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**Inspire (for parents)**

Many of us find that even while raising our children, we must care for our parents. I remember a season when we struggled to pay our bills while raising two young children, but also felt the strain of helping purchase a home for my widowed mother-in-law.

We were able to get a great price on a home our friends were selling by avoiding some of the realtor costs. But while in escrow, my mother-in-law was unable to make the move and we ended up stuck with this house in escrow! While we had every legal right to get out of our contract, our friends had already purchased another home.

We were at a crossroads. We could either avoid suffering financial loss or stick to our word. As my husband and I prayed, we felt over and over that God shows faithfulness to those who abide by His ways. Following through on promises is one of those standards that God values. So, we chose to stay in escrow.

Weeks later, when our friends moved into their new home we began to trust God to help us sell our newly acquired property. Throughout that ordeal, our neighbors watched us turn

to Him when we were frustrated. They, along with our children, watched us model the messiness of living out God's commandments in an imperfect world.

It wasn't long after this situation that our neighbors chose to accept Christ. As they prayed to receive His grace, they told us it was because they saw us following God in a difficult situation. Because they saw His blessing on our lives, they realized He must be real after all. God gave us the grace to follow Him so that others would see our faith and also follow.

by Michelle Anthony

**Getting Started**

Scripture: Exodus 19–20  
(The Ten Commandments at Sinai)

Main Point: God Shows Me How to Live

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)**

God has always shown us how to live. Once He redeemed Israel from the land of Egypt, God formed the Mosaic covenant between Himself and His people. It began a new era in their history. God continued to fulfill the promises He made to Abraham and to Moses. But the Mosaic covenant was the law that addressed Israel alone. This covenant established the standards of righteousness for God's people—His holy nation.

*Yahweh* was the God of Israel, and the people were in relationship with Him. The Mosaic covenant was not a means to salvation. Instead, God gave His people a model for living in the Ten Commandments that enhanced their worship and service to Him. This covenant demanded not only that they conform to a set of laws, but also that their hearts be oriented toward God. When the people lived out the laws, their lives demonstrated the intimate relationship they shared with God. A holy nation living in worship and service to the Lord acts as a catalyst to bring the nations of the earth into relationship with Him.

The covenant between God and His people at Sinai was a foreshadowing of what was to come. His law was put in place to "lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24). In Him our worship and our service are complete. He has shown us how to live with Him and with others. As we follow the Lord we model for others the relationship that is possible to have with the holy God.

In Him our worship and our service are complete.

**REMEMBER VERSE**

Jesus answered ...  
"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."  
John 14:9b

**Support (for parents & kids)**

Sometime this week, read with your child the biblical account of receiving the Ten Commandments at Sinai in **Exodus 20:1–17**.

**> JUST FOR FUN**, this week give yourself some extra time before you drive somewhere and read 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?" Then, talk with your children about how God gives us rules like the Ten Commandments because He loves us and wants to protect us.

When you're finished, share with your children that what they just heard is part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they'll hear it in church this week. Close your time by thanking God together. Thank Him that He loves us enough to give us clear directions on how He wants us to live in relationship with Him and others.

