Together @ Home

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the Ten commandments.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Exodus 20

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of the ten commandments which reminds us that you want what is best for us. Help us to recognise when rules are there to keep us safe and protected.

Thank you that you want all of us to be able to live our best lives. Give us patience and compassion as we follow the current guidance. Help us remember that you are with us always.

Thank you for the example of Jesus who lived a life without sin, help us to make wise choices and to live in obedience to you.

Amen.

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think God gave the Israelites rules to follow?

We all have rules and laws that we follow every day, they are there to keep everybody safe and protected. There are lots of extra rules in place at the moment in our schools, shops and workplaces designed to keep ourselves and others safe.

God wanted his people the Israelites to live their best lives just like he had originally planned for them to do before sin came into the world. God's rules were not so that he could control his people but because He knew what was best for them.

A question to answer together

Which of the current rules which we have to live by do you find it hardest to follow? What could make it easier for you to follow the rules?

Family Activity 1

God gave his people the Israelites rules and instructions about how to live their lives. These were commandments designed to protect the Israelites and show them how to live their best lives.

Play a game of Simon Says together and think about how we can follow rules and instructions.

One person is 'Simon', they should give instructions for everybody else to follow but the group should only obey the instructions if they are preceded by the phrase "Simon says".





A verse to remember

Philippians 3 v 9
Now I am right with God, not because I followed the law, but because I believed in Christ.

This verse comes from the book of Philippians which was written to the early church in Philippi by Paul. Paul had an incredible experience where he met Jesus and dedicated his whole life to sharing the Good News about Jesus with others. Before that Paul worked very hard to obey the Jewish law but he realised that the only true way to be right with God was through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

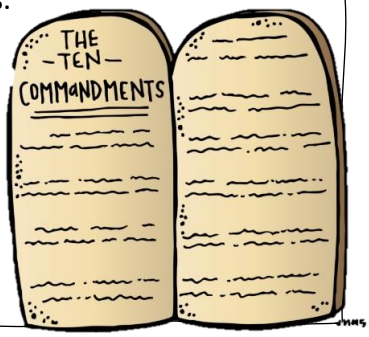
Active Prayer

If you had to write ten rules for everybody in the world to follow what would they be? Perhaps you would make everybody recycle, stop bullying, tell everybody to share?

Spend some time together as a family coming up with your own ten commandments. You might like to write them out on 'stone tablets' (the inside of cereal packets are a great colour card for this!)

Once you have written your commandments turn them into prayers – pray for a world where people demonstrate the values and kindness that are present in your commandments.

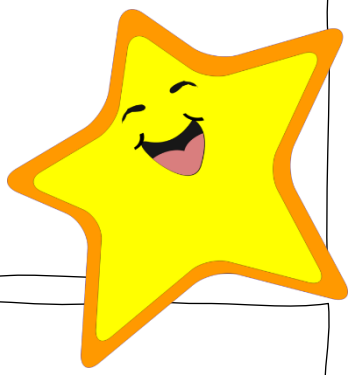
Challenge yourself to live by your commandments this week and use them as a way to share God's love with others.



Family Activity 2

If we have rules in our homes we might use a star chart to record good behaviour. Why not use the star chart on the next page to challenge yourselves this week to demonstrate God's love to others in 10 different ways!

Your family will need to work as a team to complete all the challenges! How many stars can you collect? Colour them in when you complete a challenge!



Helping Older Children

Throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic there have been many ongoing changes to rules and guidance. It can be really hard to adjust to these shifts, to be able to meet with family one week but not the next.

Just like the rules God gave his people these guidelines are there to protect us and to help us protect others. Why not work with your children to rewrite rules they are struggling with as ways that they are sharing God's love.

e.g. I wear a mask on the bus as a sign that I care about the wellbeing of others and because I know God's heart for us is that we wouldn't be sick.

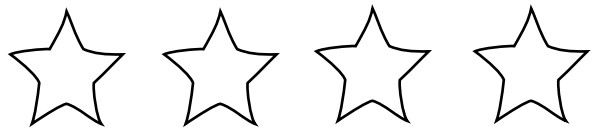
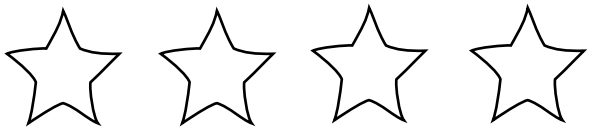
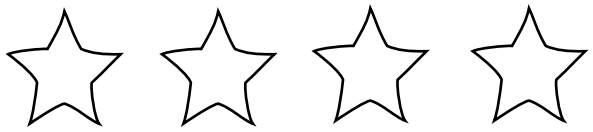
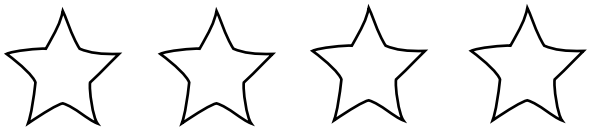
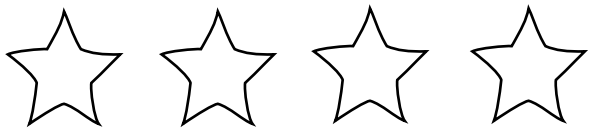
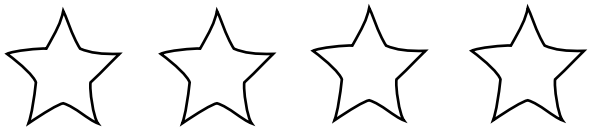
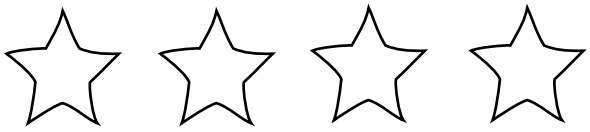
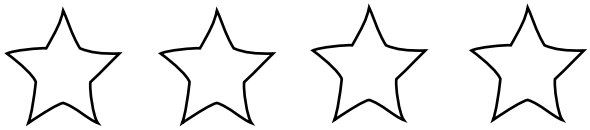
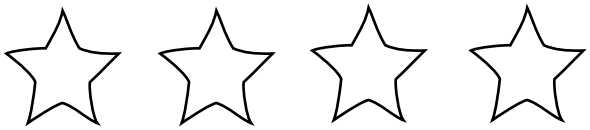
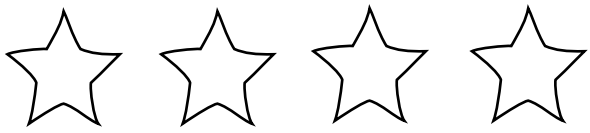
Although the rules and guidance may be changing, God's heart and love never changes. We can see each rule as an opportunity to demonstrate God's love to others.



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Super Star Chart!

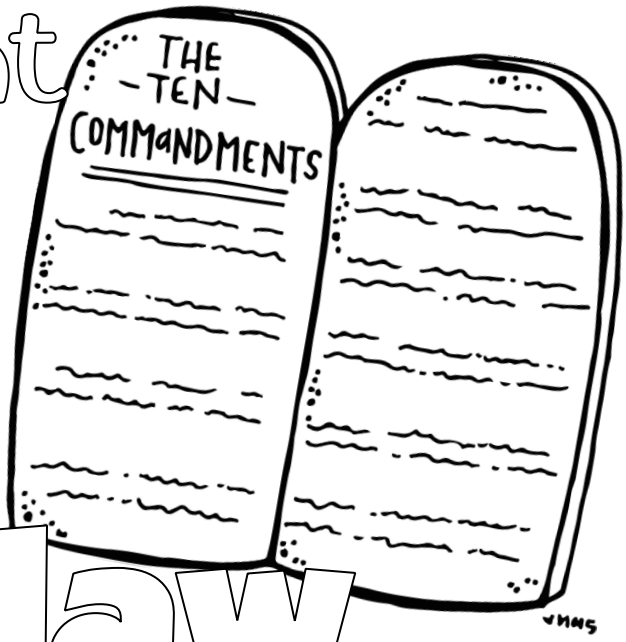
How will your family share God's love this week?

Perform an act of kindness for a friend at school! 	**Share a verse from the Bible with somebody!** 
Tell somebody that God loves them! 	**Perform an act of kindness for another parent!** 
Help a family member with one of their chores! 	**Smile at everybody you see on a journey!** 
Write or draw a message of encouragement for somebody in your family. 	**Ask somebody in your church if you can pray for them.** 
Perform an act of kindness for somebody who lives on your street! 	**Send a message of encouragement to another family!** 

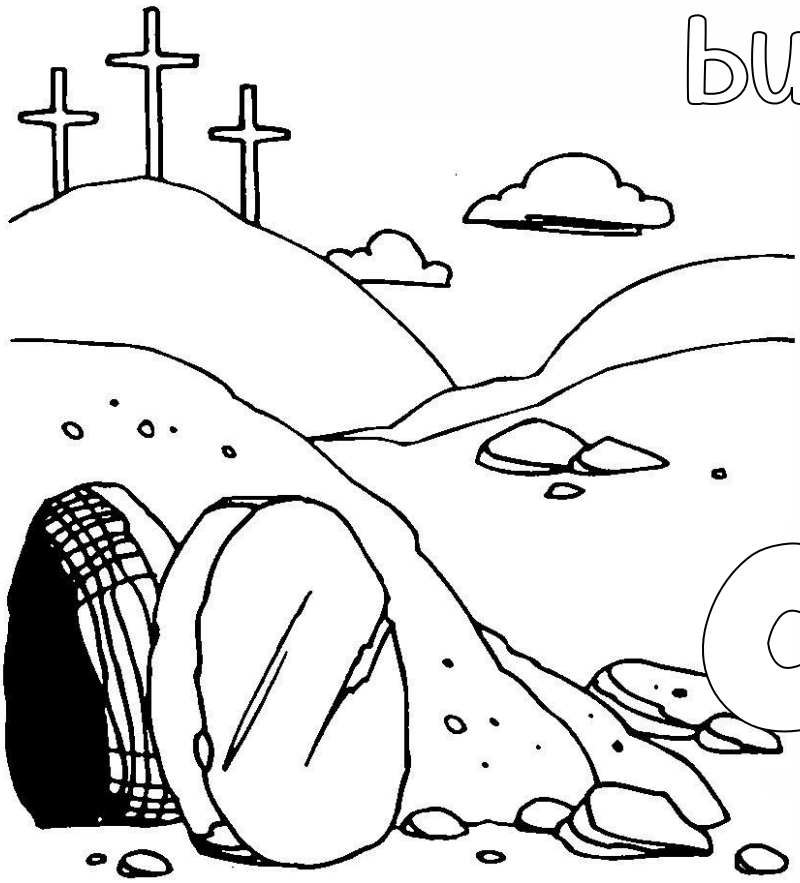
A colouring page you could print and colour together

Philippians 3 v 9

Now I am right with God, not because I followed the law,

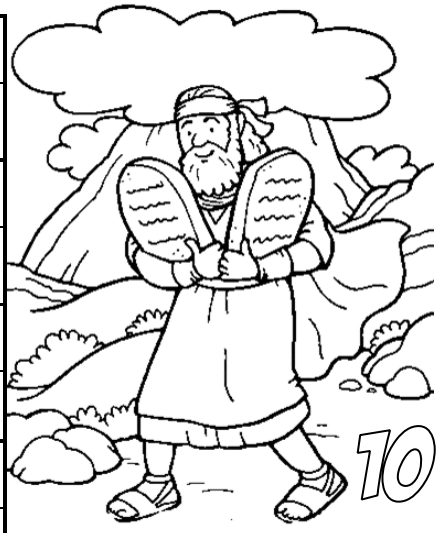


but because I believed in Christ.



PUZZLE SHEET

a	b	c	d	e	f
g	h	i	j	k	l
m	n	o	p	q	r
s	t	u	v	w	x
y	z				



10

Can you find the numbers 1-10 hidden on the page?

7

Can you find your way from one side of the stones to the other?

Can you crack the code to reveal one of the ten commandments?

