

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD...

EXODUS 21–40, LEVITICUS
YEAR TWO | WINTER QUARTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR YOUNG ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

SS02W-E

LESSON SEQUENCE

WINTER QUARTER

The Lesson Sequence gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

LESSON ONE	Exodus 21–23
LESSON TWO	Exodus 24–27
LESSON THREE	Exodus 28–31
LESSON FOUR	Exodus 32:1–33:6
LESSON FIVE	Exodus 33:7–34:55
LESSON SIX	Exodus 35–40
LESSON SEVEN	Leviticus 1:1–5:13
LESSON EIGHT	Leviticus 5:14–7:38
LESSON NINE	Leviticus 8–10
LESSON TEN	Leviticus 11–15
LESSON ELEVEN	Leviticus 16–17
LESSON TWELVE	Leviticus 18–22
LESSON THIRTEEN	Leviticus 23–27

SPRING QUARTER Numbers, Deuteronomy

SUGGESTED
SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Right relationships
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

*The Ten
Commandments I*
5 mins.

W.O.W!

Justice
5 mins.

HISTORICAL
CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE
INVESTIGATION

Exodus 21–23
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Psalms 33:5
2–3 mins.

OVERVIEW

Exodus 21–23 records more of the “Book of the Covenant”—the laws God designed for His covenant people, Israel. Building from the Ten Commandments, these laws deal with the Hebrew slave, personal injuries, protection of property, social responsibility, Sabbath laws, and laws of justice. Essentially, God’s laws instruct His people how to live before Him and with one another. These laws formed the foundation of Israelite living, in order to bring peace and justice to the young nation. Most of all, God’s laws show that He is a God of righteousness and justice, demanding His people be holy as well.

Exodus 23 wraps up this section with God’s promise to send His angel before His people, as a symbol of His ongoing presence. The people were told to obey the angel and not rebel against him. The angel would then drive out their enemies and lead them to the Promised Land. God also warns Israel to stay away from idol worship and from relationships with pagan nations. God’s highest and most essential command is that His people must worship Him alone.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Exodus 21–23. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Many of God’s laws for Israel are too “adult” for children to understand. Yet, these “adult rules” are rooted in simple, basic rules that we teach our children from a very young age: Don’t steal, don’t lie, be fair, don’t hit, don’t be mean, etc. These rudimentary rules are grounded in God’s moral law and His moral character; they are not just made-up social mores and traditions! Therefore, teach your children that the rules they are to follow in all areas of life are rooted in God’s moral law. Teach them that they are to grow up to be people of righteousness and justice. Teach them that they can only exercise true justice if they have a relationship with Christ who justifies them before God. Life is not simply about following the law—yet laws are essential to true living. They point us to our need for Christ!

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *Do you get along with your brothers and sisters? Why is it important to get along with others?* **Allow answers.**

It is very important to God for us to have right relationships with other people. He has set up rules for us to obey so that we will all get along. But, we need a right relationship with Jesus first! He is the one that brings us to the Father and helps us to get along with one another. Think about that when we are studying our lesson a little later on.



DRILL TIME

Next, let's move on to DRILL TIME. This is our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. This week's questions take us back to last week!

Today's questions: *What is another name for the Ten Commandments? What is the first commandment? What is the second commandment? What is the third commandment? What is the fourth commandment?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. The Decalogue.
2. You shall have no other gods before me.
3. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
4. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD.
5. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Good work!

Say: *These are the first four of the Ten Commandments. God gave His law to the people so that they would know that He is a holy God who demands right living from His people. But God had even more laws for Israel. We'll read some of them today.*

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT BY USE OF A TIMELINE.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.



W.O.W!

Make sure the students can see the board.

*Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **JUSTICE**. Write the word on the board. Who can tell me what this word means?*

*This word has several different meanings. For instance, **JUSTICE** is the right way of making laws and enforcing laws. We have a **JUSTICE** system that tries to make people obey the law.*

***JUSTICE** is also the act of simply doing what is right. God is a God of **JUSTICE**. He always does what is right. His laws teach us to do what is right, or to practice **JUSTICE** in all that we do.*

***JUSTICE** also makes sure that people who do wrong get punished. That is the right thing to do as well.*

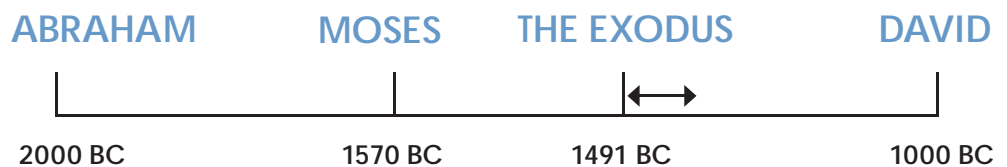
***JUSTICE** is needed for us to have right relationships with one another. The problem is that we are sinners and only God truly practices perfect **JUSTICE**. Listen for our W.O.W! today.*



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Introduce this timeline to the students so they can see how the stories fit in historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Use flannelgraph figures or pictures as visual aids.

Introduction: *We begin this quarter right where we left off last quarter—with Moses teaching the Israelites God's laws. Moses taught them the Ten Commandments. But there are also many other laws which apply the Ten Commandments to life.*

*Let's begin reading. **Read Exodus 21:1-3.***

¹“Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. ²When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. ³If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him.

Discussion: *This first set of laws is all about slaves. We don't have slaves today, but back then they had slaves. God commanded Israel to treat their slaves fairly. Every seven years, slaves were to be set free! This was much better than in other countries.*

*Let's read more of God's laws. **Read verses 12-15.***

¹²“Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. ¹³But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. ¹⁴But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die. ¹⁵“Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Discussion: *These next laws are laws about what happens to you if you injure or kill another person. What did the Ten Commandments say about killing another person? [You shall not kill another person!] These laws give more details. If you killed someone on purpose in Israel, you also would be put to death. If you attacked your parents, you would also have to die!*

Application: *God demands that we treat each other right! God commands us not to hurt one another. Why? Because we are all made in God's image.*

*Let's read some more of God's laws. **Read Exodus 22:1-4.***

¹“If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. ²If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no



THE GREY SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR.

bloodguilt for him, ³but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. ⁴If the stolen beast is found alive in his possession, whether it is an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double.

Discussion: *What are these laws about? [Stealing.] God tells us that we are not to steal. According to His laws given to Israel, there were consequences for stealing other people's things. The main consequence was that you had to pay back the person double or even several times the amount you stole!*

Application: *Remember these laws the next time you are tempted to steal. God commands that we respect other people's things. If we steal, we will have to pay it back, and then some!*

*Let's read more laws. **Read verses 20-27.***

²⁰“Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the LORD alone, shall be devoted to destruction. ²¹“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²²You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. ²³If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, ²⁴and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. ²⁵“If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. ²⁶If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, ²⁷for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

Discussion: *These are a lot of different sorts of laws, aren't they? They show us again that God is serious about the way we treat Him and other people. We are to love God first and love others too.*

*Let's read more laws in Exodus 23. **Read verses 1-3, 6-9.***

¹“You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. ²You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, ³nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit. ⁶“You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit. ⁷Keep far from a false charge, and do



APPLICATION POINTS ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF THE DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN BEING LEFT TO THE END OF THE LESSON.

not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked. ⁸And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. ⁹“You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Discussion: *Did you hear our Word of the Week? These laws are all about JUSTICE. The Israelites were to make sure that JUSTICE was done for all people—even the poor and the outsiders.*

Application: *God wants us to be people of JUSTICE too. We should work hard to make sure people are treated fairly. Do you treat your brothers and sisters right? Why not? **Allow sharing.***

*Let’s continue. **Read verse 12.***

¹²“Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

Discussion: *Does that law sound familiar? It’s also one of the Ten Commandments. God’s people are to work only six days out of seven so that they—and everyone else—can rest.*

Summary: *God also commands the people to celebrate three yearly festivals before the LORD. We will read about them in a few weeks. Now, after giving these laws to His people, God tells them some amazing things.*

*Let’s read them. **Read verses 20-23.***

²⁰“Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ²¹Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. ²²“But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³“When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out,

Discussion: *Did you hear that? What is God sending before His people as they go toward the Promised Land? [An angel.] How are God’s people to treat this angel? [They are to obey him.] If they obey*



the angel—and all of God’s laws—what will God’s angel do? [Bring them into the Promised Land; destroy their enemies.] Wow! God is certainly looking out for His people.

Application: *Boys and girls, we have someone who leads us today and brings us to God. Who is that? [Jesus.] Yes, Jesus has prepared the way so we can go to the Father. He has defeated our enemies and He has opened the door to a right relationship with God. Isn’t that great news? He is our angel, our Savior and our LORD.*

Let’s continue. Read verses 24-26.

²⁴you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces. ²⁵You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. ²⁶None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

Discussion: *Now God finishes this chapter making clear His most important law—that His people ALWAYS worship Him alone. God’s people must NEVER bow down to other gods or idols. Then, they will enjoy God’s blessing of life.*

Application: *The same is true for God’s people today. God demands that we worship Him alone. We are not to worship anything or anyone else. Unfortunately, our hearts want to serve other gods. We need Jesus to change our hearts!*

Let’s finish our reading for today. Read verses 31-33.

³¹And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. ³²You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. ³³They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

Discussion: *Who will give the Israelites the Promised Land? [God.] Who will drive out all their enemies? [God.] Who made a covenant of grace with His people? [God.] And God also tells His people not to enter a covenant relationship with any other foreign people.*



Conclusion: *Will God’s people obey all of God’s commands? Will they stand for JUSTICE? Or, will they begin to worship other gods and idols? We will find out as we study more of God’s Word.*

The question for you and me is the same: Will we follow the LORD or will we serve other gods? The only way we can follow God and His Word is in a relationship with Jesus Christ. We need His Spirit to bring us into right relationships with God and other people!

We will continue in the Book of Exodus next time.



LESSON-AT-HOME

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 33:5) together.

Psalm 33:5 (ESV)

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

Say: *There’s our Word of the Week again! God loves JUSTICE, as we learned today in our lesson. His JUSTICE demonstrates that He loves His people. We too are to love righteousness and JUSTICE. This shows our love for God!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.