

date: **12/3/17****Bible Passage: Exodus 19—21; 24**  
(Mosaic Covenant)

## God Claims His People

### REMEMBER VERSE

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
**Isaiah 9:6**

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

In California, where I grew up, lightning storms are rare. So each time one happens, I try to watch.

One particular lightning storm was genuinely terrifying. It had been a hot day—not a cloud in the sky. But that night, lightning clouds parked above our small town and exploded. The thunder was so loud that I got a sinking feeling in my stomach, like flying over the curve of a twisting roller coaster. In between lightning blasts and deafening thunder, I heard the sound of at least half a dozen sirens. I pulled my knees to my chest and genuinely wondered if I would live through the night! A little dramatic, I know.

The next day, the office hallways, supermarket lines, and radio waves were filled with talk about the lightning: What did you experience? What was it like for you? For me, this lightning storm placed my fear of God squarely in perspective. I know God loves me. I know He is merciful. I know I am His child. But do I always fear Him? The lightning storm reminded me that God is awesome, in the most basic form of the word.

God is omnipotent. And in my heart—because I recognize His power is a reflection of His holiness—I choose to offer myself as a living and holy sacrifice, “holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1). It is a high calling to be set apart for His glory. And when I remember how awesome and holy He is, I feel honored to live a life obedient to Him.

*Tori Funkhouser*  
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## Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” Exodus 19:4–6

Through this covenant, known as the Mosaic covenant, God laid out for His people the terms of obedience for their enjoyment of His blessings in the Promised Land. Through this covenant, God showed His people how to live. If they were to be His, they needed to choose to be set apart, holy, only for Him. So God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the rest of His laws—civil, moral, ceremonial, and social—which Moses wrote down.

Moses read these laws to the people, and they responded: “We will do everything the LORD has said” (Exodus 19:8). God knew His people would sin, so the Law provided a spiritual hedge to keep them from sinning. Through God’s Law, people came to know how to reflect God’s character.

Eventually the Mosaic covenant and laws would be replaced with the new covenant, ushered in by the death and resurrection of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit. God would expand the covenant to include everyone, and Paul would write in Galatians 3:29, “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

In this section of The Big God Story we travel through the Israelites’ experiences in the wilderness following their escape from Egypt. This lesson touches on the provision of manna and quail, the giving of the Ten Commandments, the waters at Marah, and the battle with the Amalekites.

Because we’re focusing on covenants and God’s chosen people, this lesson centers on the covenant God entered into with the Israelite people—the Mosaic covenant. In subsequent years, we will focus again on the Israelites’ wandering in the wilderness and tell these stories more in-depth. But for now we’ll focus on God claiming His people at Mount Sinai through the Mosaic covenant.

As you prepare for this lesson, pray God fills you with a sense of amazement about being a part of His family. Also pray God fills you with a sense of honor for calling you to be set apart for His glory. Then pray the kids will experience a sense of their calling and place in God’s family.

**SMALL GROUP**  
SECTION

**EXPLORE//** 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

When God made a covenant with His people, He was helping them to understand what it meant to be a part of His family. Today kids will participate in an activity that involves being part of a new group.

## Into the Circle

### SUPPLIES

- Large hoop or rope to make a large circle

### SET UP

Place the large hoop on the floor in the center of the group.

### RELATE

**Today, in The Big God Story, we're going to hear about how God made a special promise to the Israelites. It was a promise that made them a group of people set apart from other groups. Let's play a game seeing different ways we can group ourselves!**

Have children group themselves in various ways by stepping inside the large hoop when you describe something about them. Regroup the children multiple times throughout the activity by calling out various descriptive features. Examples:

- Everyone wearing green
- Everyone with a birthday in March
- Everyone with brown hair
- Everyone whose favorite color is red
- Everyone with an older brother
- Everyone who loves ice cream
- Everyone who had cereal for breakfast

Repeat as time permits.

## LARGE GROUP

SECTION

## DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible Verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

## Traditions and Remember Verse

### SUPPLIES

- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)
- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)

**RELATE**

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6**

## Connect

Encourage the members of your community to get to know one another through engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities.

### Question

**What is your most treasured possession?**

## The Big God Story

**Bible Passage: Exodus 19—21; 24**

**Storytelling Technique: Props and Images**

**God Claims His People**

### SUPPLIES

- [Timeline image](#) (see Resources)
- [Images: Mount Sinai, Ten Commandments](#) (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Whiteboard and dry erase marker
- Silver spoon (fancy)
- Disposable spoon

### RELATE

**Have you ever been part of a special club, group, or sports team? Did you have any rules you had to follow?** Invite a few children to share, and write their responses on the whiteboard. **Do you have rules in your family?** Invite kids to respond, and write responses on the board. **We're all a part of this country. What kinds of rules do we have in this country?** Invite kids to respond, and write their responses on the board.

**Why do you think we have rules and laws?** Allow kids to share their thoughts. **Good thoughts! Rules and laws help us live safely and fairly, teach us right from wrong, and show us how we should live. They also help us identify ourselves with the place where we live and the people who live around us. Today we'll look in the Old Testament at some of the rules and laws God gave His people, the Israelites, and why He gave those rules and laws. Before we do, let's pray together.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

The past few weeks we've been reading some prophecies from the Old Testament about the birth of Jesus. But before that, we heard how God freed the Israelites from slavery and led them into the desert so they could worship Him.

Just imagine: Millions of people stuck in the desert together, growing thirsty and hungry! What would you do if you were stuck in the middle of the desert? Would you worry or complain? Allow kids to respond. Well, the Israelites did. Let's open our Bibles to Exodus 16 to see what they said to Moses. Read aloud while kids follow along: "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! ... But you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death" (Exodus 16:3).

God had just saved them from slavery and they had already forgotten His protection! So God told Moses to use his staff to turn undrinkable water into sweet, refreshing water. Then God fed the Israelites by sending quail at night and manna, or white flakes that tasted like honey, in the morning. In this way God showed His people He cared about them. God claimed them as His children. What does it mean to claim something? Allow responses. To claim something is to say it belongs to you.

Since God had claimed the Israelites as His own, through Moses He entered into a covenant with Israel to let them know what it meant to be a part of His family. This covenant would set them apart. Who knows what it means to be set apart? Pause for responses. When we say something is set apart, that means it's special.

Let me give an example. Hold up fancy silver spoon. What's this? Pause for responses. Then hold up disposable spoon. What's this? Allow responses. Most of us probably eat with ordinary spoons every day. Hold up disposable spoon. But we probably use special, fancy spoons on holidays, such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. Hold up fancy spoon. The fancy spoon is special; it's set apart from the other spoons. In a similar way, God saw His people as set apart for a special purpose.

The Israelites continued traveling through the desert and camped at Mount Sinai. *Tech: Cue Mount Sinai image.* From the mountain God called to Moses, saying (invite kids to turn to Exodus 19:4 and follow along), "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then ... you will be my treasured possession ... You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:4–6).

Now, if the Israelites were going to be set apart for God, then they were going to have to live their lives differently. One of the ways they would do this was by following the Ten Commandments. *Tech: Cue Ten Commandments image.* Can anybody tell me one of the Ten Commandments? Interact with responses. The Ten Commandments are all about loving God, putting Him first, and loving and respecting other people. The Israelites said, "We will do everything the LORD has said" (Exodus 19:8).

God claimed His people, called them to live a life set apart, and began to teach them how to live. God also calls us to be a part of His family—to be set apart. Just as the Israelites did, we live in a broken world and sometimes live in a way that isn't good for us. However, as we grow to know God, He teaches us how to live in the very best way and gently corrects us when we get off track. Share a story of a time knowing you belonged to God affected a choice you made about how to live.

## SMALL GROUP

SECTION

## RESPOND// 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

### Reflect: God Claims His People

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

#### Questions for Younger Kids

- **What are some of the Ten Commandments?** Exodus 20:1–17  
Read Deuteronomy 7:6 while the kids follow along.
- **What does it mean to be God's treasured possession? How does it make you feel to know you're God's treasured possession?**
- **What does it mean to be set apart?** Deuteronomy 14:2
- **Why does God want us to live differently from other people? What does that require us to do?**

#### Questions for Older Kids

- **Why did God make a covenant with His people?**  
Read Exodus 19:4–6.
- **God called the Israelites a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. What do you think that means?**
- **Why did God give His people the Ten Commandments? Do you think they changed life for the Israelites?**
- **How does it make you feel to know you're God's treasured possession?**
- **How should we view ourselves, and each other, differently in light of the fact that we're God's treasured possessions?** John 13:34–35
- **What does it mean to be set apart?** Deuteronomy 14:2
- **Why does God want His people to be set apart?**
- **How can we live lives that are set apart?**

## BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bible

### RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and receive what God has for them. Invite them to remain in this posture as you bless them. Encourage parents to come early to read the blessing over their child.

Open a Bible and read the blessing from 1 Peter 2:9:

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

Ask the children to pair up and take turns blessing each other by putting a hand on the other person's shoulder and saying, "(Child's name), you are God's special possession, and He loves you very much." Then bless the entire group with the following:

**Children, may you know that God claims you as His own. May He guide you in a life that is joyfully set apart for Him.**