

## The Wilderness

**Session Title:** God Gave the Ten Commandments

**Bible Passage:** Exodus 19:1–20:21; 31:18; 32:1–35; 34:1–9

**Big Picture Question for preschoolers:** Why did God give His people the Ten Commandments? God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.

**Big Picture Question for kids:** Why did God give His people the Ten Commandments? God is holy and wants His people to be holy.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 20:1–17

*Christ Connection: God made a covenant with His people: “If you obey Me, you will be My people” (Exodus 19:5–6). But the people did not obey God. They sinned against God, and Moses asked God to forgive them. Moses acted as their mediator, or advocate, before God. When we sin, Jesus is our Mediator. Through Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins. God is pleased with us because He looks at Jesus, who never sinned.*

Play “What If ...” and list or draw your thoughts. Choose one of the Ten Commandments and think about what life would be like if everyone lived as it says—perhaps the command to remember the Sabbath, keeping it holy, or the command not to covet. Do you think we will need the Ten Commandments in heaven? (See Hebrews 10:16 and Jeremiah 31:33–34.)



Take a picture of the place inside or outside your home where each family member feels closest to God. What is special or beautiful about that place? Post your pictures or list your thoughts in the space below.



## The Wilderness

**Session Title:** The Tabernacle Was Built

**Bible Passage:** Exodus 35:4–40:38

**Big Picture Question for preschoolers:** Why did God's people need a tabernacle? God's people needed a place to meet with God and worship Him.

**Big Picture Question for kids:** What does the tabernacle show about God? God wants to dwell with His people and be worshiped by them.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 20:1-17

*Christ Connection: God instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle so that He could dwell with them. God desires to be with His people. As part of His plan of salvation, God sent Jesus to "tabernacle," or dwell with people on earth.*

God gave routines for life and worship to teach people that He is holy and to help them recognize His Son (Christ) when He came. Leviticus teaches eternal truths using hands-on experiences. Parents teach their children skills for life beginning with simple experiences. Help your child practice steering a riding toy or bicycle, pedaling or walking it forward and backward. Write what each of you learned about steering or teaching.



## The Wilderness

**Session Title:** God Gave Rules for Sacrifice

**Bible Passage:** Leviticus 1-27

**Big Picture Question for preschoolers:** Why did God give rules for sacrifice? God gave rules to show how to worship Him and be forgiven for sin.

**Big Picture Question for kids:** Why did God require a blood sacrifice? Because God is holy, His forgiveness requires a payment for sin. Jesus made the ultimate payment for sin with His death on the cross.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 20:1-17

*Christ Connection: The Book of Leviticus contains many rules for the Israelite people, but we do not obey all the rules in Leviticus today because we trust Jesus, who obeyed the law perfectly for us. The Israelites had to make a blood sacrifice for their sin every year. Jesus sacrificed His blood on the cross to pay for our sin once and for all. (Hebrews 7:26-27) When we trust in Christ, God forgives us of our sin.*

## The Wilderness

**Session Title:** Joshua and Caleb

**Bible Passage:** Numbers 13:1–14:38

**Big Picture Question for preschoolers:** What happens when God's people disobey Him? Sometimes bad things happen when people sin, but God will forgive.

**Big Picture Question for kids:** What happens when God's people sin? Sin has a price, but God forgives when people seek forgiveness.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 20:1-17

*Christ Connection: Even though Joshua was not perfect, he lived a life of obedience to God. Joshua was faithful and was going to lead the people into the promised land. His accomplishments point to Christ's finished work on the cross—defeating Satan, setting people free from sin, and making the way into the promised land of eternity.*

Hide some objects for a scavenger hunt. Connect the game to Moses' instructions to the 12 spies to look through the promised land and report about the people, farmland, fruit, and fortifications. Consider hiding things that relate to the Bible story, such as a doll, toy food, fortifications. Consider hiding things that relate to the Bible story, such as a doll, toy food, grapes, and something representing protection (such as a bike helmet). List the items and why they were important.





The Israelites complained in the wilderness. Think about what people complain about. Parents, do you complain during rush-hour traffic? Kids, do you complain about doing your chores or homework? Philippians 4:4 says "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" This week, make a game to see who can recite Philippians 4:4 the fastest when someone complains. Turn complaints into rejoicing by focusing on God!



## The Wilderness

**Session Title:** The Bronze Snake

**Bible Passage:** Numbers 17:1-12; 20:1-12, 14-20; 21:4-9

**Big Picture Question for preschoolers:** Can people say they are sorry to God? People can say they are sorry to God, and He will forgive them.

**Big Picture Question for kids:** What happens when people repent from sin? Sin comes with consequences, but God provides the way of salvation.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 20:1-17

*Christ Connection: The Israelites faced a huge problem because of their sin. God sent snakes to punish them. Anyone who was bitten could look at the snake on the pole and not die. Because of our sin, we face a huge problem: we are separated from God. We deserve to die. Anyone who looks to Jesus on the cross and trusts in Him will be saved and be made right with God.*

## The Wilderness

**Session Title:** Balaam

**Bible Passage:** Numbers 22:1–24:25

**Big Picture Question for preschoolers:** Who protected God's people? God protected His people.

**Big Picture Question for kids:** Who protected God's people? God protected His people from their enemies.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 20:1-17

*Christ Connection: Fourteen hundred years after Balaam announced Jesus' birth, wise men followed a star to the place where Jesus was born. The wise men worshiped Jesus as King. (Matthew 2:2)*

Write a blessing for each of your children. Blessings in the Bible sometimes included instructions for living and a vision of the kind of person a child would become. Blessings communicate love. Consider using words of Moses (Deuteronomy 31:6) about entering the promised land: "Be strong and courageous ... For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you."

