

SESSION 5

INTO THE WILD

SESSION AIMS

To explore the abundant life offered to the Israelites by God in the covenant to Moses in Exodus 19–20, and the people's response.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Genesis 3–11

GAME: RULE BREAKER?

How do you feel about rules?! Work through the statements below, asking pupils whether they think these are good or bad rules for them to have to keep. They may be able to maturely discuss both the costs and benefits of rules. If they tend to see all the rules as negative, start over and ask them if they were looking after a younger child whether they think they would give out these rules and why?

Statements:

- ◆ You have to tell an adult where you are going and who with
- ◆ You can't have social media until you are 16
- ◆ You can only have 2 hours of screen time each day
- ◆ You have to eat 5 portions of fruit and veg each day
- ◆ You must be off your phone/gaming by 10pm

WEEK 4 RECAP

Last week we looked at how God brought the Israelites out from a life of slavery under Egyptian power in a spectacular way. The people were stuck building bricks for merciless slave drivers who treated them abysmally. They cried out to God who called Moses to speak up on behalf of his people to the Egyptian leader Pharaoh. Things only got worse for the people, but God revealed his power, sending ten plagues upon Egypt. Yet Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to accept God had greater power than him. Eventually every family in Egypt lost its firstborn son, whilst God ensured death passed over every Israelite family who had painted the blood of a sacrificed lamb on their door.

Pharaoh told the Israelites to go, but then he changed his mind again and sent his army to hunt them down. The Israelites were backed into a corner – the army coming towards them and the Red Sea behind them. It looked like it was all over for the Israelites... until God miraculously saved them by opening a way through the sea – and then closing it on top of the pursuing Egyptian army.

WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?

Now that God has shown his power and care for the people so dramatically, he sets out the relationship he wants to have with them and how he wants them to live. After being rescued from years of captivity and a harsh existence under brutal rulers, we see how the people respond to God's offer of care and protection.

WATCH THE EPISODE ►

GROUP WORK

Discuss: We talked about rules at the start today and how we can see any restriction on our freedom as negative. What do you think of the commandments God gave his people?

We might naturally tend to think of rules as restrictive and spoiling our fun, but we all know that some rules are good for us. God's rules were not about spoiling things but were designed to ensure the people lived a good and abundant life!

What do you think about the people's reaction to what God asks of them? What about you – do you see God's words as giving life or taking the fun out of life?

The people choose to reject God's rules, believing it's better to have control over what they can and cannot do, and it didn't work out well. We may all be able to identify times when we rejected rules that have been placed on us, only to discover later why they were actually good for us.

PRAY TO CLOSE