

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

JESUS THE NEW MOSES, THE RESCUER

**TOPIC: COVENANT AT SINAI (ISRAEL THE GREAT NATION)
10 COMMANDMENTS & ARK OF THE COVENANT
MARY AS THE ARK OF THE NEW COVENANT**

GOAL:

- Families will reflect on how God's Covenant with Israel foreshadows Jesus and the New Covenant.
- Families will discuss the similarities among the Ark of the Covenant, Mary and the tabernacle.

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- [Moses & 10 Commandments](#) color and fill-in
- Crayons or colored pencils
- For more coloring ideas go [here](#)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,

We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.

Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Moses Says

One person is the leader and calls out the actions. Everyone else must follow the leader and do the action, but only when Moses says. For example, Moses says, touch your toes. Everyone must touch their toes.

Then the leader has to try and get everyone to do an action without saying Moses says. If someone does the action and the leader did not say "Moses says," that person is out of the game. For example, if the leader says just "touch your toes" and if someone touches their toes, they are out of the game.

The leader can try to make things more difficult by speeding up the pace of calling out the actions.

More actions to call out: run in place, pretend you're a dog, moo like a cow, wink your left eye, pretend you are sleeping, etc.

Adapted from www.thebestideasforkids.com



FAMILY SHARING

The Week 2 At-Home Mission included many ideas for and reflections on Holy Week. As we are getting closer to Easter, what is your favorite Holy Week Tradition? Why is it your favorite?

(Model for families by first sharing your own favorite Holy Week Tradition and explain why it is your favorite. First, give families time to share privately and then with the larger group.)

REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

Let's Review!

The story of Moses making a covenant with God foreshadows Jesus and the New Covenant.

CONTENT

Explain: At our last gathering we read in Exodus that the Lord went before the people day and night to show them the way to go.

Ask: Does anyone remember how the Israelites saw God leading them during the day? How did they see Him at night?

Answer: God went before them in a column of cloud by day and a column of fire by night.

“Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people.” Exodus 13:22

Explain: For three months the Israelites traveled through the desert with the Lord before them leading the way, until they finally reached Mount Sinai where God would make a covenant with the Israelites.

Invite: Please open your bibles to Exodus 19:2.

Read: [Exodus 19:2-8](#)

Explain: A covenant had been made between God and the Israelites. God promised that they would be His special possession, dearer to Him than all other people, and in return the Israelites agreed to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. The next day God called Moses to the top of the mountain to receive the laws and commandments that the people must keep.

Provide: [Moses & 10 Commandments](#) color and fill-in, as well as crayons or pencils for families to begin while Exodus 20:1-17 is being read, or while they are watching the video.

CONTENT CONTINUED

Read: Exodus 20:1-17 Or Watch

What do the 10 Commandments REALLY Command?



Explain: For their part of the covenant, the people agreed to keep all the laws, ordinances and commandments that the Lord had given to them. Then, the covenant had to be ratified or formally sealed through making a sacrificial offering.

Read: Exodus 24:3-8

Ask: Of what in the New Testament and at Holy Mass does Exodus 24:8 foreshadow or remind you when you hear it?

Answer: Exodus 24:8 foreshadows Jesus' words at the Lord's Supper: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'" Matthew 26:26-28



These are also the words that the priest says at the Consecration of the Holy Eucharist at Mass.

Explain: After the covenant was ratified, God made for the people stone tablets on which were written the commandments in order for the Chosen People to learn and remember them. He gave Moses detailed instructions for how they should make an Ark, adorned with two, carved, golden angels which would hold the Holy Tablets. It would be called the Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark of the Covenant would be kept inside a special dwelling or ritual tent, called the "tabernacle", or tent of meeting. The tabernacle would be made of the finest linens and decorated with jewels. It was the holiest place, the Holy of Holies, because there dwelt the law that God had given out of His very great love for his people, written by God's own, all-powerful hand. It was there that God declared He would meet with Moses.

Watch: *The Tabernacle* - Bible story for kids (1:18 min)



FAMILY CONVERSATION

As we said before, God leaves clues in the Old Testament that point us to the New Testament. This time the clues point us to both Jesus and Mary. Why do you think Mary is called the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Tabernacle?

Hint: What does the tabernacle in our Catholic churches hold?

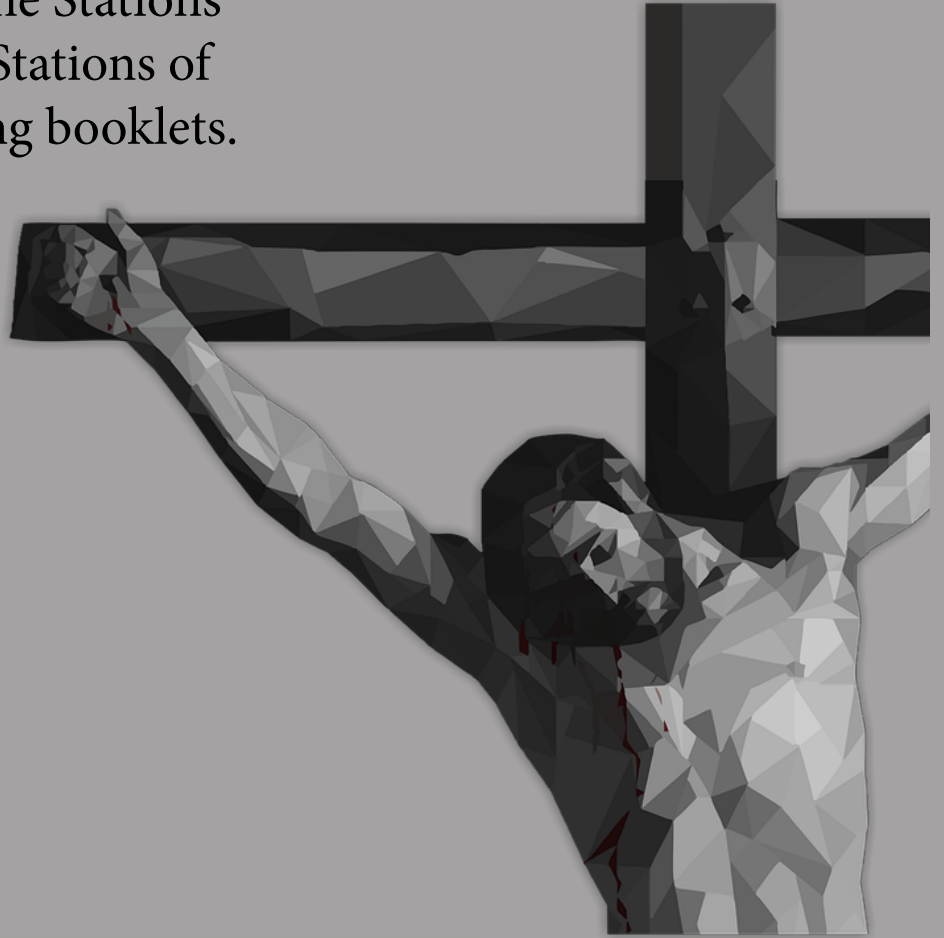
Answers: [A variety of responses can be given.] Point out that: Mary held within her the New Covenant, Jesus Himself! Jesus brings about the New Covenant and is Himself the fulfillment of the New Covenant. Therefore, Mary most appropriately is called the Ark of the Covenant—of the New and Everlasting Covenant. And like the holy tabernacles which hold the Blessed Sacrament—Jesus in the Eucharist—in our churches, Mary held Jesus in her womb as a living and Holy Tabernacle, fulfilling the tabernacles of the Old Testament and being a sign of the Church as our Mother, who bears Jesus to the world.

Explain: With the omnipotent, all powerful God leading them, you would think that the Israelites would have obeyed everything God told them to do. However, when they finally arrived at the land God had promised them - (remember God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1? **“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.”**) – God told them they would have to fight the people that already lived there and take it from them.

Even though the Israelites had experienced God protecting them by completely destroying the Egyptian army, they doubted God and were afraid. They also made an idol for themselves, a golden calf, for they feared that God and Moses left them (see Ex 32:1). Because of their fear and doubt, God could see that they were not ready to enter the Promised Land. They did not know Him well enough. So for forty years they wandered in the desert with God leading them. He fought for them, fed them when they were hungry, gave them water when they were thirsty, gave them His law, showed them how to be a great nation and healed them for forty years until a new generation grew up from within their midst. These were the children who, from their childhood, knew the Lord's care; they loved and trusted in Him. They had come to know God as their families followed Him through the desert and now they were ready. Led by Joshua, that generation entered the land, fought, and with God's help, won the Promised Land. Sometimes we may have to wait for the right moment, but we must keep praying and have faith knowing that God always keeps His promises!

PRAY

Closing Prayer: Pray the Stations of the Cross using the Stations of the Cross Mini Coloring booklets.



REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

