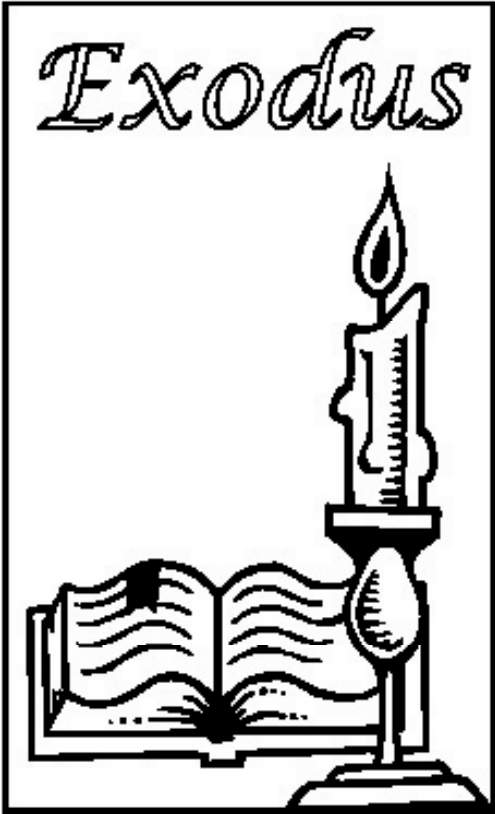


God’s rules are known as the Ten Commandments. In these lessons you will look at each rule God made. Best friends want to act like each other and do what will make each other happy. When God is your best friend you become more like Him. He made each of these rules to help you live a happier life. Other people will recognize that you and God are friends because of the way you act.

Trace and color this bookmark so you will have a copy to put in your Bible.



*Find Exodus. It is the second book in your Bible.*

*Now find chapter 20 and place your bookmark there.*

*Have fun coloring all the pictures in these lessons.*



You will notice that the commandment stone in each lesson has ICB written after the rule. ICB stands for *International Children’s Bible*. It is a translation of the Bible that is easy for young people to understand.

Read Exodus 20:2. Egypt is a symbol for sin. Before God tells us His rules, He reassures us that He has already saved us. Then He tells us how saved people act.

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# GOD WANTS TO BE MY VERY BEST FRIEND

## Introductory Lesson How To Use Your Bible

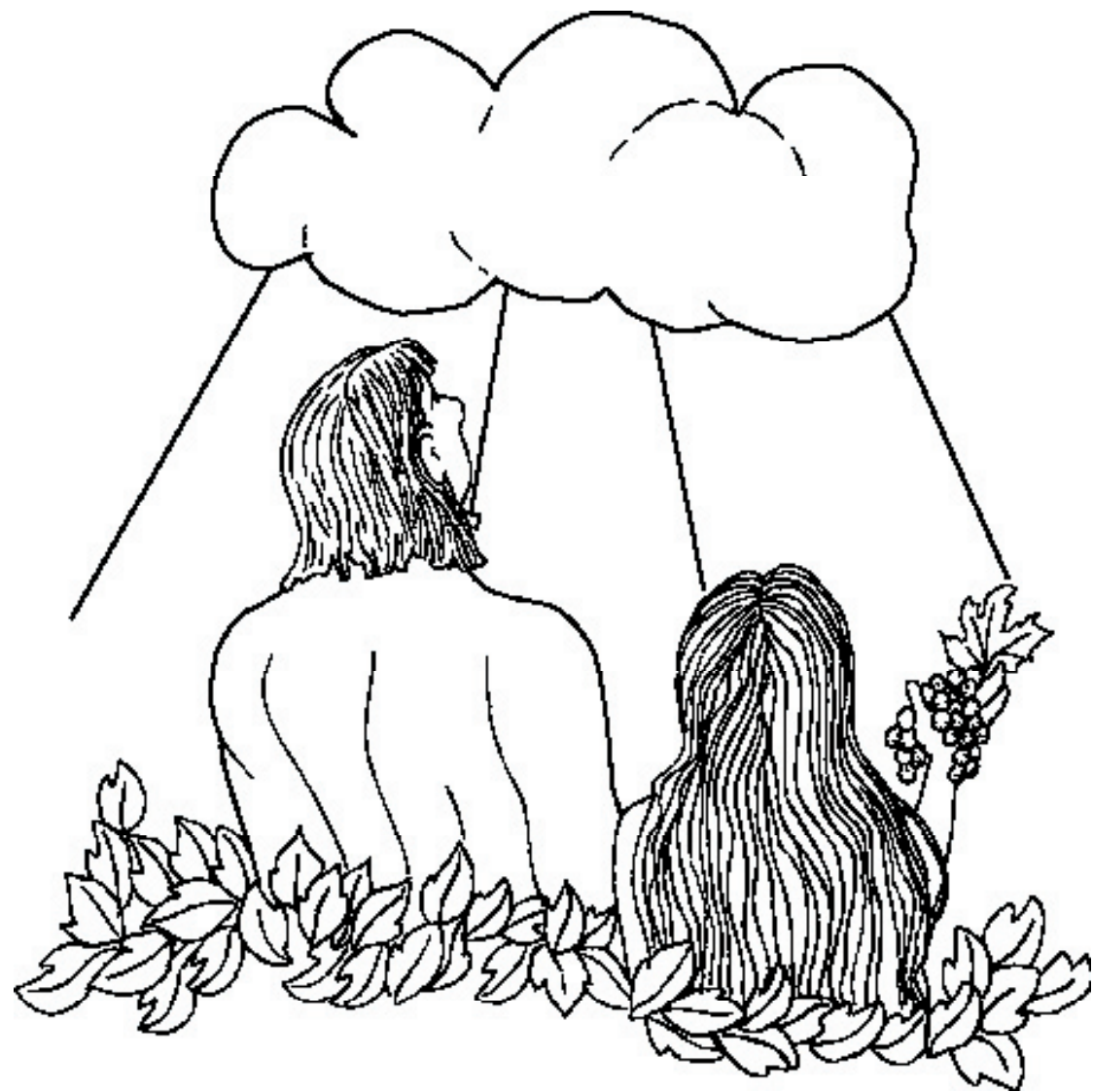
Hello again!

By now you have completed the lessons about Jesus and you have learned about some of God’s friends through history. God still wants friends today. He wants you to be His friend. He wants to be your very best friend. Can you imagine being best friends with the King of the Universe?

This set of lessons will help you understand what God is like by how He told His friends to live.



In the beginning the first people knew God personally. He came and talked to them in the garden every evening. After they made their wrong choice, and could not live in the garden any more, they still loved God and taught their children about Him.



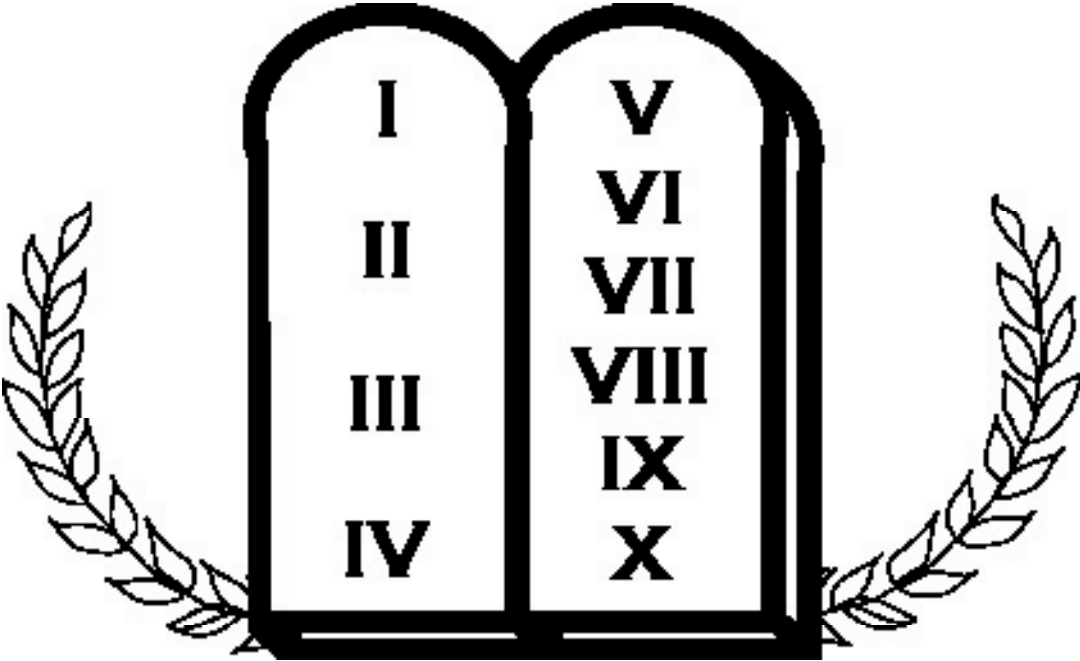
These rules have lasted for thousands of years and are still the best instructions for how to live today. Compare God’s rules with the rules people try to follow in most of our societies.

God’s Rules	Our Rules
Children obey your parents	Children must obey their parents
Do not murder	Murder is against the law
Do not commit adultery	Married people must be faithful to each other
Do not steal	Stealing is against the law
Do not give false testimony	Lying is against the law

Jesus summed it all up that way for His disciples when He was living here on earth. But when the Hebrews came out of Egypt, God told in more detail how His friends live. He gave ten rules to live by. In fact, they show us what our best friend, God, is like. If people keep these rules they show that they are God’s friends, they get along with each other, and they are happy.

The first four rules teach about our friendship with God.

The rest teach about our friendship with others.



After many years of slavery, the ten rules taught the Hebrews how to act, and how to live like God’s people again.

Many hundreds of years later, God’s people were slaves in Egypt. They were treated so badly that they forgot to live the way God had taught their family.

He led them out of Egypt with His friend Moses and met with them at Mount Sinai. In Egypt they had been awestruck by the mighty army, luxurious palaces, and magnificent ceremonies. God called all the forces of nature to announce His meeting with them. Thunder, lightning, an earthquake, and rolling dark clouds made the Egyptian display seem tame.

In thundering tones God told them how His friends live. Not having met God before, the people were frightened, so they promised to obey.

God knew they did not really understand and would forget what He had said. So He invited Moses to the mountaintop and wrote on two slabs of stone the rules He had told the people. Now they would not forget, because they would have God’s words with them.





*God is so good! He understands that we forget things sometimes. I am glad He wrote down His instructions for us.*

*When something is carved in stone, you cannot really change it! I wonder if God did that on purpose to remind us that He never changes.*



*Who were God's people anyway? I hear Jews mentioned . . . and Hebrews . . . and what about the Children of Israel?*

*They are all names for the same group of people. They were the families of the 12 sons of Jacob whom God renamed Israel. They were also called Hebrews. Today people call them Jews. But they are all names for the same group of people.*



The way God wants us to live is easy to remember!



LOVE GOD WITH  
YOUR WHOLE HEART  
AND TREAT OTHERS  
AS YOU WANT THEM  
TO TREAT YOU