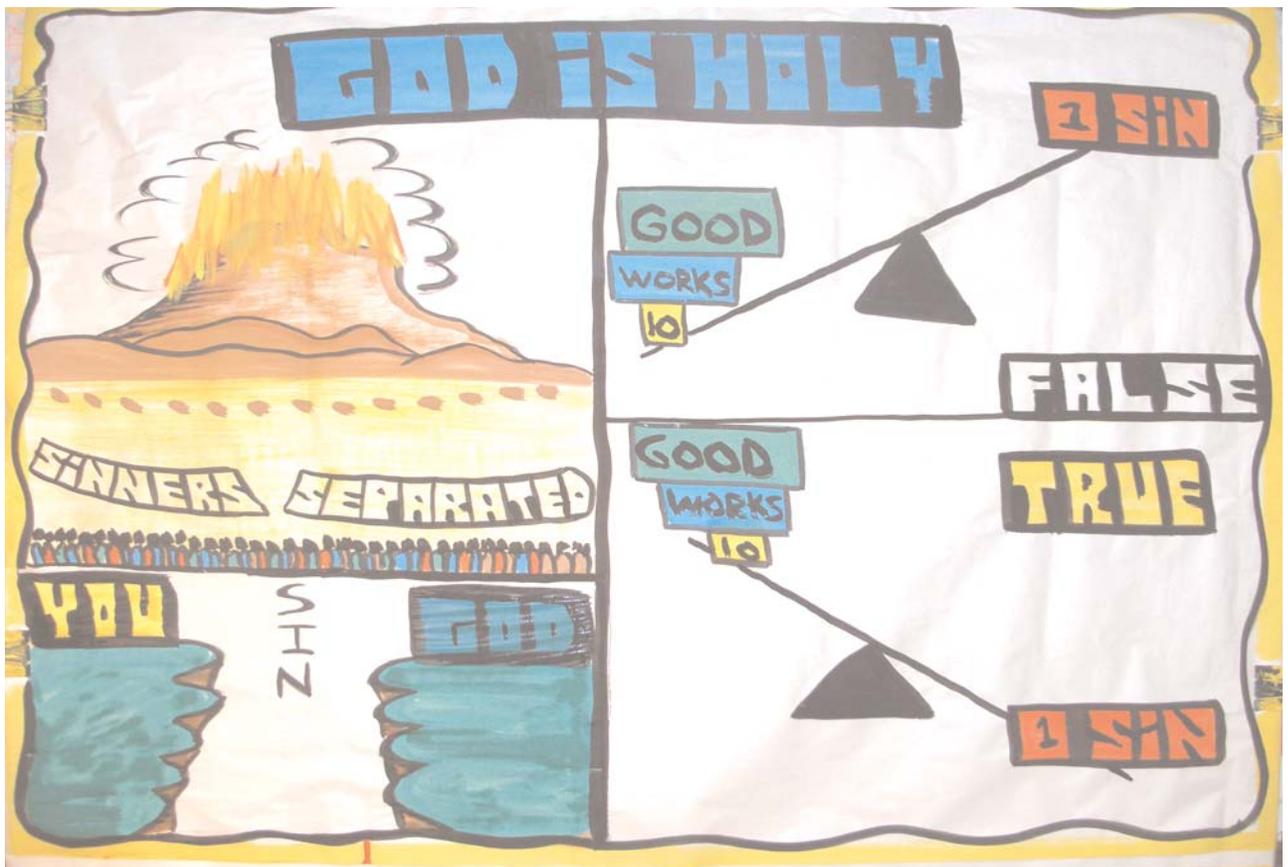


# PREPARATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

BEFORE



AFTER



# PREPARATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Sketchboard title: "God is Holy"

Text: Exodus 19:1-20, 20:1-2

Introduction: Who do you think is the greatest basketball player of all time? Most people still today say Michael Jordan. How many of you would compete against him?

Most people would be humble enough to admit they could never play against Michael Jordan win. "Why try?", most would say. The reason why most if not all people would never compete against the greatest basketball player in the world is that they know they would loose. The best answer is to be humble and say, "I could never be good enough for you."

The same analogy is good when we think about pleasing God.

Let me put it this way:

- How many of you would say you are good person?
- How many of you would say you live a life that tries to please God?
- How many of would say you please God in the way that you live and treat people?

If you think you are good person or that you live a life that pleases God, this true story today is for you. If you think God is pleased with how live, you have been given a wrong view about God. God is holy, and demands perfection. Anything below perfect God is not pleased. Thinking we can please God is like thinking we can play or beat Michael Jordan in basketball. It can't happen. Here's the reasons why....

## UPPER LEFT BOX

The Israelites have been traveling in the desert for three months. God had delivered them from the Egyptians, parted the Red Sea, gave them food from heaven, and water from a rock. God truly showed Himself to be awesome and faithful to them.

God led them now in the desert to a mountain called Mt. Sinai. Here God would talk to Moses and to the people.

All Israel began to camp around this mountain.

1. Draw heads on the people around the mountain.

Moses went up the mountain and talked to God. God then Moses down with instructions to give to all of the Israelites.

The instructions from God were:

- The Lord promised to bless the Israelites if they obeyed Him perfectly
- If they did everything that He told them, then He would accept them and give them all the good things they needed.

What would your answer be to God? God said if you obeyed Him perfectly He would bless you and take care of you. Most of you would probably say, "I will obey God." But let's think about our answer and check our hearts. Let's use the Israel as an example: What did they say to God? Remember Israel is a picture, and a example of us today.

All of Israel came together and said, "We will do everything the Lord has said." Exodus 19:8

Do you really think Israel will keep God's commandments perfectly? Remember how they have acted so far:

- They doubted God before they crossed the Red Sea
- They complained when they had no food or water
- They were prideful
- Moses feared for his life around them

Think about your own life:

- Do you always respect your Father and Mother?
- Do you always respect your teacher at school?
- Do you always respect your sister or brother?
- Do you often talk bad about other kids?
- Do you often use bad words?
- Have you ever told a lie?
- Have you ever taken things that weren't yours
- Have you ever cheated on a test?
- Have you ever wanted something that wasn't yours?

If you can admit to yourself that you often live and act this way, you should never say to God or yourself, "I think I can please God. I think I can do what God wants. I think I can live a perfect life." That is impossible. And it is prideful. We have sinned so much this far, to say we will be perfect will never happen. We should just admit to God we are sinful and need his forgiveness.

The Israelites were sinful and prideful. They should of never said they will do what God asks of them. They should checked their hearts and admitted they were already sinners and needed God's forgiveness.

2. Draw in the word "sinners" under the mountain

The #1 thing that keeps people away from God both now and forever is the false belief that we can please God. Or that we are good enough to go to heaven. That is a lie. To show Israel how Holy God is, and how sinful they are, God is going reveal Himself in a powerful way.

First God commanded Moses to place boundary stones around the mountain so no one would approach God.

3. Draw in boundary stones around the mountain

Why boundary stones? God wanted the people to understand that He was Holy, separated, and different from them. God is to be feared and not treated as if He is like any other person.

4. Draw in the word "Separated"

God made a promise that if any person crossed these stones or animals they were to be killed (Exodus 19:10-14) Wow! That sounds harsh. Why would God do that? Well, listen to what happened next.

On the third day, there was thunder and lightening and a thick cloud came down on the mountain.

5. Draw in the dark cloud on the mountain

Trumpets blasted and Moses commanded the people to come out and meet God. Everyone in the camp trembled. And then the very presence of God came down in fire and rested on the mountain.

6. Draw the mountain on fire

Tremendous smoke came up from the mountain like the mountain was on fire. And then, the whole mountain shook violently and the trumpets blasted louder and louder (Exodus 19:16-19) The people were so afraid of all of this they thought they might die (Exodus 19:18-19)

Then only Moses and Aaron was allowed to walk up the mountain to meet with God again (Exodus 19:20-24).

It was on the mountain that God was going to give Moses what we call the Ten Commandments.

What was God teaching the Israelites, and teaching us through all of this?

7. Draw in the title: "God is Holy"

God is Holy, awesome, powerful, almighty, righteous, good, and sovereign.

When we compare ourselves to God in the way He showed Himself to the people of Israel that day on the mountain, we are sinful and separated from God.

The smoke, fire, and earthquake shows us God is not a God to mess with.

Why the boundary stones? God was teaching the Israelites and us that we cannot approach God as sinners and live. If we disobey any of his commands like crossing the stones, or eating from the forbidden tree like Adam and Eve, the penalty is always death (Romans 6:23).

Why? Because He is Holy.

Here's another picture or example to understand this.

### **LOWER LEFT HAND BOX**

Here you see two cliffs. God is on one side...

8. Draw in the word "God"

And man is on the other side...

9. Draw in the word "Man"

This is a picture of every person born into this world.

Is God and man close together or far apart? They are far apart and separated. Why? Why can't God be our friend and be close to us. Doesn't God just love and accept us the way we are? The answer is no.

Can anyone tell me why? (Important question to see how much your audience has understood you and God's Word so far). Wait until you get the right answer.

- God might see that you try.
- God might see that you do some good things
- God might see that you go to church
- God might see that you are raised in a Christian home

But whatever the case might be, none of those things can please God enough to make Him your friend and bring you into a relationship with Him that will result in you going to heaven when you die. Why?

Because God is Holy. God is Perfect. God demands perfection as we shall see when we get into the Ten Commandments. Instead of seeing a person who is perfect or good, God sees all of our ....

10. Draw in the word "Sin" between the two cliffs

It is our sin that separates us from a Holy and Righteous God. And God says that everyone sins (Romans 3:23), and the payment for one sin is death (Romans 6:23).

So let me ask you a question: Are you ready to meet God?  
How will be forgiven for all the many sins you have committed?

I know what most people will say. To test your heart on this matter lets finish understanding this true Bible story with these two diagrams.

### **TOP BOX ON THE RIGHT**

How will you be forgiven? I'll wait a moment. Answer that question in your mind. Do you have an answer. Let's see what you understand so far.

God says we have all sinned. I'm sure you have no problem admitting that. So we know that we all done many sins, but just for the illustration, I will put one sin on the balance scale

11. Draw in the words "1 Sin"

Since we have all done one sin, how will we be forgiven?

What if we did 10 Good Works...

12. Draw in the words, "10 Good Works"

Meaning, would 10 good things, out-weigh or erase your sin?  
Another way of saying it is, if I sin can I make up for it by doing good things?

Is this true, or false? Wait for a response.

## LOWER RIGHT BOX

Here's another option. What if I did 10 Good Works, or 10 Good things

13. Draw in "10 Good Works"

...and only did one sin

14. Draw in the "1 Sin"

Would just one sin, out-weigh ten good works? Meaning, if I did 10-20-100-1,000 good things it wouldn't matter because I sinned only one time. True or false?

Which one of these boxes is true, and which one is false?  
(Wait for a response)

Here is the answer: Ten good things will not out-weigh one sin. So that is...

15. Draw in the word, "False"

What is true is that we could 10 or 1,000 good things, but only one sin will get us in trouble with God.

So that is ...

16. Draw in the word "True"

Why is this?

Review the high points of what you have been teaching in the Bible Lesson

Conclusion: We can never please God. God is perfect and we are not. God is Holy and we are sinful. Therefore, we can do all the good we want, but if we sin, only judgement awaits. Is there anyway to be saved? We will talk about this tomorrow.

END

Goals in this Lesson

- God is Holy
- No one can please God fully
- Man is Sinful
- Man is prideful
- Good works will not please God or erase sin

