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JUST AS I PURSUE MY CHILDREN IN LOVE, GOD PURSUES ME.



Inspire (for parents)

When my kids were little, my days were filled with pleas from my children, saying, “Mommy, look at me!”; “Mommy, come play with me!”; “Mommy, watch this!” My children constantly pursued me. They wanted me to enter into their world of wonder and play.

Now that my children are older, I watch them scurry from school to work, to an appointment, or to a friend’s house. I live in awe of how quickly they have grown, and I know that during this stage of their lives I must be the one who initiates relationship with them if I want us to stay close.

So I developed new ways of showing them love in our busy lives. I’ve taken up texting and Facebook. I make dinner for my son or leave notes for my daughter. I plan family dinners and activities, during which we enjoy being a family together. I fight for these times when we can be together because I know that if I don’t initiate them during this stage, the important parts of our relationships could vaporize into time.

I sometimes think about how God sees me running about in my life—stressed and hurried. And just as I pursue my children in love, God pursues me—modeling what a loving relationship looks like. He wants me to spend time with Him, so He gets my attention through the wonder of creation or even through the pain of trials. I’m grateful God initiates relationship with me!

by Michelle Anthony

Getting Started

Scripture: Exodus 24 (Mt. Sinai)

Main Point: God Initiates Relationship

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

The Mosaic covenant did not arise out of a vacuum, but out of the context of relationship. God initiated relationship with the Israelites the moment He called Abraham away from his home. He continued to initiate relationship when He introduced Himself to Moses as the Lord who had heard His people’s cries (Exodus 3); freed His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12); and fed His people in the wilderness (Exodus 16).

God gave His people the Ten Commandments as part of the covenant at Sinai. This marked the beginning of a new era in the history of God’s people and the next stage in the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise, which was the basis for their deliverance from Egypt. Through it, God promised to bring His people into the Promised Land. And the Mosaic covenant freed His people to worship Him alone.

The gift of the commandments was God’s way of modeling how to worship Him. The Israelites obedience showed their thankfulness for what He had done for them. This new covenant demanded not only that the Israelites conform to a set of laws, but also conform their hearts toward God as well. From this point on, the history of the Israelites hinged on whether or not they stayed faithful to the covenant God made.

The covenant at Sinai was a beautiful demonstration of the relationship between God and His people. It was also a foretaste of what was to come—the new covenant (given in Jesus) that would not only be written on stone tablets, but also written on the hearts and in the minds of all those who believe (Hebrews 8:10).



Support

(for parents & kids)

➤ **JUST FOR FUN**, this week give yourself some extra time before you drive somewhere, and discuss this part of The Big God Story in the car. As you begin driving to your destination, use the “rules of the road” to engage in conversation with your children about how the rules are in place to keep us safe. For instance, “What would happen if we didn’t stop at a red light?” or “What would happen if I drove on the wrong side of the road?” Let your children know that God gave us rules, like the Ten Commandments, because He loves us and wants to protect us.

Then read through the biblical account of the covenant at Sinai—the Ten Commandments—in **Exodus 20:1–17**. When you are finished, share with your children that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear more about it in church this week.

Close your time by thanking God together for initiating relationship with us. Thank Him that He loves us enough to give us clear directions about how He wants us to live in relationship with Him and others.