

NEW COMMANDS

Exodus 19–20, 24–25, 32–34, 40

IMPORTANT DETAILS

The StoryReader scripts are segments of scripture taken directly from Zondervan's THE STORY Bible (TNIV). Each script takes approximately 10 minutes to be read aloud.

These segments have been formatted into a *Readers' Theater*. A Readers' Theater is an activity in which a few participants are asked to read directly from a script, with the intent of telling a story in a lively manner. Readers are **not expected to memorize or improvise** from the script, but use voice inflection and some gestures appropriate to their characters actions and words in order to bring the story to life.

CHARACTERS

Narrator's words = BLACK

God's words = GREEN

Moses' words = BLUE

Israelites' words = RED (have a group of three read these parts simultaneously)

Aaron's words = PURPLE (one line)

TWEAKS TO THE TEXT

Ellipses = words omitted within a sentence for the sake of conciseness. NOTE: No need to slow your reading when you see an ellipse.

Words in brackets = added words for context.

Words in italics = summary sections from Zondervan's The Story Bible

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Exodus 19–20, 24–25, 32–34, 40

ON THE FIRST day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt... [and] camped...in the desert in front of the mountain.

The LORD called to Moses from the mountain and said,

GOD

"This is what you are to....tell the people of Israel: 'You...have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'"

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear.

They stayed at a distance and said to Moses,

ISRAELITES

"Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

Moses said to the people,

MOSES

"Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

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The LORD said,

GOD

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife...or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice,

ISRAELITES

"Everything the LORD has said we will do."

Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

Then Moses entered the cloud ...and stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Meanwhile in the valley below...when the [Israelites] saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron [The High Priest and Moses brother] and said,

ISRAELITES

"Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for ...Moses...we don't know what has happened to him."

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Aaron answered them,

AARON

“Take off the gold earrings...and bring them to me.”

So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then [the people proclaimed], “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf.

Then the LORD said to Moses,

ISRAELITES

“Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it...”

Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. ...the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

The next day Moses said to the people,

MOSES

“You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”

So Moses went back to the LORD and said,

MOSES

“Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin...”

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And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did.

Then Moses said to [The Lord],

MOSES

"What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth? Now show me your glory."

The LORD said to Moses,

GOD

"Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke..."

So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning.

Then the LORD came down in the cloud...passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,

GOD

"The LORD...compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished..."

Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

Then the LORD said:

GOD

"I am making a covenant with you...I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome...the work that I, the LORD...do for you."

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses...they were afraid to come

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near him. But Moses called to them, [and] gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

[On the mountain] The LORD [had told] Moses,

GOD

“Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering...from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.”

The best Hebrew craft workers used their skills in woodwork, metalwork, weaving and embroidering to provide the materials for the [sacred tent called the] tabernacle.

Then the cloud covered the tent...and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all...of Israel during all their travels.