

Now if you will faithfully obey me, you will be my very own people. The whole world is mine, but you will be my holy nation and serve me as priests.

- Exodus 19:5-6

Dear Parents/Carers,

So far this term we have looked at the first two covenants of the Bible. The first with Noah and the second with Abraham. This week we see God continuing the promises made to Abraham in the Covenant he makes with the great nations of Israel. A nation which came from Abraham and Sarah. This Mosaic Covenant includes the Ten Commandments.

At the end of each session is an application for your children to put what they have learnt into practice. Throughout the week it is useful to check in with them how this is going.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

I would love to hear from you the creative ways in which your children use the application section during the week.

Blessings,
Jess

Topic: Covenants of the Bible – Promises to the nation of Israel
Sessions Aim: Children will learn about the promises God made through the Mosaic Covenant, Israel's commitment to the covenant and the commandment we need to follow today.
Bible Passage: Exodus 19:5-6 and 20:1-17

A Time of Prayer

Come together in a time of prayer with your children. Everyone can share something they would like to pray for or share a God Story. These are stories of where we have been able to see God at work in our lives or each other's lives during this week.

Dear God,
Thank you for the promises that you have given us,
Thank you that we can always talk to you and ask for your help.
Help us to be set apart for you, so others can come to know you too.
Please help us keep trusting you and the plan you have for our lives.
Amen

Worship Songs

Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service.

Below are a few suggestions for worship songs with actions. Please feel free to use any other songs which your children know.

- My God is so Big <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiWYtwFt9Jc>
- If I Were a Butterfly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbJUynRN0js>
- Holy Spirit Fill Me Up https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_MYrHdoVZE

Noah Recap and Game without Rules

1: Going over what children have learnt in previous weeks is important in helping them remember sessions in the long term and make connections across the Bible.

Recap with your children the two covenants we have already looked at (Noah and Abraham). As 'covenant' may be a new word to your children it is important to also reiterate what it means.

A covenant is an agreement between God and His people. God promises different blessings to His people and His people have a part to play as well.

2: Play a Game without rules.

What is a simple board or card game that you play with your children? Ask them to explain the rules to you and how they would win.

Ask 'what if there weren't any rules, how would we play and how would you win?' Play the game without any rules. Each person can do whatever they want to try and win. This also works with your family's favourite ball game. The game will quickly become chaotic, best to limit to five to ten minutes play. At the end of this session there is a chance to come back and finish the game with the rules.

Rules are super important, they help make the game fair, they help us know what to do, and they help us make it to the end. Today we are learning about the

promises God made with the Israelites when He gave them the Ten Commandments.

Bible Time

1: You and your children find a comfortable place to settle.

The following video provides an introduction to Moses and the Israelites being in the wilderness, and God giving them the Ten Commandments.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogfVBP35U-U>

Have your children find Exodus 19 in their Bibles. Encourage them to use the contents page to help them learn their way around the Bible.

Either you or one of your children pray for God's Spirit to be at work in our hearts revealing His meaning.

You or your children reads Genesis 19:5-6, and then 20:1-17.

2: After reading the passage ask your children for one thing they found, surprising, or cool, or they were unsure about.

Talk with them about why they found it interesting or help to explain the parts they didn't understand.

3: Discuss the following points with your children.

1. Exodus 19:5-6 are God's blessings in this Covenant

Israel will be God's **treasured possession**, the Israelites were very special to God, they were the people God had chosen to work with. Israel was going to be a **kingdom of priests**. Israel was going to be a **holy nation** – holy means 'set apart for God.'

2. The Israelites had a response to these promises.

We have learnt that in a covenant God promises blessing to His people and people then have a response they need to do. For God to be able to give these special blessings to the Israelite's they needed to keep the rules God gave in the Ten Commandments.

Application

1: Jesus gave us a commandment that we need to follow as well. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And love others as much as you love yourself."

We need to put God as the number one and most important thing in our lives. Help your children come up with a way that they can practice having God as their number one. It is important that we find time to spend with God throughout each day.

Craft

1: The second part of the great commandment in Matthew's Gospel is 'to love others as yourself.'

There are lots of different ways that we can show our love for others. Maybe helping mum and dad clean up our toys. At the end of this document is a colouring page from Illustrated Ministries. Your children can decorate this page and then send it to a family member or friend to let them know you are thinking of them. Alternatively, you can encourage your children to create something for a particular person and send a photo to them. It may be a drawing of your family, a Lego creation, or something special they bake.

The aim of this is to practice showing love to others, loving them just as much as we love ourselves.

2: Go back and play the game you started earlier. This time play with the normal rules. Point out to your children that it was much more fun to play with the rules, than with none.

THINKING OF YOU • COLOR & SHARE

Physical distancing is hard, isn't it? We don't get to see our friends, our grandparents, our extended family. When you miss your friends from school, your church friends, and your work friends, what ways do you let them know you're thinking of them during this challenging COVID-19 time?

One way you can let them know is by using this "Thinking of You" coloring page (adapted from one of our digital greeting cards). Print this sheet and color and cut out the "Thinking of You" coloring page below. Then take a picture of it and text it to a friend, or email it, or share it on social media. Maybe you could send one to a school teacher, or a Sunday School teacher, and let them know you are thinking of them. Or maybe your piano teacher. Or your grandparents, or other significant grown-ups in your life. However you use it, we hope you enjoy bringing some color and hope into someone's day.

