus 20:18

God Makes His Presence Known

Exodus 20:18 (NLT)

When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram's horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear.

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Text – UMI Outline #2

17

Exodus 20:19-21

The People Show Reverent Fear

Exodus 20:19-20

And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But, don’t let God speak directly to us, or we will die!”

“Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of Him will keep you from sinning!”

Exodus 20:21

As the people stood in the distance, Moses approached the dark cloud where God was.

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Text – UMI Outline #3

20

Exodus 20:22-26

God Encourages Proper Worship

Exodus 20:22-23

And the LORD said to Moses,
“Say this to the people of Israel:
You saw for yourselves that I
spoke to you from Heaven.

Remember, you must not make
any idols of silver or gold to rival
Me.

Exodus 20:24

Build for Me an altar made of earth, and offer your sacrifices to Me – your burnt offerings and peace offerings, your sheep and goats, and your cattle. Build My altar whenever I cause My Name to be remembered, and I will come to you and bless you.

Exodus 20:25-26

If you use stones to build My altar, use only natural, uncut stones. Do not shape the stones with a tool, for that would make the altar unfit for holy use.

And do not approach My altar by going up steps. If you do, someone might look up under your clothing and see your nakedness.

Remember these things:

Let us remember that the Lord requires our obedience to Him.

Let us remember that our worship of Him is to be genuine.

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