Preschool–Grade 5

Ten Commandments Craft

Stone tablets with lift-up covers · Exodus 19–20 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

Both levels have two stone tablets that stand up, with a gray stone cover on each one. Lift the covers to read the ten commandments, because God gave Moses "two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18). Medium (left): the tablets from page 2. Harder (right): the tablets standing in front of Mount Sinai from page 3, with the thick cloud and lightning on top (Exodus 19:16).

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Name: _____ ✂ Cut on the dashed lines · fold on the dotted line

glue the cover here

1. **Have no other gods but God.** Exodus 20:3
2. **Do not make idols to worship.** Exodus 20:4–6
3. **Use God's name with respect.** Exodus 20:7
4. **Keep the Sabbath day holy.** Exodus 20:8–11
5. **Honor your father and mother.** Exodus 20:12

glue the cover here

6. **Do not kill.** Exodus 20:13
7. **Keep your promises in marriage.** Exodus 20:14
8. **Do not steal.** Exodus 20:15
9. **Do not lie about others.** Exodus 20:16
10. **Do not covet others' things.** Exodus 20:17

Two stone covers: color them gray, then glue one over each tablet by its rounded top





Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3 (KJV)

Color the covers and the thin stone border gray. Cut out every piece. Fold the tablets on the dotted line.

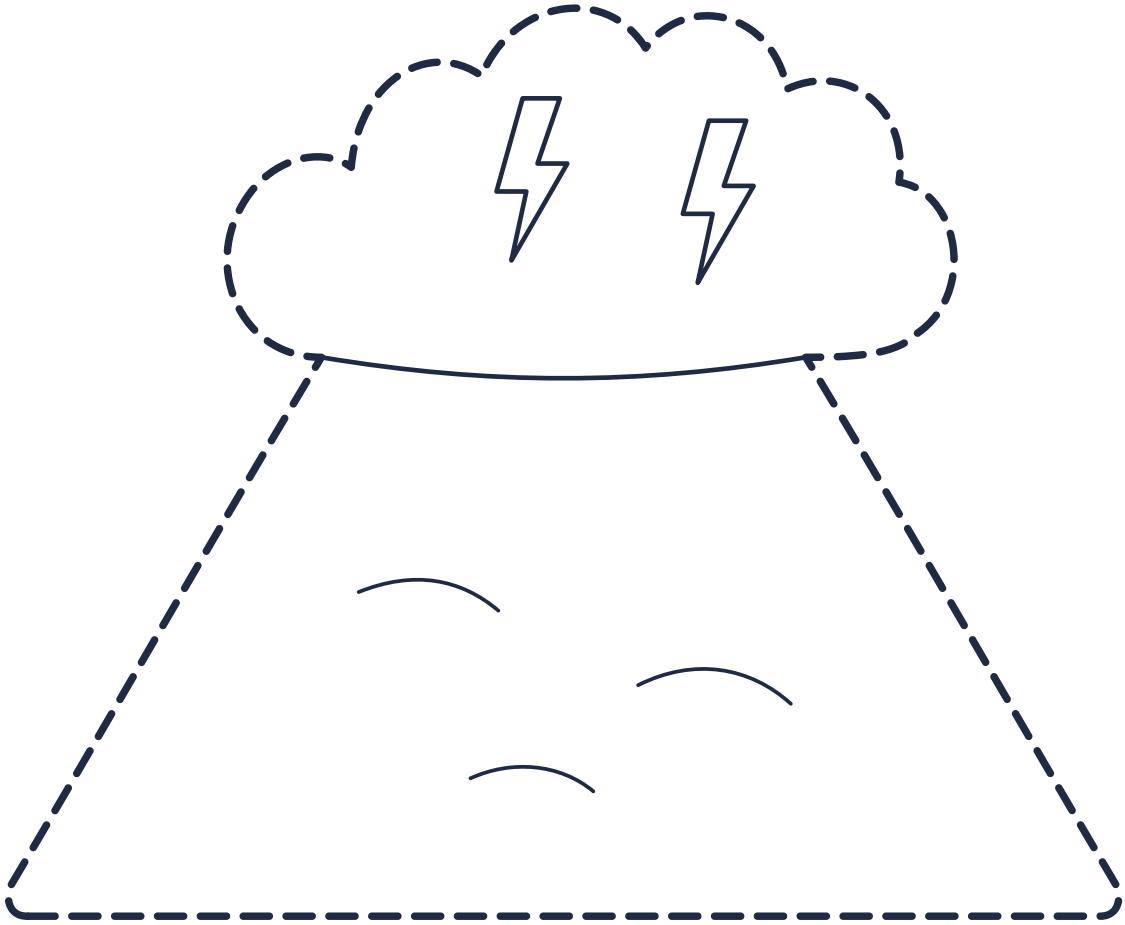
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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Mount Sinai (harder level)

Color the mountain brown, the cloud gray and the lightning yellow.
Cut on the dashed lines. Fold each stand on the dotted line.



Glue the tab of each stand to the back of the mountain, one near each bottom corner, so the mountain stands up.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/ten-commandments-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest, so the tablets stand up), gray crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, and brown and yellow crayons.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the tablets, the covers and the verse strip, and fold the tablets ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's tablets, two covers and verse strip, and fold the tablets in half. Kids color the covers gray. Then they glue each cover on by its rounded top with your help. You glue the verse strip on the back. Lift the covers and read the ten commandments to them in the plain words printed on the tablets. Say the verse together, or just "no other gods before me."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, fold the tablets, glue on the covers and stand the tablets up. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the tablets like the medium level, then make Mount Sinai from page 3: color it, cut out the mountain and the two stands, fold the stands and glue them on the back so the mountain stands up behind the tablets. Kids say the ten commandments in order from memory, lifting a cover to check themselves, before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the two stone covers gray. Color the thin stone border around each tablet gray too. Leave the writing on the tablets white so you can read it.
2. **Cut:** cut out the tablets (one piece), the two covers and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Fold:** fold the tablets in half on the dotted line, so they stand up like an open book.
4. **Covers:** put glue on the back of each cover, only along its rounded top. Press one cover on each tablet, on the rounded top where it says "glue the cover here." The cover lifts up to show the commandments.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the tablets and read it together.
6. **Count:** stand the tablets on the table. Lift each cover and count the ten commandments together.

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How to make Mount Sinai (harder level)

1. Color the mountain brown, the thick cloud on top gray and the two lightning bolts yellow (Exodus 19:16).
2. Cut out the mountain and the two stands on the dashed lines.
3. Fold each stand on the dotted line. Glue the tab to the back of the mountain, one near each bottom corner, with the long bottom edge of each stand level with the bottom of the mountain.
4. Make the tablets from page 2. Stand the mountain up, and stand the tablets in front of it.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to your two tablets. Who wrote on the tables of stone? *(God did. They were "written with the finger of God," Exodus 31:18)*
- Lift the first cover. What is the first commandment? *("Thou shalt have no other gods before me," Exodus 20:3)*
- Keep the first cover up and point to number 5. Who does God tell us to honor? *(Our father and our mother, 20:12)* How can you honor your parents this week?
- Harder level: point to the cloud on your mountain. What did the people see and hear on the third day? *(Thunders and lightnings, a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet, 19:16)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** tables = flat stone tablets; testimony = God's words that tell His covenant, His promise-agreement with Israel; thou shalt = you must; covet = want something that belongs to someone else; graven image = an idol carved to be worshiped.
- **What the Bible says:** God spoke the ten commandments out loud to all the people from Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1, Deuteronomy 10:4). Later He gave Moses "two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18), written on both sides (Exodus 32:15). The Bible calls them "the ten commandments" (Exodus 34:28) but doesn't number them, and it doesn't say how they were divided between the two tables. The tablets count them in the order Exodus 20:3–17 gives them, five on each tablet so they fit.
- **Number 7 at kid level:** "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14) is printed as *Keep your promises in marriage*. If a child asks, say: "God wants a husband and wife to keep their promise to love each other all their lives." That is all a young child needs.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and pre-fold everything, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Covers that lift:** remind kids to put glue only on the rounded top of each cover, or it won't lift. Cardstock helps the tablets stand.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Ten Commandments Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/ten-commandments.

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