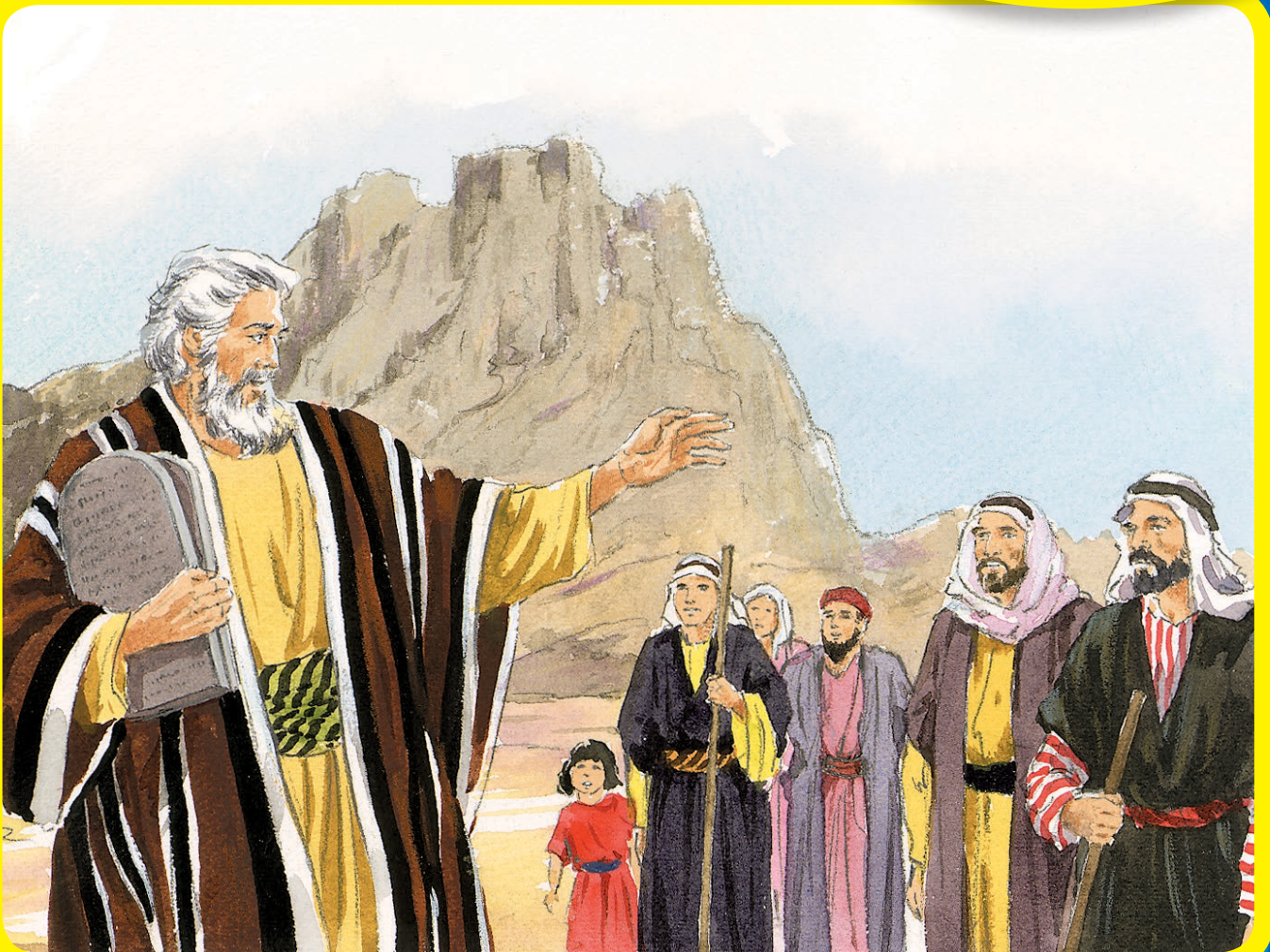


# God Gives Us Rules

Bible Story based on Exodus 19:1—20:17



**T**he Israelites camped by Mount Sinai. God told Moses to climb the mountain. God gave Moses rules for all God's people. The first rule is to love God. This means we must love God more than anything else. Another rule is to worship God. We are to keep one day each week to show our love for God. The next rule is to honor your father and mother. This means we must listen to and obey our parents. God

wants us to be polite and respectful toward our moms and dads. Two rules are short: do not steal; do not lie. It is wrong to take things that belong to others. We must always tell the truth.

God wrote the 10 most important rules on stone tablets. The rules have also been written in the Bible for us to read.

People are always happiest when they obey God's rules.



# Rules of the Game

On Saturday afternoon, Isaac and Caleb lay on the floor of the living room playing their favorite board game. "Three, four, five." Isaac counted as he moved his game piece and landed in the mud pit.



Caleb rolled, counted out three, and picked up a treasure card. Isaac rolled again and moved ahead two.

"Isaac, that's not how you play!" shouted Caleb. "You landed on the mud pit. Now you have to be stuck until you get a six. You only got a two."

"It's too hard that way. I'll never get a six. You are already winning. It doesn't matter. I'm changing the rules," said Isaac.

"You can't change the rules," Caleb said.

"You change the rules all the time. How come I can't do it?" Isaac asked.

"I do not!" Caleb argued.





Dad heard the boys arguing and walked into the room. "Boys, what's going on in here?" he asked. "Isaac is trying to cheat so he doesn't have to stay in the mud pit." Caleb said with a grumpy face. "No I didn't! The rules are too hard and Caleb is going to win. He changes rules all the time," Isaac yelled.

Dad sat down next to the boys and said, "We all like to change the rules, especially when it will help us. But God gives us rules for a reason. Rules keep us safe and help us get along with others."



Caleb looked at Isaac and asked, "Are you ready to play fair?" "Yes, it's more fun when we get along," answered Isaac.

## Talk Time

**LESSON FOCUS:**  
*God gives us rules.*

- Talk together about the rules God gave the Israelites in the Bible story. Share with your child why God gave us rules. Isaac had trouble following rules when he and Caleb played a game.
- Which of God's rules did Isaac have trouble obeying? Talk about the rules you and your child have trouble obeying. How can you help each other obey God's rules?

What is your favorite game?





# Family Rules

Get together as a family and decide on some important rules to follow. Start by brainstorming the rules everyone thinks your family should have. Write them down to keep track of the ideas. After you have come up with as many rules as you can think of, decide which rules should stay, which rules can be combined, and which rules should go. The adults have the final say on the rules, but involve everyone as much as possible.



## Memory Verse

The LORD will indeed  
give what is good.  
Psalm 85:12

When you have your final list, make a family rules poster. Be as creative as you want. Hang the rules poster where you can see it.



A rule in my family is to look both ways before crossing a leaf.

## The Johnson Family Rules

1. Be kind to each other.
2. Take turns talking.
3. Finish homework before playing or watching TV.