



All Hands on Deck

Jump In

God had led Moses and the rest of the Israelites out of Egypt and across the Reed Sea. They were not yet to the promised land of milk and honey. Instead they found themselves in the wilderness. The wilderness was a precarious place. The people's need for food and water were real and neither was abundant in this desert landscape. Perhaps understandably, the people became anxious. In their anxiety, they began to complain and wish they had never left Egypt. How quickly they had forgotten their oppression under Pharaoh's hand. At least in Egypt there was food to eat and water to drink. Their fear and anxiety distorted their memory of what life had been like in Egypt. Just as God had heard their cries and rescued them from slavery in Egypt, God again responded to their complaints. God provided for their needs, sending quail in the evening and manna in the morning.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Exodus 15:22-17:7 and "God's Thought/My Thoughts" on page 84 together in the Deep Blue Kids Bible.

OR

Read "In the Wilderness": The Hebrew people had been freed from slavery in Egypt, but they were now wandering in the desert. There wasn't food or water, and they began to wish for the time when they were slaves. Moses told them that God was with them and would provide for them. Each day, God sent quail and manna for the people to eat. For water, Moses used his staff to tap into water in a rock. God provided what the people needed in the wilderness.

Grow Stronger Together

God uses us to show care to God's people. Anytime we provide loving care for another, we are doing God's work. This week, make a health kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR says, "Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes." Find the instructions here: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/Health>.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for always being with us. Amen.

November 6

Unit 3: God Provides

BV: "I'll take you as my people, and I'll be your God." (Exodus 6:7)

AP: God cares for all people.

In the Wilderness
(Exodus 15:22-17:7)

The games in the Deep Blue Adventures app are awesome! Download the app at www.deepbluekids.com/app.





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The first set of God's laws given to the Israelites are the Ten Commandments. These basic laws about relating to God and to other people are still applicable today. The Ten Commandments are more than a list of "do's" and "don'ts." Four of the commandments address the relationship between God and us as God's chosen people. Because we are chosen as God's people, we are to be loyal to God alone. We are not to worship anyone or anything except God and we are to honor God's name. Being in relationship with God includes setting aside a day to rest and worship God. The remaining six commandments address our relationship with one another. To live together in community, we need to treat each other with love and respect. These commandments provide a framework for living together as God's people.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Exodus 19:1-20:21 and "God's Thought/My Thoughts" on page 87 together in the Deep Blue Kids Bible.

OR

Read "Ten Commandments": The Hebrews had continued wandering in the desert. They came to Mount Sinai, and God asked Moses to climb up the mountain. While on the mountain, God gave Moses ten rules to help all of the people have good relationships with God and each other. The rules are:

1. There is only one God.
2. Worship only God.
3. Always say God's name with love.
4. Remember that Sunday is a special day.
5. Love your father and mother.
6. Do not kill.
7. Always love the person you marry.
8. Do not take what belongs to someone else.
9. Do not tell lies about other people.
10. Do not want something that someone else has.

Grow Stronger Together

Together write some family rules that will help all of you love each other the best you can.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, help us to love and care for one another. Amen.

November 13

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AP: God cares for all people.

Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:1-20:21)

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After God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, but before they reached the promised land of Canaan, they spent forty years wandering in the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula. During this time, following God's directions, the Israelites built the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle had all of the equipment of a permanent temple, but it was designed to be mobile. The Tabernacle served as a place the Israelites could go and worship God. It also served as a visible reminder of God's constant presence with them as they traveled. If God is everywhere and always with us, why do we need to build a house for God? Help your children understand God's house is not a physical shelter for God as our house is for us. God's house is a place the people of God can gather together to worship and praise God. Today our church community also gathers to learn about God and worship together.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Exodus 25-31:15; 35:4-40:38 and "God's Thought/My Thoughts" on page 100 together in the Deep Blue Kids Bible.
OR

Read "A House for God": God called Moses up the mountain again. This time God gave Moses instructions for building a special tent for the Israelites to worship and praise God—a Tabernacle. Everyone had a special job to do to build the Tabernacle. People made wooden chests, sewed colorful curtains, sewed robes for the priests to wear, and made a special golden chest to hold the Ten Commandments. The people brought jewels to decorate the Tabernacle and spices to make it smell good. The people worshipped God inside the Tabernacle together.

Grow Stronger Together

We all have special gifts and talents that we can use to serve God. What can your family do this week to help at your place of worship? Could you pick up litter, add mulch to the playground, pull weeds, dust the pews, sharpen pencils in the pews, or serve at liturgists? Choose a way together and stick to the commitment.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for our church family. Help us serve you this week. Amen.

November 20

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**A House for God
(Exodus 25-31:15; 35:4-40:38)**

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Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah foretold of a time of extensive peace. Isaiah described a world where animals that are usually predator and prey would live peaceably together and toddlers would have no need to be afraid of snakes. Isaiah's message was delivered to a people who were living through difficult times. His description of peaceful times ahead brought hope to a weary world. Although our world is much different than when Isaiah lived, we still long for the peace Isaiah foretold. We still need hope.

This Sunday is the beginning of Advent. Most of your children will be familiar with the Christmas story. They have heard the story, sung about it and acted it out every year. Isaiah's prophecy may be new to them, however. Help your children connect Isaiah's description of widespread peace to the message of peace Jesus taught throughout his life.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Isaiah 11:6-9 and "Life Preserver" on page 778 together in the Deep Blue Kids Bible.

OR

Read "The Peaceable Kingdom": A long time ago, God sent a message to the people. The message said that a little child would come and teach us how to live in peace. When there is peace, a wolf can sit with a lamb. When there is peace, a cow and a lion can share their food without fighting. When there is peace, young bears and young cows can be friends and play together. When there is peace, a young child will be able to reach into a snake pit without being bitten. When there is peace, we will feel God's love all over the earth.

Grow Stronger Together

Count down the days of Advent using a homemade Advent Calendar. To create the calendar, gather 27 stones and a nativity set. Lay out a stone for each day of Advent. The stones should lead to the nativity. Together, remove one stone each day until Christmas. When you remove the stones, write a blessing that happened that day onto the stone using a permanent marker.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, help us to be peacemakers. Amen.

November 27

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**The Peaceable Kingdom
(Isaiah 11:6-9)**

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