

God Meets Us in the Law: The Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 25:10–22



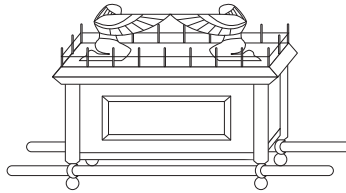
In class today . . .

Today your child's class built a model of the Ark of the Covenant. He or she learned that the Ten Commandments were

kept in the Ark and the God was present with the Ark. This was the beginning of people following God through rules and laws. The children talked about why we need rules and laws, and how good rules and laws bring us closer to God.

Talk with your child about . . .

As you spend time together this week, notice the places where you see God's presence. Help your child to notice rules that you live by and why these rules are important.



The Great Commandment

Practice saying the Great Commandment with your family. Show your family how to do the hand motions!

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
—Matthew 22:37-39

- You shall love the LORD your God (*raise hands high overhead and look up*)
- With all your heart (*cross arms over chest*),
- Soul (*fold hands together and place them directly over heart*)
- Mind (*place hands on top of head*)
- And strength (*make muscle arms*);
- And you shall love your neighbor as yourself (*shake hands with person next to you*).

Something to Remember

They shall make an ark of acacia wood.... You shall put into the ark the covenant that I shall give you.

—Exodus 25:10a, 16

Catechism Question

Question 47. What do we do when we pray? When we pray, we adore God, we confess our sins, we give God thanks, and we pray for the needs of others and ourselves.

—*Belonging to God:
A First Catechism*

Main Idea

The Ark is built to hold the tablets of the law and to symbolize God's presence with Israel. What does God have to do with our ideas of rules and laws today?

Make Ten Commandments Tablets

Use this simple recipe to make play dough. Add your own coloring and shape the dough to form two tablets like those Moses used to record the Ten Commandments.

Homemade Play Dough

1 1/3 cups warm water

3/4 cup salt

4 cups plus a pinch of flour

Directions: Put the warm water in a mixing bowl and add the salt. Stir until the salt is dissolved. Add four cups of flour and mix well. Sprinkle a little extra flour on the work surface. Knead the dough for about four minutes. Shape the dough as desired. Bake your creations on a foil-covered cookie sheet for about twenty minutes at 300° to 350°F. Remove from the oven as soon as the edges start to brown.

Recipe adapted from: Martha Bettis Gee, *Things to Make & Do for Advent & Christmas* (Louisville: Bridge Resources, 1997), p. 44.