



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Ten Commandments

Introduction



Introduction

This topic is part of a suite of classroom resources developed by Ten Must Know Bible Stories. It is available as a First and Second Level resource.

These resources are designed to support learning across the curriculum and demonstrate how RME can be embedded within learning and will support the values and ethos of the school. This fits with the 4 capacities and the 4 contexts of learning.

The Ten Commandments Learning Resource can be used:

- In a context on **war or conflicts**.
- When you're discussing or developing your **class rules**, rights and responsibilities
- To start thinking on '**what is the best way to live**'? Why do Christians live in a particular way? How do we as individuals decide what our values will be or what 'rules' we will live by?
- Indoors or **outdoors**.
- As a stand alone topic you can **link to other areas of the curriculum**.



Note to Head Teachers:

This topic delivers key parts of the RME curriculum, and supports Literacy, Health & Well-being and Outdoor Learning. In helping children to explore wrongdoing, repentance, forgiveness and restoration, it also supports the wider school culture, ethos and values. It can further help the school support families and develop wider community links, e.g. with charities and faith groups.



Note to Teachers:

The Biblical account of God giving his people the Ten Commandments showcases the Christian belief that God requires his people to live in a particular way confident that it is the best way to live. The story raises questions that allow children to explore and express their own beliefs and thoughts on how the world should work.

- **Why have rules?** The rules we encounter, at home or at school or at clubs. Why do we have rules? Are our parents and teachers just being mean? If everyone followed the 10 Commandments would historical conflicts have happened?

- **Active Learning:** Exploring the commandments in our world through simple active games. What does it look like to follow the Commandments? What does it look like if we're not following them? Children can be gently asked – whatever you believe, which ones do you think are good rules to follow?
- Belief affects how we live. Children are beginning to understand that what we believe affects the way we live. Their understanding of Christian belief will deepen as they are taught that Christians believe that there is only one God and that they try to follow his rules. They can be encouraged to think about what rules would they make to prevent war and conflict?

The section of the Bible on which this topic is based is: **Exodus Chapter 19;** **Chapter 20: verses 1-21;** **Chapter 24: verses 12-18,** **Chapter 32.**



Note to School Chaplains or School Workers:

You can work in partnership with teachers in your school to help deliver this material. Some of the resources can also be adapted to create really lively Time for Reflection school assemblies. A suggestion would be to link this to a Remembrance Service.



How to use the material for this story

As with all other Ten Must Know Bible Stories, you need to start with Session 1: Hear and explore the story. You can then 'pick and mix' from the sessions that follow. Each session can stand by itself or can be combined with other sessions depending on the age of your children and the length of your lesson.

First level

Session 1: Hear and Explore the Story.

Session 2: Reviewing the Story: Outdoor Learning (with Indoor Options)

Session 3: What are the Rules?

Second level

Session 1: Hear and Explore the Story.

Session 2: Rules – What do you Think?

Session 3: War- Right or Wrong?

Session 4: Time to Reflect.

Additionally you can access

Additional Resources for the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments: PowerPoint and images (This is a free downloadable resource

from the Scottish Bible Society. The images can be used to help you tell the story or for activities such as sequencing.)

Each session supports learning across the curriculum for example Literacy, Health & Well-being and Social studies.

Although we don't provide resources to do this, this learning could easily be extended to consider what other faith or ethnic or non faith groups believe about wrong doing, consequences and forgiveness.

The sessions are designed to be extended with learning across the curricular areas. This will increase the depth and richness of the children's learning, ensuring they know the story and have been allowed to explore the many aspects of it. Some ideas are provided below but we're sure you'll have more of your own.



Extending the Learning across the Curriculum

Expressive Arts

- Enjoy creating some artwork linked to the story, perhaps Moses at Mount Sinai? Or the weather events.
- Act out the story outside. Where is your mountain? What natural objects could you use for props?
- Create sound effects for the story.
- Use old/traditional children's Bibles with graphics and compare them with the Scottish Bible Society images. Which do children prefer and why?
- Link with the idea of God writing the 10 Commandments on tablets of stone by painting or drawing on rocks.

Mathematics

- Write the numbers 1-10 on stones. Order the numbers.
- How high is Mount Sinai? How many times did Moses climb it? How far in total did he climb?

Sciences

- I wonder how God wrote on the stones? What do we think is best for writing on stones? Which stones are best for writing on? Experiment!

Social Studies

- Find Mount Sinai on a map. What can you find out about Mount Sinai? How high is it?

Languages

- Can you retell the story?
- What rules would you write for the world?
- Create a comic strip of the story.
- Write an account of God giving the 10 Commandments
 - As if you were Moses
 - As if you were an Israelite
 - As if you were God
- Create a leaflet for an Israelite – The 10 Commandments and how to keep them.
- Write an account of how the 10 Commandments were broken in the conflict you are considering.
- Imagine you were a soldier in a conflict. You are a Christian trying to keep the Ten Commandments. Write a letter home, or a diary, explaining how and why you are finding it hard to keep them.

Health and Well-being

- Explore the rules children in encounter – at home, in school and in the world. Why are the rules there? Are they fair rules? How do rules keep us safe?
- Explore the individual commandments, can they think of examples of people breaking or keeping them? What would the consequences be in a particular setting?