

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 19

The Blood of the Covenant and the Tabernacle

Themes:

- God's commandments described how Israel was to live as the delivered people of God.
- God's commandments showed the Israelites that they were sinners and deserved death.
- God sealed the covenant with blood, showing Israel its dependence on His mercy and forgiveness.
- God desires to dwell in the midst of His people.

Scripture:

Portions of Exodus 24:6-8; 25:8-9

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:12c (and review verses 3-12b)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - ANIMALS 1-16.
 - ATTENDANCE SHEET.
 - INSTRUCTION CARD.
 - GOD—MAN visual (from previous lessons).
 - BLOOD OF THE COVENANT—Color this visual red.
 - PASSOVER DOORWAY (from Lesson 15).
 - SPEED LIMIT 55 MPH and TEN COMMANDMENTS—Glue these signs back to back, and then use Post-It® Notes to cover the words "TEN COMMANDMENTS."
 - TICKET.
 - GOD'S MERCY/GOD'S JUDGMENT (from previous lessons).
 - CLUE.
 - TABERNACLE FLOOR PLAN.
 - Bible Clue Card #22 and #23.
 - JESUS IS THE KEY visual (from previous lessons).
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue cards).
- Pencil.

- Tooth paste—Choose a brand that has the ADA seal clearly printed on it.
- Dirty garbage lid (from Lesson 18) and red cloth large enough to cover lid.

Pre-Class Preparation:

Hide **ANIMALS 1-16** throughout the room. Place **BLOOD OF THE COVENANT** in your Bible.

Lesson

Display Bible Clue Card #22 from the previous lesson. Remind the children that no new clue was revealed on our poster from this card. However, it did have a clue that will help us with today's lesson. What was the clue? [To look for a seal.]

Activity: Tell the children there is a picture of a seal hidden in the room. You will give the signal to begin and then the children will have exactly one minute to find it. Give the signal to begin. If the children find the picture of the seal (the animal) before the minute is up, tell them that this is not the seal you are looking for, and have them continue looking until the time is up.

Display the picture of the seal and ask: *How many of you think that this is a picture of a seal? But this is not the right kind of seal for our clue. Does anyone know of a different kind of seal?*

Illustration: Have three children come up to the front. Tell each child you have something for him to do. **Display ATTENDANCE SHEET**. Hand the first child a pencil and tell him to write his name on one of the blank lines. While the first child is doing this, hand the second child the toothpaste. Tell the child that on the tube he will find a box with the letters "ADA" within it. As he is looking for this, give the third child the **INSTRUCTION CARD** to read to himself. Return to the first child after he has finished his writing his name and **display** the **ATTENDANCE SHEET** and ask:

What did (child) do in order to make this attendance sheet "official," saying, "Yes, I am here"? [He signed his name.] His signature is a type of seal.

(To the child with the toothpaste): What is written within the box? [ADA Accepted. American Dental Association.] That box is a type of seal. It says that a group of dentists approve of this toothpaste.

(To the child with the instruction card): Suppose [child's name] and I are making a deal. I am going to trade him my baseball bat for his football. After we agree to the trade, we do this (shake hands). Shaking hands is a type of seal, making the deal official.

Emphasize that a seal (**display** the picture of the animal) is not just a word for an animal. It also is a word that means to make something official by using a signature, a special stamp, or even a handshake. Why are we talking about seals?

*In previous lessons we learned about God's covenant or special agreement with Israel. (Point to the second **COVENANT** on the **GOD—MAN** visual.) Does this agreement need a seal also? Something to make it official?*

Point out that hidden in the room there is a picture of another kind of seal—a seal that made God's covenant with Israel official.

Would it be God's signature? A handshake? A stamp with words in it?

Display Bible Clue Card #23. Choose a child to come and insert the card under the red paper in the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

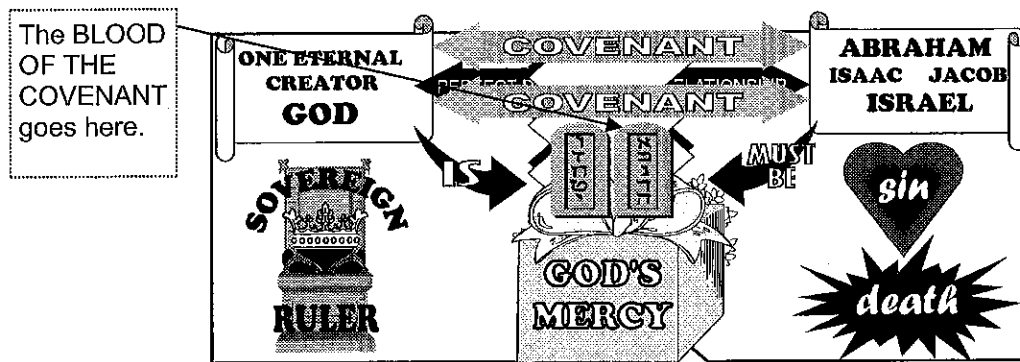
*Scripture: Exodus 24:6-8
Clue under Window # 24*

Have the children turn to **Exodus 24:6-8**. Explain that after God spoke to Moses on the mountain, Moses returned to tell the people about all that God had said to him. These laws and commands (which included the Ten Commandments) were first written down in something called the "Book of the Covenant." These verses tell what God instructed Moses to do next in order to make the covenant official:

And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

According to these verses, what was the seal that now made the covenant "official"? [Allow the children to respond. Then open Window #24 to reveal:
THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT.]

Remove the **BLOOD OF THE COVENANT** sign from your Bible. Explain that this was the real "seal" you wanted them to find in the class today. Tape it on the **GOD—MAN** visual so that the top of the picture touches the second **COVENANT** and the rest of it covers part of the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**.



Why would God choose blood to seal His covenant with Israel?

Point to the **GOD'S MERCY** box on the **GOD—MAN** visual. What is the purpose of the picture of the animal skin?

Remember when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's voice and didn't keep His command? What did God say was the right punishment for their sin? [Death.] Did God kill Adam and Eve right away? How did God show mercy to them? [He covered them with animal skins.] What did God want them to understand? [Something must die in order for their sin to be covered and forgiven.] What does this have to do with Israel and God's covenant with them?

Illustration: Choose two children to come up to the front. Give one child the **SPEED LIMIT 55 MPH** to hold. Give the other child the **TICKET** and a pencil. Have the children pretend that you are driving down the freeway at 70 mph. Is that the speed you should be going? Suppose you are pulled over by the police. The policeman (the second child) gives you a ticket for something. Will the ticket be blank? Will he be able to point out the rule you broke? Have the child mark the box on the ticket that shows what rule you broke and have him give you the ticket. **Display** the **TICKET** to the class and comment:

I didn't know there was any rule about speeding! This isn't fair—I didn't speed.

Ask the children whether or not you would have a good excuse. Why not? [The speed limit was clearly displayed.] Point out that Israel also had God's commands clearly displayed. How? [The Ten Commandments.] Remove the Post-It® Notes from the back of the **SPEED LIMIT 55 MPH** to reveal the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**.

Explain that in the last lesson we learned that the Ten Commandments showed Israel two important things: God is holy, righteous, and good, and that Israel, as His treasured possession, must also be holy, righteous, and good.

But the Ten Commandments also showed Israel another important thing. What was it? Suppose I was an Israelite living back then and I decided to sneak onto my neighbor's property late at night and take one of the lambs from his flock. Would I be keeping God's covenant? [No.] Are you sure? Why? [You could point to the commandment that you broke: You must not steal.]

God's commandments showed the Israelites a third important thing: They were law breakers—sinners just like Adam and Eve had been.

God knew that His commandments could not make Israel holy, righteous, and good. He knew that the Israelites could not and would not keep His commands perfectly. And if God was to have them as His treasured possession, they would need His mercy to cover their sins and forgive them. To remind them of this, He had the covenant sealed with blood.

Display the dirty garbage lid from the previous lesson. Remind the children that in the previous lesson we learned that God will not tolerate His people looking something like this—He is holy and will not look upon sin and say that it is okay. In sealing the covenant with blood, God was doing something like this: (Cover the tray with the red cloth).

Point out that after this covenant was made “official,” Moses went back up the mountain to meet with God and receive the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments. But God had more things to say to Moses. He had something very special planned for His covenant people. What was it? **Display** the **CLUE** and ask:

What is this a picture of? [A house with people inside.] Who do you think the people inside represent? [Members of a family. Parents and children.] Why do good parents want their children to live with them? Why do children want to live with their parents? What does this clue have to do with what God had planned for His people?

Have the children turn to **Exodus 25:8**:

And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

Who is speaking in this verse—who is the “Me”? [God.] Who is the “them” in this verse? [Israel.] Why is God commanding Israel to build a sanctuary? [So that He may dwell with them.] What does the word “dwell” mean? [To be with or to live with and be close to.]

Display the **CLUE** again. Point out that just as good parents love their children and want their children to live with them, God wants to live with His people. God wants His people to be able to enjoy being very close to Him. Point out that God had a special

name for this house or sanctuary. What was it to be called? Have the children look at **Exodus 25:9** for the answer. [The tabernacle.]

Display the **TABERNACLE FLOOR PLAN**. Explain that God gave Moses special instructions for the exact plan of the tabernacle, what it was to look like and what would be inside it.

God does not want to be a faraway God to His people. The reason He wanted His treasured people to be righteous, holy, and good is so He would be able to live with them. God knew that the only way His people could be really happy is if God would be present with them. Would this new covenant make that happen? Would the tabernacle finally be the place where God's people could have a perfect relationship with Him and enjoy His presence forever?

Explain that the story isn't over yet. In our next lesson we will learn more about the covenant, the tabernacle, and the very special things that happened inside the tabernacle.

Application

- ❑ **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to the Lesson 19 workbook page. Briefly review the list of the Ten Commandments and examples of how these commands are to be lived out. Remind the children of the first two things the commandments show us: 1) God is holy, righteous, and good; 2) God's people must be holy, righteous, and good. What is the third thing the commandments showed the people of Israel? [That they were sinners.] Was this true just for Israel? Is it true for us also? Use one of the commandments and its corresponding example to demonstrate how the commandments show that each of us is also a sinner. Because of this, what do we also need? [God's mercy.] How did God show His mercy to Israel? What did He do in order to seal His covenant with His sinful people? Why was this necessary? Read **Hebrews 9:22**. How might this clue point to what's coming in Israel's future—the coming of Jesus and His death on the cross?
- ❑ **WORKBOOK**—Have the children write today's clue in the space provided. Have the children follow the directions to complete their workbook page. Remind the children that this is a kind of seal that makes something "official." In other words, "It's a done deal." Ask: *What is the blood a reminder of? Who should have died and why? Why won't God look at sin and say it's okay? Is your own sin okay with God? Could you please God and have a special relationship by keeping all of His commandments? Why not? Does God know this? Has He made a way for you to be saved?*

Is it through the blood of animals? What has changed since the time of the giving of the Ten Commandments?

- Have the children look at the simple floor plan of the tabernacle (the one used in the lesson). Explain that the word, "tabernacle" means "dwelling." The tabernacle was to be a place in which God would have a special presence with His people. **[Note:** God is omnipresent; He is everywhere all the time. However, God desired to have a special, blessing-filled, intimate presence with His people within the tabernacle.] Talk about the illustration of the floor plan of a house. If mom and dad are sitting in the living room, where would a child want to be in order to be as close to them as possible? Ask: *Would you be really happy if your parents sent you weekly letters but didn't ever live with you? Why not? What is better about living with your parents compared to simply receiving letters from them? Do you think the Israelites could have been happy if God had given them His commandments, mercy, forgiveness, etc., but then refused to have His presence be with them?* Read and talk about **Psalm 16:11**. *What do you think God's presence is like? Can you "see" God? Is there still a tabernacle in Israel? Why not? Does that mean God no longer dwells in the midst of His people? Can you think of any examples in the Bible (past, present, or future) in which God promises to live with His people?*

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