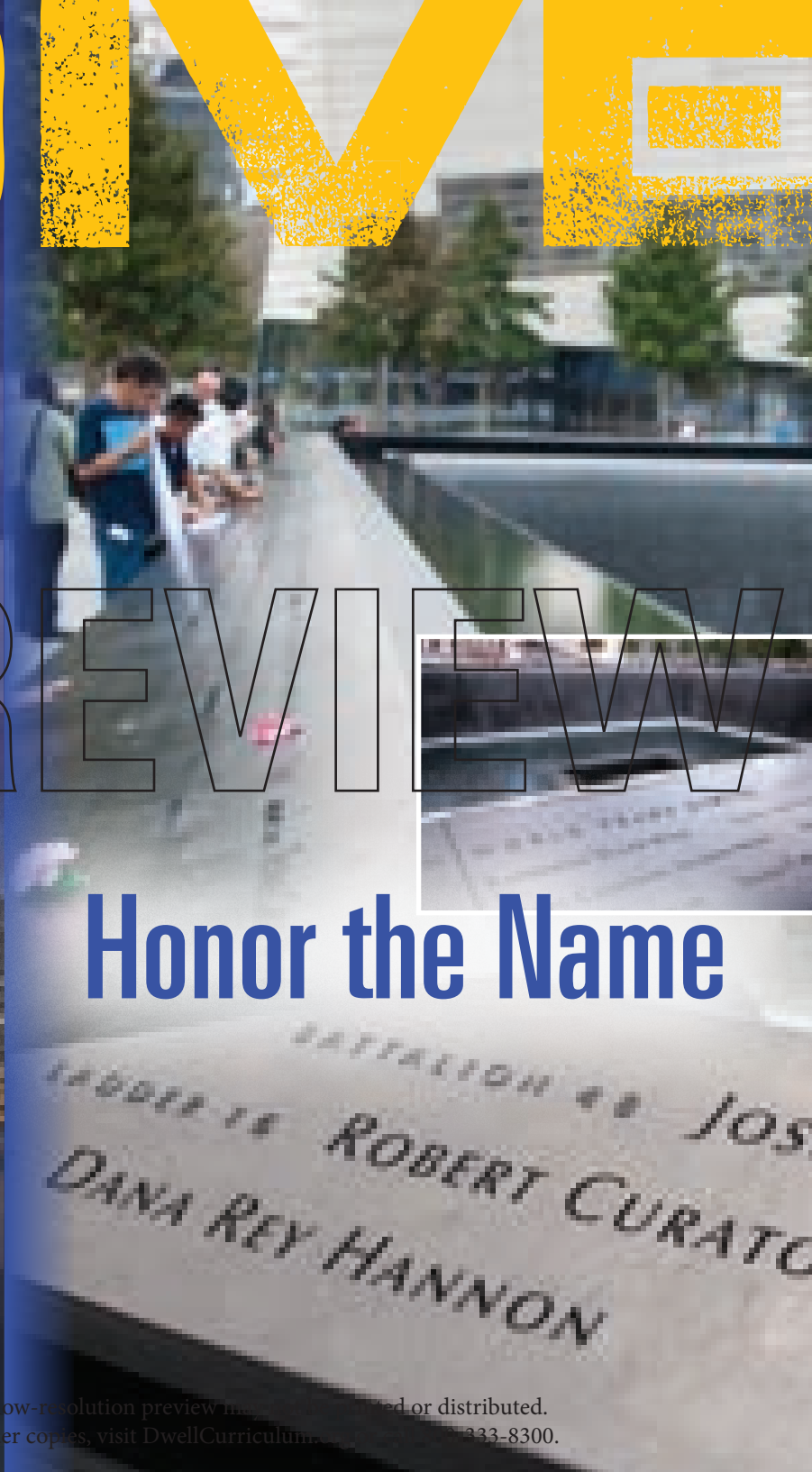


DIVE

The beautiful twin reflecting pools in New York City are inscribed with the names of nearly 3,000 men, women, and children who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and several airline flights on September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993. Families, friends, and visitors come by the millions to touch the stone, find the names of loved ones, weep, pray, and remember.

REVIEW

Honor the Name



Dive

Year 2, Unit 2

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Look Up! Look Around!

PREVIEW

Narrator: As Moses went up to meet God, God called down to him from the mountain,

Voice of God: Speak to the House of Jacob, tell the People of Israel:

“You have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to me. If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you’ll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you’re special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.”

This is what I want you to tell the People of Israel.

Narrator: Moses came back and called the elders of Israel



PREVIEW

together and set before them all these words which God had commanded him.

The people were unanimous in their response:

People of Israel: Everything God says, we will do.

Narrator: Moses took the people's answer back to God.

God said to Moses,

Voice of God: Get ready. I'm about to come to you in a thick cloud so that the people can listen in and trust you completely when I speak with you.

Narrator: Again Moses reported the people's answer to God. God said to Moses,

Voice of God: Go to the people. For the next two days get these people ready to meet the Holy God. Have them scrub their clothes so that on the third day they'll be fully prepared, because

on the third day God will come down on Mount Sinai and make his presence known to all the people. Post boundaries for the people all around, telling them, "Warning! Don't climb the mountain. Don't even touch its edge. Whoever touches the mountain dies—a certain death. And no one is to touch that person, he's to be stoned. That's right—stoned. Or shot with arrows, shot to death. Animal or man, whichever—put to death."

A long blast from the horn will signal that it's safe to climb the mountain.

Narrator: Moses went down the mountain to the people

and prepared them for the holy meeting. They gave their clothes a good scrubbing. Then he addressed the people:

Moses: Be ready in three days. Don't sleep with a woman.

Narrator: On the third day at daybreak, there were loud claps of thunder, flashes of lightning, a thick cloud covering the mountain, and an ear-piercing trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp shuddered in fear.

Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God. They stood at attention at the base of the mountain. Mount Sinai was all smoke because God had come down on it as fire. Smoke poured from it like smoke from a furnace. The whole mountain shuddered in huge spasms. The trumpet blasts grew louder and louder. Moses spoke and God answered in thunder. God descended to the peak of Mount Sinai. God called Moses up to the peak and Moses climbed up. God said to Moses,

Voice of God: Go down. Warn the people not to break through the barricades to get a look at God lest many of them die.

And the priests also, warn them to prepare themselves for the holy meeting, lest God break out against them.

Narrator: Moses said to God,

Moses: But the people can't climb Mount Sinai. You've already warned us well telling us: "Post boundaries around the mountain. Respect the holy mountain."

Narrator: God told him,

Voice of God: Go down and then bring Aaron back up with you. But make sure that the priests and the people don't break through and come up to God, lest he break out against them.

Narrator: So Moses went down to the people. He said to them:

Moses: God spoke all these words:

Voice of God: I am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery. No other gods, only me.

No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unwaveringly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of his name.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on

PREVIEW



the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.

Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.

No murder.
No adultery.
No stealing.

No lies about your neighbor.
No lusting after your neighbor's house—or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's.

Narrator: All the people, experiencing the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the smoking mountain, were afraid—they pulled back and stood at a distance. They said to Moses,

People of Israel: You speak to us and we'll listen, but don't have God speak to us or we'll die.

Narrator: Moses spoke to the people:

Moses: Don't be afraid. God has come to test you and instill a deep and reverent awe within you so that you won't sin.

Narrator: The people kept their distance while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was. God said to Moses,

Voice of God: Give this Message to the People of Israel: "You've experienced firsthand how I spoke with you from Heaven. Don't make gods of silver and gods of gold and then set them alongside me. Make me an earthen Altar. Sacrifice your Whole-Burnt-Offerings, your Peace-Offerings, your sheep, and your cattle on it. Every place where I cause my name to be honored in your worship, I'll be there myself and bless you."

—Exodus 19-20, *The Message*

PREVIEW





What does God's law tell you to do?

God says in his law:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idols; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

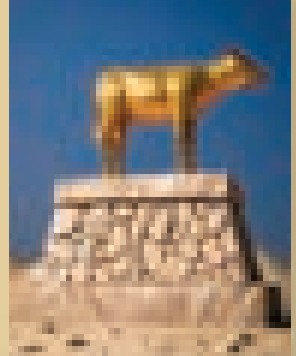
—Q&A 53

How are these commandments divided?

Into two tables, with four commandments in the first, and six in the second. The first table teaches us what our relation to God should be. The second table teaches us how we should treat our neighbors.

—Q&A 54

Is Moses ever coming back? And what are we supposed to do now?



Idols aren't always statues that we bow down to. Sometimes idols start out as good things in our lives, but we give them more importance than they deserve. Spend a few minutes thinking and talking to God about your life.

PREVIEW

The people got impatient waiting for Moses to finish talking with God. Do you ever get impatient with God and turn to something or someone else instead?



Illustrations by Scott Holladay


Q&A

What is God's will for you in the first commandment?

I should trust, love, fear, and honor the one true God with all my heart. I should not trust or worship any person, creature, or thing in place of God.

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—Q&A 55

An illustration depicting the biblical story of the Golden Calf. In the foreground, Aaron, a man with a large dark beard and a green tunic, looks on with a somber expression. Behind him, a group of men in traditional robes are gathered, some with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or protest. The background shows a desert landscape with a camel and other figures in the distance. The overall style is a soft, painterly illustration with a warm, golden-brown color palette.

When the people asked for an idol, Aaron caved. When have you found yourself going along with the group instead of doing what you believe? What can you do to keep that from happening?

PREVIEW

The people gave Aaron all their gold to make an idol. Sometimes money tells us a lot about what we think is important. Sometimes money even becomes an idol, if we think that money can take care of us and provide everything we need. What's wrong with that picture?

Q&A

What is God's will for you in the second commandment?

I should worship God only as the Bible tells me to.

—Q&A 56

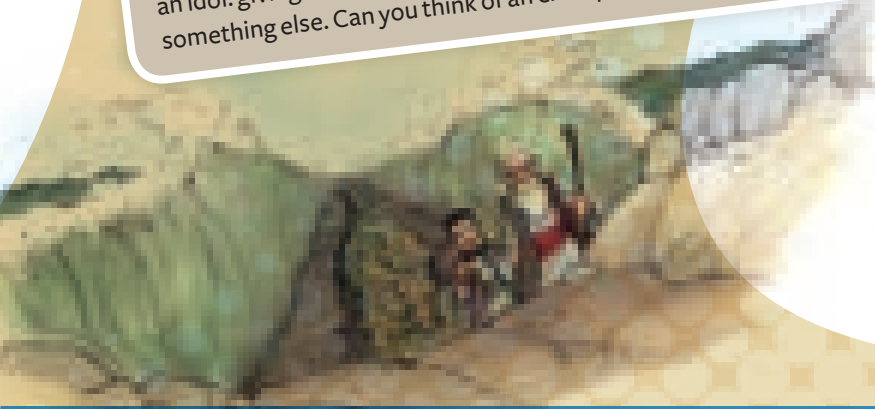
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Aaron declared a festival to the Lord, but mixed it up with worship of the golden calf. What happens when we plan worship to please ourselves instead of pleasing God?

PREVIEW

The people looked at the golden calf and said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you out of Egypt." That's a clear mark of an idol: giving the credit for something that God did to someone or something else. Can you think of an example of that from your life?



The Land of Milk, Honey, and Giants

Based on Numbers 13-14



PREVIEW

Cast:

Narrator
Moses
Explorers (at least two)
People of Israel (at least two)
Giants
Joshua
Caleb

Narrator:

God spoke to Moses, saying, “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each tribe send one of its leaders.” So Moses chose twelve men, one from each tribe. He called them together for final instructions.

(Explorers step forward, gather around Moses.)

Moses:

Go up through the Negev desert and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? How is the soil? Are there trees there? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.

(Explorers salute and then begin exploring the land of Canaan like spies. Giants, get in position in the promised land, ready to look strong and tall.)

Narrator:

The spies Moses sent out spent forty days exploring the land of Canaan, going all the way

to the city of Hebron. What they saw there was frightening—people who were tall and strong living in cities that were well protected—but also amazing: lush, green land with good soil and huge, delicious fruits. They came back carrying a cluster of grapes so heavy, two of them had to rest it on a pole they carried between them!

(Explorers come back carrying fruit. People of Israel, Moses, and Aaron gather around them.)

The people of Israel gathered around the explorers and Moses and Aaron. One of the spies said,

Explorer 1:

We went into the land to explore, and it *does* flow with milk and



PREVIEW

honey! Here is proof, look at this fruit!

Explorer 2:

But if the fruit is impressive, so are the people—they are giants, powerful and strong. And their cities are fortified and very large.

People of Israel:

(Look concerned and upset, begin moaning and murmuring to one another, saying things like, “Oh no!” “Did you hear that?” “Giants!” “What will we do?” “What chance do we stand?”)

Caleb:

People, stop your moaning. Listen! We should go up and take possession of the land God promised us, for we can certainly do it.

Explorer 1:

You saw those people! We can’t attack them—they are stronger than we are.

Explorer 2:

The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people were tall and strong.

Explorer 1:

Compared to them we are puny grasshoppers. They will stomp on us like bugs.

Narrator:

So ten of the explorers spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.

People of Israel:

(More grumbling, fearful words, more whining and worries.)

Narrator:

That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.

(People of Israel make loud crying sounds.)

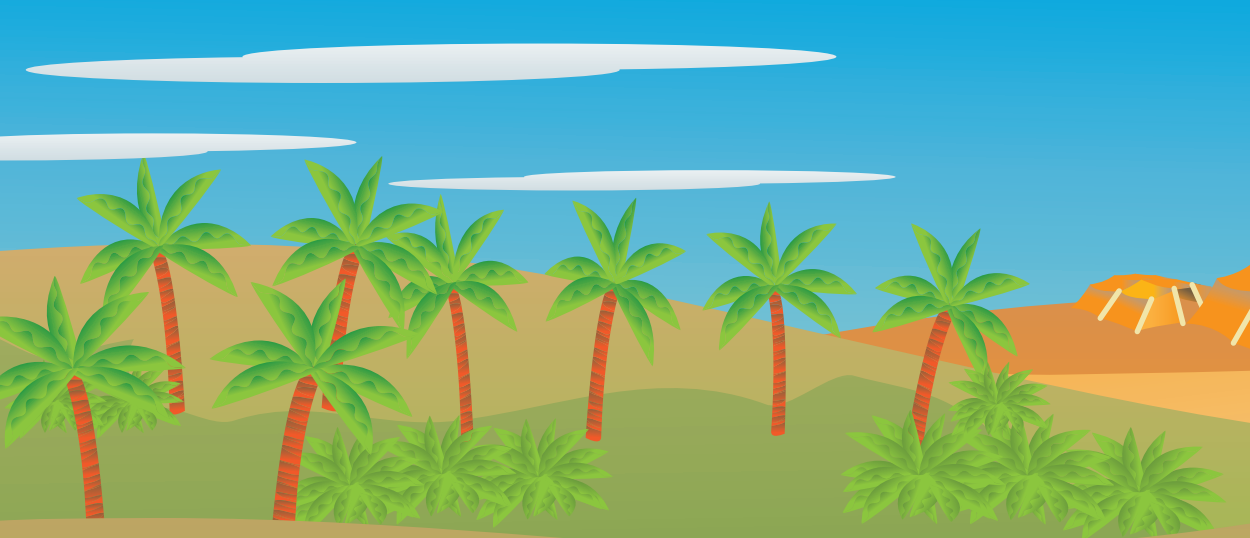
All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

First Person of Israel:

If only we had died in Egypt or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us die by the sword?

Second Person of Israel:

Our wives and children will be taken captive. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt? We should choose a leader and leave right away.



PREVIEW

People of Israel:

(chanting) Back to Egypt! Back to Egypt! Back to Egypt!

Narrator:

Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Then Joshua and Caleb spoke up.

Joshua:

Stop your complaining! The land we explored is excellent. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

Caleb:

Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord

is with us. Do not be afraid of them.

Narrator:

(chanting again) Stone them! Stone them! Stone them!

Narrator:

Suddenly the crowd was silent. The glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites.

(Everyone look up, look startled and in awe.)

Then the Lord said, “Moses? Listen to me! How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous things I have performed among them? I will

strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

(The People of Israel crouch down, looking frightened, but Moses stands up, looking to the sky as he responds.)

Moses:

But Lord, if you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, “The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them; so he killed them all in the desert.”

Lord, you yourself have said you are slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving of sin and rebellion. I know you don’t leave the guilty unpunished, but out of



PREVIEW

your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.

Narrator:

God responded, “I have forgiven them, just as you asked. Nevertheless, not one of those who saw my glory and the miraculous things I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—not one of them will ever see the land I promised.

“Now tell them the word of the Lord: ‘As surely as I live, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: in this desert your bodies will fall. Not one of you will enter the land, except Caleb and Joshua. Your children will be shepherds here for

forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of you dies. Forty years: one year for each of the forty days you explored the land.”

That same day, the ten explorers who had spread fear through the camp by their false reports died of a plague.

(Explorers fall down dead on the ground.)

When Moses reported the Lord’s words to Israel, they wept bitterly.

People of Israel:

(People of Israel are weeping.)

Narrator:

The next day, some of the people went up toward the high hill country.

People of Israel:

(People of Israel appear to put on armor, then move toward Moses, looking sorry.) We have sinned; we should have gone to the promised land and trusted God. Now we are ready to go to Canaan, after all.

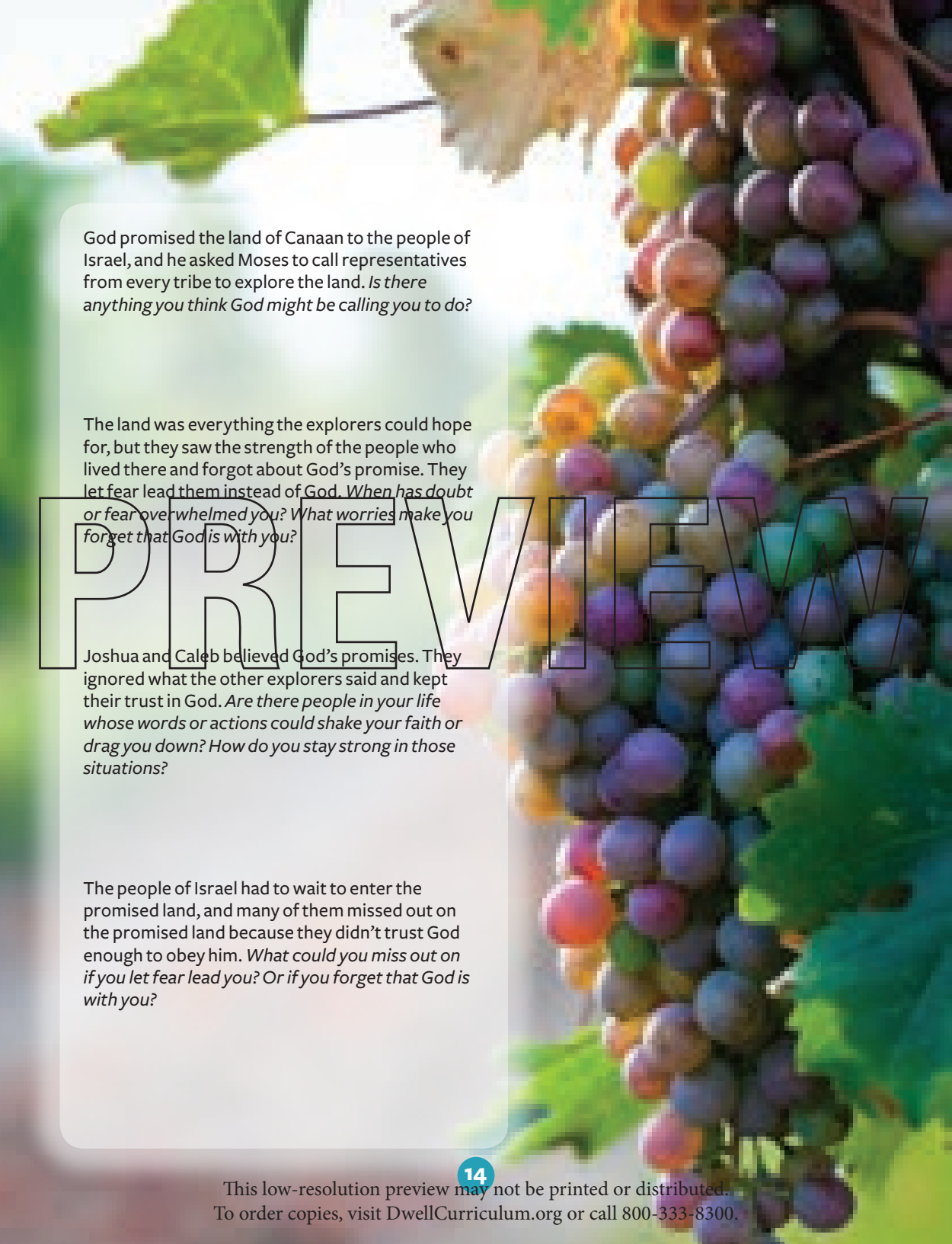
Moses:

Why are you disobeying the Lord’s command? This will not succeed! Do not go up, because the Lord is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies.

(People of Israel pull out their swords and march onward.)

Narrator:

The people did not listen. When they went up into the hills, the people there came down and attacked them and beat them all the way back down.



God promised the land of Canaan to the people of Israel, and he asked Moses to call representatives from every tribe to explore the land. *Is there anything you think God might be calling you to do?*

The land was everything the explorers could hope for, but they saw the strength of the people who lived there and forgot about God's promise. They let fear lead them instead of God. *When has doubt or fear overwhelmed you? What worries make you forget that God is with you?*

Joshua and Caleb believed God's promises. They ignored what the other explorers said and kept their trust in God. *Are there people in your life whose words or actions could shake your faith or drag you down? How do you stay strong in those situations?*

The people of Israel had to wait to enter the promised land, and many of them missed out on the promised land because they didn't trust God enough to obey him. *What could you miss out on if you let fear lead you? Or if you forget that God is with you?*



PREVIEW

Peter proclaims Jesus as Messiah

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others,
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and
blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build
my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

—*Matthew 16:13-18, NIV*

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

—Mark 14:27-31, NIV

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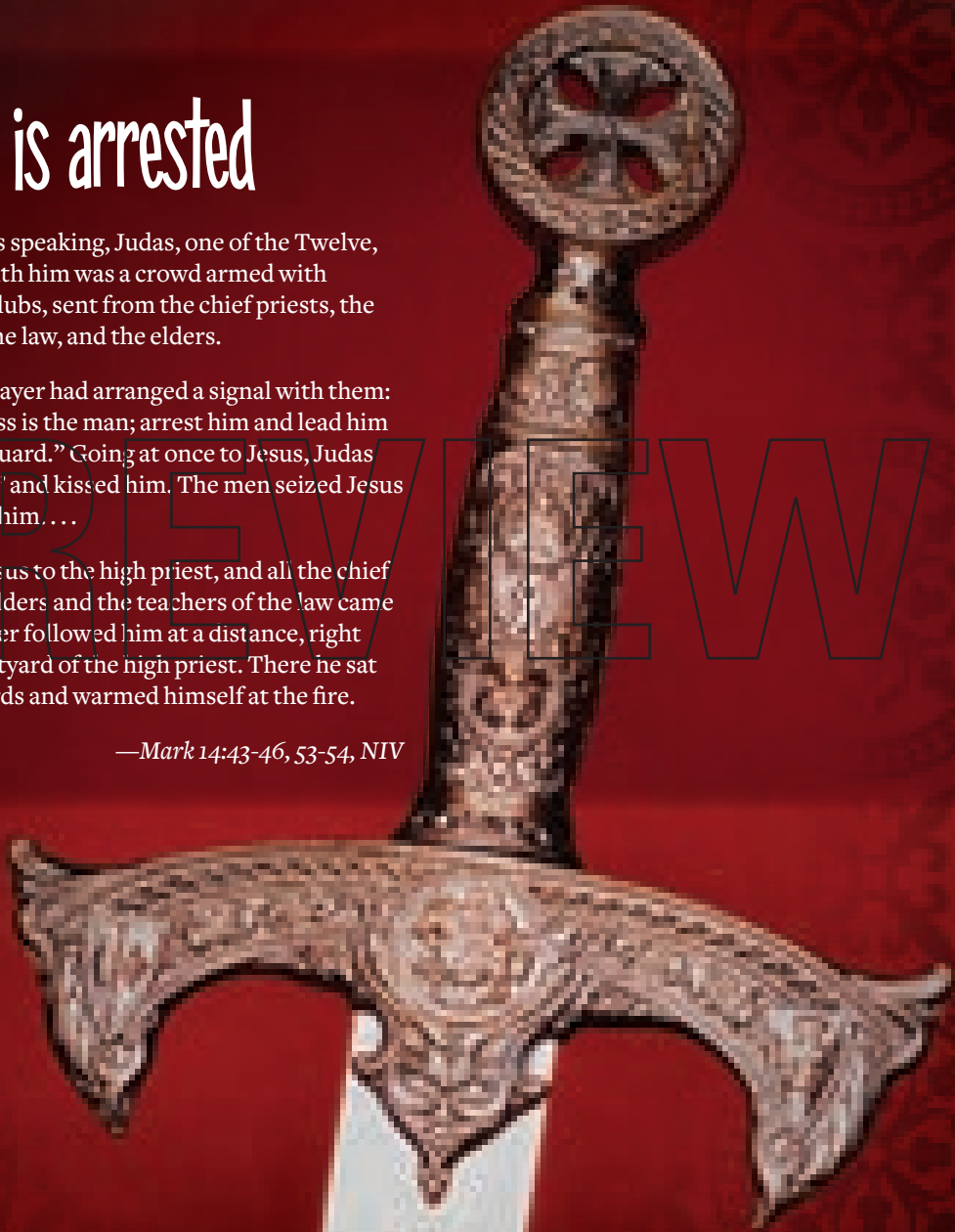
Jesus is arrested

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. . . .

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

—Mark 14:43-46, 53-54, NIV



Peter disowns Jesus

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

—Matthew 14:66-72, NIV

Q&A

What is God’s will for you in the third commandment?

I should never misuse or dishonor God’s name; rather, I should always use it reverently, praising God in everything I say and do.

—Q&A 57

Do you love me?

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. (John 21:7)

Peter didn’t hide from Jesus; instead he jumped out of the boat to meet him. Do you ever find yourself hiding from God when you mess up? What happens when you do?

PREVIEW

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” (John 21:15a)

Jesus didn’t greet Peter with anger; instead he asked him this question three times: “Do you love me?” Why do you think he did that?

Imagine that Jesus is looking at you, asking you that question right now—pause for a moment to answer him.

“Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15b)

Jesus forgave Peter, and showed him that he still trusted him to be his disciple. He feels the same way about you, too. Do you believe that?



In the beginning

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

God spoke: "Light!"
And light appeared.
God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.
God named the light Day,
he named the dark Night.
It was evening, it was morning—

Day One.

God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters;
separate water from water!"
God made sky.
He separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.
And there it was:

he named sky the Heavens;
It was evening, it was morning—

Day Two.

God spoke: "Separate!
Water-beneath-Heaven,
gather into one place;
Land, appear!"
And there it was.
God named the land Earth.
He named the pooled water
Ocean.

God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Earth, green up!
Grow all varieties
of seed-bearing plants,
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."

And there it was.
Earth produced green seed-
bearing plants, all varieties,
And fruit-bearing trees of all
sorts.

God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—

Day Three.

Learning God

God spoke: "Lights! Come out!
Shine in Heaven's sky!
Separate Day from Night.
Mark seasons and days and
years,
Lights in Heaven's sky to give
light to Earth."
And there it was.

D God made two big lights, the
larger to take charge of Day.
The smaller to be in charge of
Night;
and he made the stars.

God placed them in the heavenly
sky to light up Earth
And oversee Day and Night,
to separate light and dark.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—

Day Four.

God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with
fish and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over
Earth!"

God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the
waters,
And every kind and species of
flying birds.
God saw that it was good.
God blessed them: "Prosper!
Reproduce! Fill Ocean!
Birds, reproduce on Earth!"

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Five.

God spoke: "Earth, generate life!
Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild
animals—all kinds."

And there it was:
wild animals of every kind,
Cattle of all kinds, every sort of
reptile and bug.
God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Let us make human
beings in our image, make
them reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the:
fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves
on the face of Earth."

God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God's nature.
He created them male and
female.
God blessed them:
"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill
Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea
and birds in the air,
for every living thing that
moves on the face of Earth."





6

Then God said, "I've given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth

And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes,

I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."

And there it was.

God looked over everything he had made;

it was so good, so very good!

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Six.

God

Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail.

By the seventh day God had finished his work.

On the seventh day he rested from all his work.

God blessed the seventh day.

He made it a Holy Day

Because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

—Genesis 1-2:4, *The Message*

rested

PREVIEW

Read the story you've been assigned from the list below, then discuss the questions.

Mark 2:23-27 | Mark 3:1-6 | Luke 13:10-17

What is surprising in this story?

Why do you think Jesus did what he did?

What differences do you see in the way Jesus views the Sabbath and the way the Pharisees view the Sabbath?

What does this story tell you about God's intentions for the Sabbath?

PREVIEW

Think of a way to share this story and some of the things you've discussed in the questions above with the larger group. You may want to perform it as a skit, make it into a rap or rhyme, draw it comic-book style, create a freeze-frame of a key scene, interview the people involved, or think of some other way to share the story. Creatively present what you think is the heart of the story.

Q&A

What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

I should regularly gather with the church to worship God, hear his word, and celebrate the sacraments. God also calls me to rest from my daily work

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—Q&A 58



Praise in Motion

Group One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

Group Two: Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.

Group One: Let us come before him with thanksgiving

Group Two: And extol him with music and song.

Leader: For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

Group One: Come, let us bow down in worship,

Group Two: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

Leader: For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

What does God's law tell you to do?

God says in his law:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idols; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

—Q&A 53

How are these commandments divided?

Into two tables, with four commandments in the first, and six in the second. The first table teaches us what our relation to God should be. The second table teaches us how we should treat our neighbors.

—Q&A 54

A Shepherd's Love

David had his share of run-ins with wild animals. In this account he used his experience to convince King Saul to allow him to fight the mighty warrior Goliath:

David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

—1 Samuel 17:34-37

Fact #1

Sheep aren't very ferocious. But they are appetizing to mountain lions, wolves, bears, and other predators. Shepherds in David's time used stones and slings to scare off threats in the distance. When wild animals closed in to attack, the shepherd would try to drive them off with a heavy stick or club.



PREVIEW

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"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

—John



Fact #3

Though sticking with the flock and staying close to the shepherd would be the best plan, sheep sometimes wander off and get lost. Shepherds like David used a staff—a long pole with a hook-like bend in the end—to pull stragglers back to safety. Likewise, in the parable of the lost sheep Jesus describes the love of God for each person who has gone astray.

Fact #2

... called himself the good shepherd, and he described the way he'd go to protect his sheep. He also described what can happen to the sheep if they don't have a good shepherd:

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“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

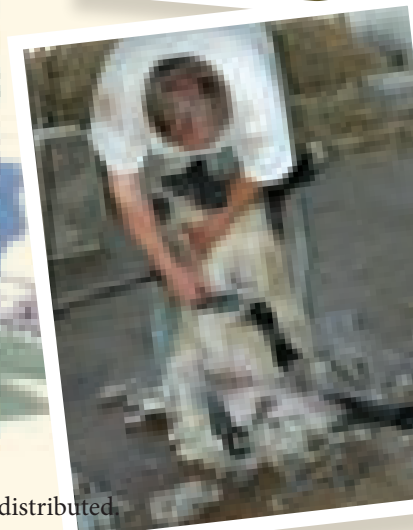
—Luke 15:4-7

Fact #4

Today highly trained dogs help shepherds round up flocks of sheep. Responding to hand signals and whistles from the shepherd, one good dog can easily move a large herd of one hundred sheep or more. The Bible never mentions whether dogs helped David out in the field—he probably would have appreciated the company during the long nights away from home.

Fact #5

David and other shepherds of his time spent most of their time away from home. They wandered over the hills with their flocks, searching for the best grazing land and water. At night the shepherd slept next to the flock, usually beside a flickering campfire.



Fact #6

When the shepherd returned home with his flock, the sheep would spend the night safe inside a stone wall called a “fold.” The shepherd would lie down next to the gate of the fold, to keep away animals that might attack. Even then, there was danger of a different kind:

PREVIEW

“Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

—John 10:1-10

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

PREVIEW

Psalm 23 poetically captures the relationship that David had with God. Consider the questions below, and then create your own version of Psalm 23 with words that describe your relationship with God, what he provides for you, and what he protects you from. Make this a personal prayer; you won't be required to share it with anyone else.

After reading the psalm, how would you describe David's relationship with God?

What in this psalm reminds you of your relationship with God?

The Lord is my ... _____

PREVIEW

Rule Riddle

Find the answer to the equation below and you'll know how many months the people of Israel spent in the desert before God gave them the Ten Commandments.

- The total number of commandments God gave Moses on tablets of stone ____
 - Multiply by the number of the commandment against stealing ____
 - Subtract the number of days in which God says we should do all our work ____
 - Divide by the number of tables we divide the law into ____
 - Add the number of the commandment that says we may not misuse God's name ____
 - Multiply by the number of the commandment that says we may have no other gods before God ____
 - Divide by the number of the commandment that tells us to worship God on the Lord's Day ____
 - Add the number of the commandment that tells us we may not make an idol ____
 - Subtract the number of the commandment that tells us not to lie ____
- CHECK EXODUS 19:1** to see if your final answer is correct.

PREVIEW

16 = 3 = 13

Dive, Year 2, Unit 2

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