

God Calls Moses



1

Before you begin, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

2

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

3

Getting started. Discuss together: What special gift (talent or strength) do you most appreciate having? What gift (talent or strength) would you most like to receive? Why?

God calls Moses to lead the Chosen People to freedom. Moses is hesitant. He tells God that he is a slow speaker. He does not have the skills to convince the Pharaoh to free thousands of slaves. He is certain that the elders of the Hebrew people will never accept him as their leader. God tells him to go, to trust that he will receive whatever he needs to lead the people to the Promised Land.

And that is just what happens. With God's help, Moses not only leads the Chosen People out of Egypt; he also continues to lead them until they reach the border of the Promised Land forty years later.

One of the gifts Moses receives from God is the Ten Commandments. No nation can survive without a code of law. These ten simple rules are the guidelines of behavior that define the Chosen People as a distinct nation, as God's own.

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.



A long, long, long time ago, there lived a man named Moses. Moses lived in Egypt. He was a Hebrew, but he was not a slave like the other Hebrews. Moses was separated from his people when he was a baby. The king's daughter adopted him, and he was taken to the king's palace to live.

When Moses grew up he was lonely. He felt like he did not belong. Moses decided to leave the palace and find his own people. When Moses saw how badly they were treated, he felt very sorry for them.

Moses did not go back to the palace. Instead, he went to the country and helped to watch over some sheep.

One day Moses took the sheep to a far-off place. While he was there he saw something very strange. He saw a bush that was burning and burning, but it did not burn up. "I must go and see this strange sight," Moses said.

When he got closer, he heard a voice call out his name. "Moses, Moses!" the voice said. "Here I am," said Moses. "Come no nearer," said the voice. "Take off your shoes, Moses. This is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Isaac, the God of Abraham," the voice said. Moses covered his face. He was afraid to look at God.

God said, "I have seen how badly my people are being treated. I hear their prayers to me. I am going to rescue



them. I will give them their own land where they can live and be free. You are going to help me, Moses. You are going to lead my people. And when they are free, you will come back to this mountain and pray to me.” Then God said, “I want you to go to the king and tell him to let my people go. You will lead them to freedom.”

Moses told God that he did not think he could help. “I am a slow speaker. I can never think of the right things to say. I will never be able to talk to the king.” God told Moses not to worry. He would find the words. God would be with him to make him strong and smart.

Before he left, Moses asked God what he should tell the people if they asked who had sent him. God said to Moses, “Tell them ‘I AM’ has sent me.” In Hebrew, the word Yahweh means “I AM.”

God also gave Moses special powers to convince the Hebrew people to follow him. With these powers and his strong words, Moses was able to talk the king into letting the people go. The young man who did not feel like he belonged had found his people and had become their leader.

Once the people had left Egypt, the king changed his mind. He sent his soldiers to catch the Hebrews and bring them back. The people came to a large sea. They did not know how they were going to cross it. They saw the soldiers coming. They thought they were trapped. Then something wonderful happened. God separated the water so they could cross. When they were on the other side, the soldiers followed, but the water came together again. The soldiers were stuck, and the Chosen People went free.

Moses remembered what God had said. He took the people to the holy mountain where he had seen the burning bush.



When they got there, Moses climbed to the top. God spoke to Moses again. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These were the rules for the Chosen People.

The Chosen People walked for forty years before they settled in the Promised Land. Moses and the people had many great adventures on the way. Once when they had nothing to eat, God sent manna for them to eat. It tasted sweet. The people called it “bread from heaven.”

God spoke to Moses many times, but Moses never forgot the first time God had spoken to him. Moses said yes to God, and God gave Moses what he needed to get the job done. And God speaks to us the same way today. *“You belong to me. When you walk with me, I will give you everything you need.”*

1

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the story?
2. What special gifts did God give Moses to help him lead the Chosen People?
3. What do you think would be the most difficult thing about walking through the desert for forty years?

2

Get your child started on the activity on the next page (the answer is on page 8). Then continue to read #3 below.

3

Just for you: God has given each of us special gifts.

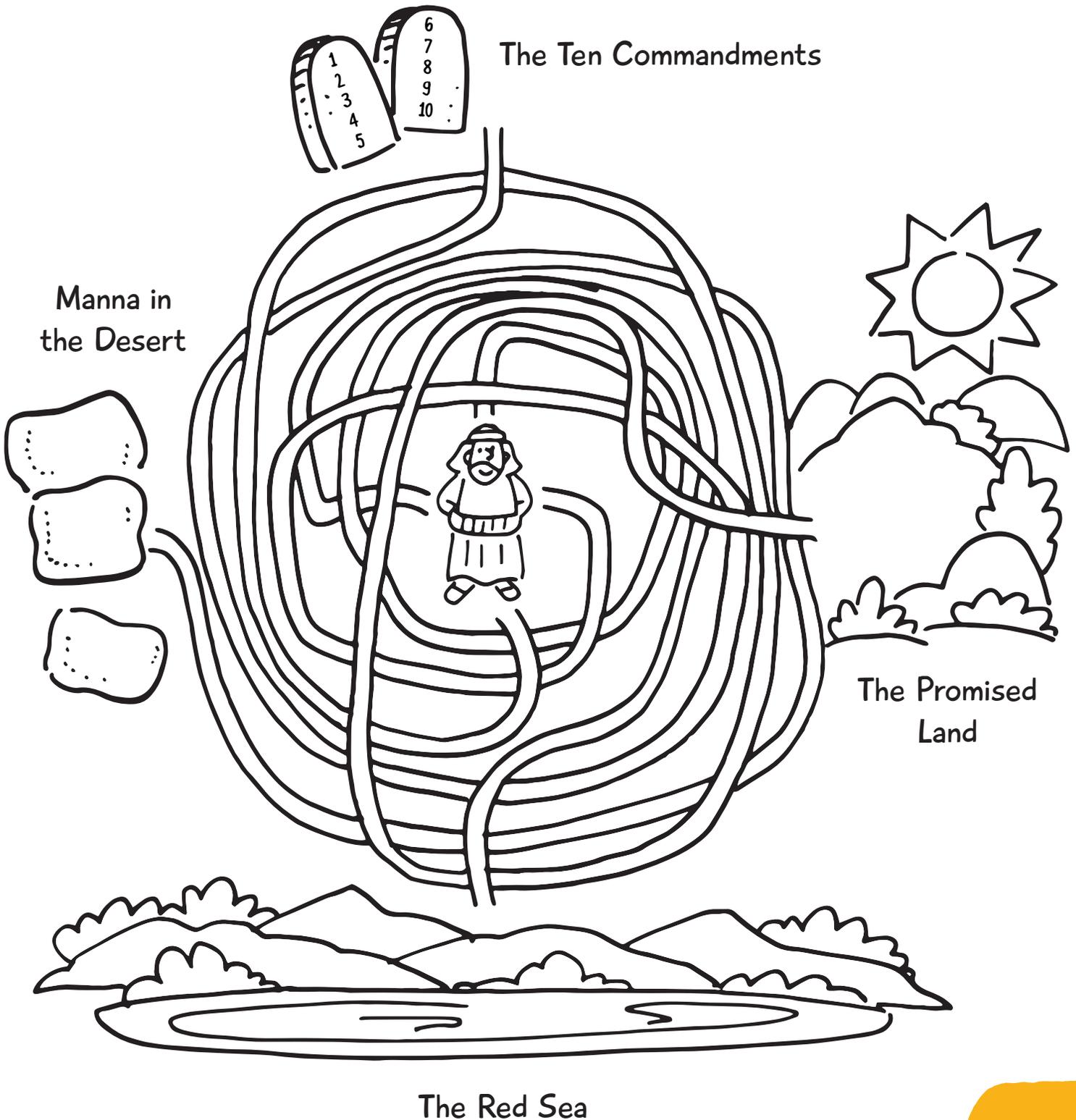
When we answer God’s call, God will see to it that we receive whatever we need. God offers each of us different gifts. Some gifts are tangible, such as a good speaking voice or a talent for running. God also offers other gifts like courage, patience and wisdom. Finally, God has given the community of faithful a code by which to live: the Ten Commandments.

Help your youngster recognize and appreciate the gifts we have been given. Also help them to name the gifts they would like to ask God to give them. Finally, help them to see the Ten Commandments as a gift to the world. If everyone were to follow this code of living, the world would be a place of peace and harmony.

To the Promised Land

Help Moses to follow the different paths he took on his way to the Promised Land.

Choose a different colored marker or crayon to trace each path.



Special Gifts

1

God gave Moses the gifts he needed to accomplish what was asked of him. God will provide for us in the same way.

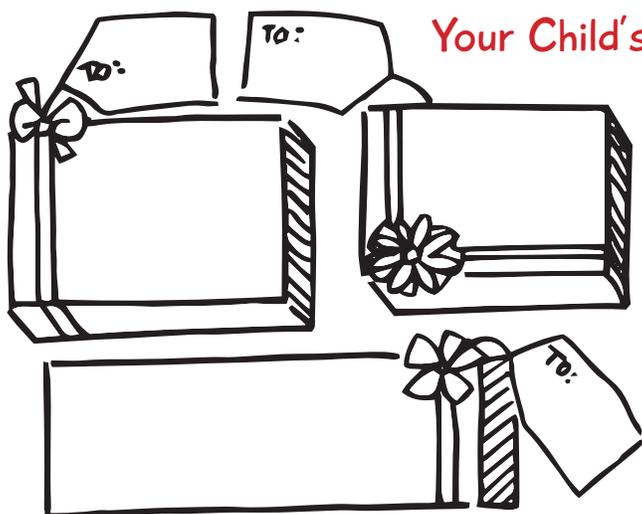
Help your child get started on their activity on the next page, and then continue to the next step.

2

Write your child's name on at least two of the tags attached to the boxes below and to the left. Inside each box write down a gift that the child has been blessed with, such as a talent, a strength, or a quality. You may draw in additional packages if needed.

3

The packages without tags below and to the right are yours. Write in what "gifts" you feel you have received.



Your Child's Gifts



Your Gifts

4

In the large package to the right, write down one gift you would like to receive to help you be who you feel God is calling you to be.

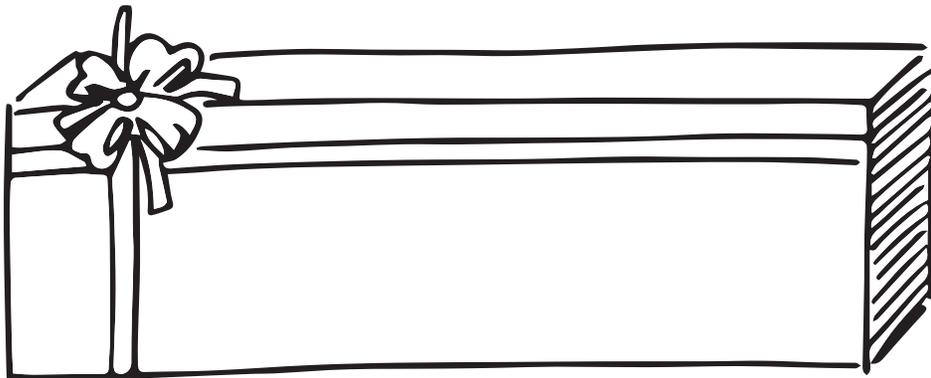
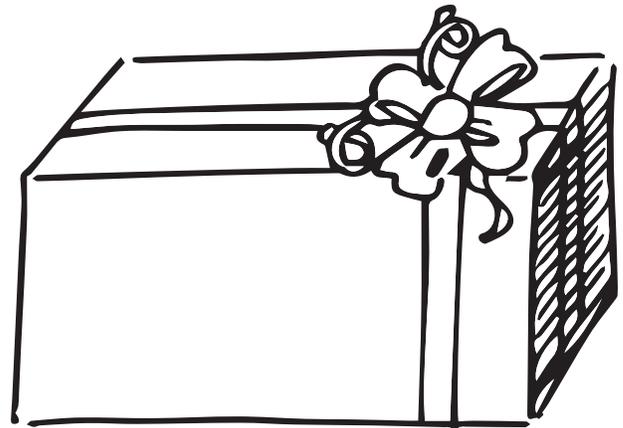
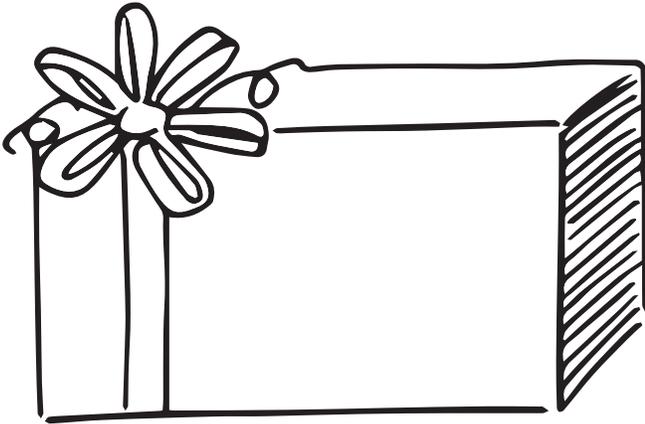
When you and your child are done, share about what you have each written.



Special Gifts

God gave everyone special gifts. These gifts are called qualities or talents. What are some of the gifts God has given you? You may have a talent for drawing or for giving great hugs. Or you may have a special quality like being cheerful.

In each of the boxes below write down one of the gifts God has given you. You may draw more boxes if you need them. Think about the grown-up next to you. On the lines below write down some of his or her special gifts. If you are meeting with a brother or sister or other children, write down some of their special gifts.



Commandments

1

Spend some time going over the Ten Commandments on the right.

Draw up some “commandments” that would help your household or community live comfortably and peacefully together.

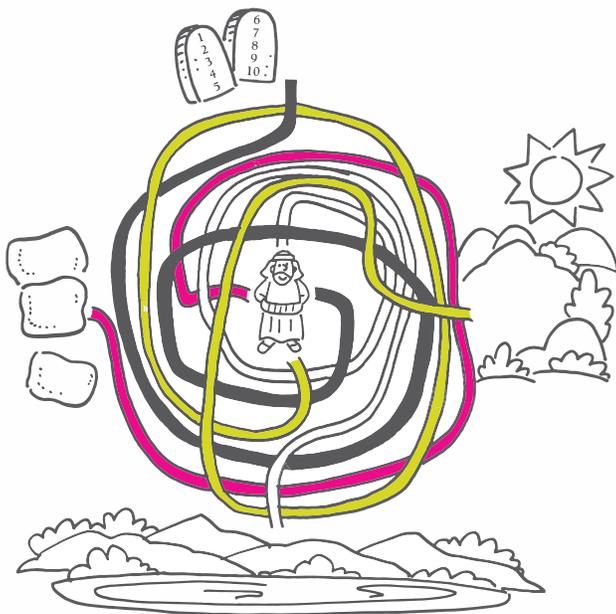
The Ten Commandments given to Moses in the desert are listed in Exodus 20:2-17 (and again in Deuteronomy 5:6-21). These rules, guidelines for living together, are as valuable today as they were many centuries ago. We Christians still rely on them as the basis of moral life.

The first three deal directly with our relationship with God. The last seven deal with us in community. They challenge us to live in ways that are healthy and loving.

In simple language, they are:

1. I am the LORD, your God. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep the LORD’s Day holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not lie.
9. You shall not want someone else’s spouse.
10. You shall not want what others have.

Answer to activity on page 5



Closing Ritual

2

Make the Sign of the Cross. Read Exodus 3:4-8a from your Bible. Ask your child to thank God for at least one gift they have been given. Then you can take a turn thanking God for one of your gifts. Finally, ask if there is anything your child would like to ask God for.

