

# Pentecost for Kids

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*Paulina P.*

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## Dear parents and teachers:

This booklet contains two Bible stories related to the Feast of Pentecost, together with some hands-on activities for the children to do. Pentecost is only a one-day feast, so you may pick which lesson you prefer to do with your children. Another suggestion is to do one lesson the evening that Pentecost begins, and the other lesson sometime during the day of Pentecost. Each lesson comes with two activities which complement each other and focus on a different aspect of the story. Simply pick the one you prefer, or go ahead and do them all if you have time and the children are interested.

When you tell each story, we suggest you provide illustrations for it. The Bible Story Felts are excellent for this, but if those are not available, you can find illustrations in books or the Internet.

For each lesson, we have provided a memory verse. Please don't feel daunted by how long the verses are; you can find them put to music in the channel Agape Piece in YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCrJe1zxXhO9gjCybHhHSXQ> and simply sing them several times. The music will help to memorize the words easily.

We pray that the material in this booklet will help our children to understand the significance of Pentecost, and to bring them closer to our beloved High Priest who wants to write His law in our hearts and minds.

We wish you God's richest blessings during this special time.

### *Further Reading for Parents and Teachers:*

- *Exodus 19:10 – 20:21*
- *Acts 2*
- *Leviticus 23:15 – 21*
- *Psalms 133*
- *Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 27*
- *Acts of the Apostles (Ellen White), chapters 4-5*

# Lesson 1

## **Materials needed:**

- *Felts or illustrations to tell the story*
- *A paper chain to tell the story*
- *Copies of pages 10-13 for each child.*
- *Red, yellow, and gray card for each child (you might prefer to pre-cut the clouds, lightning, hearts and tables of stone beforehand, depending on the abilities of the children)*
- *Colored pencils and markers, glue, scissors.*
- *Scripture song for the lesson*

## **The Biblical calendar:**

We are now entering into the fourth Biblical feast, called Pentecost. Do you remember the three previous feasts we celebrated? It was Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First-fruits, or the Waving of the Sheaf. Those were the Spring feasts. Now we are about to celebrate the Summer Feast, Pentecost. The day of Pentecost was supposed to be seven weeks after the Feast of First-fruits – or exactly on day 50 after First-fruits.

Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks, because it's celebrated exactly seven weeks after the feast of First-fruits. It is a Holy Convocation; the people didn't work on that day, and they spent it just like a Sabbath.

On the day of Pentecost, the priest waved new first-fruits from the fields, from the new summer harvest. This reminded the people that God gave them life, and that He gave them everything they had. They also offered bread (37.4 kg of flour + 15.3 liters of oil), wine (12.9 liters), and seven lambs. All of this reminded them that the Son of God was sending extra

measures of His Spirit to them, if they were ready and willing to receive it. The sacrifice of the animals represents how much Jesus suffers when people say no to Him when He sends His Spirit. Today, we don't need to bring all these offerings, because Jesus was already offered on the cross. But while we don't need to do all the ceremonies that the Israelites did anymore, the actual time for meeting with Jesus and receiving His Spirit is still important. If we make ourselves available to God during this time and meet with Him, we will be blessed. We are so thankful that God has given us these special times, and today we're thankful for Pentecost.

## **Pentecost in the Old Testament: Receiving God's Law**

**Memory Verse:** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they will be to me a people. Hebrews 8:10

The people of Israel were camping next to a large mountain called Mount Sinai. A large fence had been built around the mountain, so that no person or animal would get too close to the mountain. God was about to come very close to His people, and because God is so pure, loving and good, anyone who was sinful would not be able to get too close without dying because of their sense of guilt. The fence was there to protect the people from themselves!

The day before Pentecost, the people got ready. They swept their tents, tidied their things, washed their clothes, and washed themselves. They also thought about their lives and actions, and asked God to forgive them for their sins. The camp began to look spotlessly clean and tidy.

When everything was ready, the people looked toward Mount Sinai. A large, dark cloud began to cover it. This dark cloud was there to hide God's brightness and glory from the people, because they, as sinners, would not be able to see that glory without dying. Then they heard the sound of a trumpet – a trumpet from heaven - and they knew they should go and

stand near the mountain. Soon, everyone was there, watching, listening, and waiting to see what would happen. The cloud covered the whole mountain. From the dark cloud, lightning flashed, and peals of thunder sounded. It seemed as if smoke came up from the mountain.

Suddenly, the trumpet and thunder stopped sounding, and the lightning stopped flashing. Everything was still and quiet. Then God spoke to the people.

God wanted to give the people His law, the Ten Commandments. This is the law that is obeyed by the whole universe, and all of God's children need to know it, and, with God's help, obey it. This is the law that will bring us into God's hedge of protection.

God started speaking. He reminded them that He had given them freedom from the Egyptians, and that He took care of them. He wanted them to know that He was giving them these laws because He loved them and wanted the best for them. He was giving them the law of liberty, the law for free people.

The people listened as God spoke the Ten Commandments:

"I'm the Lord your God who took you out of bondage and made you free, and because of that:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make any graven images, and you shall not worship them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. God made the earth in six days, and rested on the seventh day, blessed it, and made it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land that the Lord your God will give you.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

The Ten Commandments were so special, so important, that God Himself wrote them, with His own finger, on two tables of stone. Moses went up the mountain and spent some time with God there, and God gave him the two tables of stone with these commandments written on them.

The first four commandments are about our relationship with God. Said in a few words, the first four commandments are: “You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” The last six commandments are about our relationship with each other. Said in a few words, these six commandments are: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If everyone followed these commandments, there would be perfect peace in the world. The rest of the universe obeys these commandments, and they enjoy peace and happiness. But in our world, people break these commandments all the time, and that’s why we have so much sadness, pain and unhappiness.

The people promised they would obey everything that God had told them. But God had never asked them to promise this; He had just asked them to hear and accept his words, because He was going to help them keep these] commandments. It took a long time for them to learn that they couldn’t keep these commandments by themselves. Can we keep these commandments by ourselves? No, we can’t. Every single person has broken God’s commandments. And Jesus said that, if we break one, we break them all. [*Show children a paper chain made from ten links*]. The Ten Commandments are like a chain. Here we have how many links? Ten, just like the Commandments. What happens if we break one of the commandments? For example, what happens if we covet what someone else has? [*Break one link*] The whole chain is broken. Because if we covet someone else’s things, that’s like having an idol, which would be breaking commandment number 2. And it’s breaking many of the other commandments – but the whole chain has already been broken. So, if we broke one, we’ve broken them all. And as human beings, we find that we just can’t keep even one of these commandments by ourselves.

So, if we can't obey God's important Ten Commandments, what can we do? God has offered a better way. He doesn't expect us to obey them by ourselves, because He knows we can't. He knows we're trapped by sin. Instead, He's promised us that, if we let Him, He will "write His laws in our heart". He didn't just write the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone; He wants to write them in our hearts and minds, so that, if we're connected to Jesus, we can keep the commandments with Jesus' help. If we let Him do that, then we can read the commandments as promises: Jesus promises that if we're with Him, we will not kill, envy, or do any of those bad things, because He will help us.

Let's thank God for giving us His law, a hedge of protection, to teach us how to live. Let's ask Him to write His law in our hearts and to help us to keep His Commandments.

#### **Activity 1:**

1. Have children color the people in the picture of Mount Sinai (page 10)
2. Trace the cloud onto black or gray card, cut out, and paste on Mount Sinai (page 11)
3. Trace the lighting onto yellow card, cut and paste on Mount Sinai (page 11)

#### **Activity 2:**

1. Trace the tablets of stone onto gray card. Cut out. (page 13)
2. Have the children cut out the written Ten Commandments, and glue onto the tables of stone. OR have them write the commandments on the tables. (page 13)
3. Trace the heart on red card. Cut out. (page 12)
4. Have children paste the tables onto the heart, and have the children write "God will write His law into my heart", on the heart.

## Lesson 2

### **Materials needed:**

- *Illustrations or felts to tell the story*
- *A copy of page 14-16 for each child*
- *Red card or foam to make tongues of fire from.*
- *Card (preferably white) to glue pages 15 and 16 on.*
- *Colored pencils and markers, glue, scissors.*
- *Scripture song for the lesson.*

### **Pentecost in the New Testament: A High Priest in Heaven**

**Memory Verse:** Now of the things which we have spoken, this is the sum: we have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. Hebrews 8:1.

After Jesus went back to Heaven, the disciples repeated to each other what Jesus had told them. “Stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father; you will receive the Holy Spirit, and then you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in the rest of the world,” Jesus had said to them. So the disciples stayed in Jerusalem. They spent time in the temple, praising God. They also met together and prayed.

They thought and thought about Jesus and all the things He had done and taught them. The more they remembered, the more they loved Him and wanted to tell others about Him. The love of Jesus filled their hearts, and they began to love each other like never before. Their selfishness and envy were gone. They were sorry for all the wrong things they had done. They began to pray more and more for God to give them the Holy Spirit, because they knew that without it, they would never be able to do His work.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were together, praying, studying the Scriptures, and living in perfect peace together. The Bible says they were “all with one accord in one place”. The love of Jesus had joined them together perfectly, and there was no selfishness or envy between them.

At the very time of the morning sacrifice, which was 9.00 in the morning, the disciples were all in the Upper Room, praying together, and there was a sound from Heaven, like that of a rushing strong wind, and it filled the whole house where they were. And there were like tongues of fire which fell on the heads of each of the people there. These tongues of fire were the Holy Spirit that Jesus was sending to them. As soon as they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were able to speak in different languages, and to tell others, in their own languages, about Jesus.

What happened on earth with Jesus’ followers was a wonderful thing, but it showed that something even more wonderful had just taken place up in heaven. From the time that Jesus had been taken back to heaven until the day of Pentecost, there had been great celebrations because Jesus had returned from the battle with the prince of Darkness (Satan) and had overcome him. Now, all the angels could see that Satan had been lying about God all this time, and that Jesus was a just and merciful Ruler under the authority of His Father. They could see that Jesus was both a High Priest and a King, for the Bible tells us that Jesus is “a priest in the order of Melchizedek”. As the celebration in heaven was completed, the sign of its completion, of which Jesus had promised, was given: the gift of the Holy Spirit. Of course, Jesus has always been the High Priest; He didn’t suddenly become the High Priest during Pentecost. But now, everyone could see that He was truly merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. He was tempted just like we all are tempted, yet He never sinned. Now we can see that he was just like us, just without sin. This made human beings feel even closer to Jesus than ever before.

Now the disciples could remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and they understood better than ever before how much Jesus loved them and all that He wanted to do for them. And because they

understood this, they prayed earnestly for Jesus to give them His Spirit. They wanted loving characters like the character of Jesus. When Jesus was glorified in Heaven and received the Spirit from His Father, He generously poured it down to His disciples who were praying and waiting for it.

Because it was the day of Pentecost, there were many visitors in Jerusalem that day. When the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit, they went out and preached the good news. The visitors in Jerusalem were amazed because they each heard them speaking in their own language! They knew this couldn't happen unless God was doing it through them. Peter stood up and explained to the gathering group of people what was happening. He told them about Jesus and how He had been killed, then how He had risen, and that He was now giving His followers the gift of the Holy Spirit. He invited the people to give their hearts to Jesus. That day, 3,000 people were baptized.

Remember that during Pentecost, the priest would also offer the first-fruits of the summer harvest? The first-fruits reminded people that God gave them everything they needed to live – all their food and everything else. Now, on the day of Pentecost, these 3,000 people were the first-fruits of all the living people. They were the first of many, many people who would receive a new life after accepting Jesus. These people left their lives of sin and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus also wants to be able to use us to share the Good News with others. But for that, we need to receive His Spirit. Let's ask Him to make us ready each day to receive His Spirit, that we may know Him better and may be able to share about Him with others.

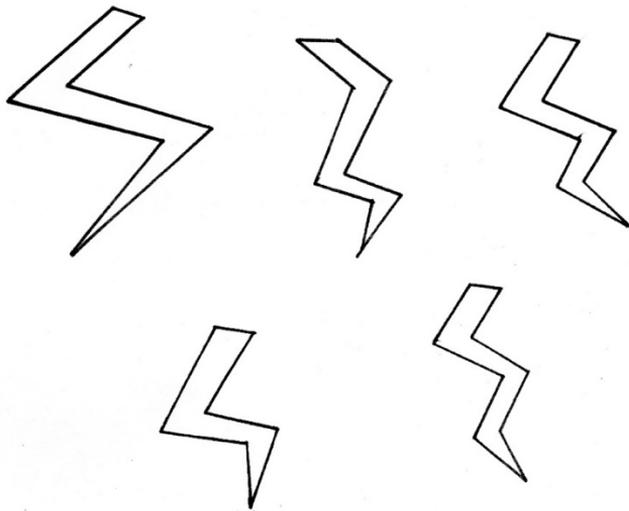
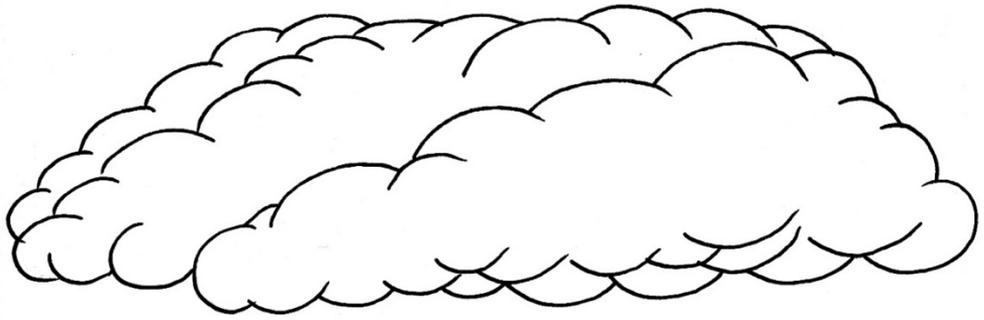
### **Activity 1**

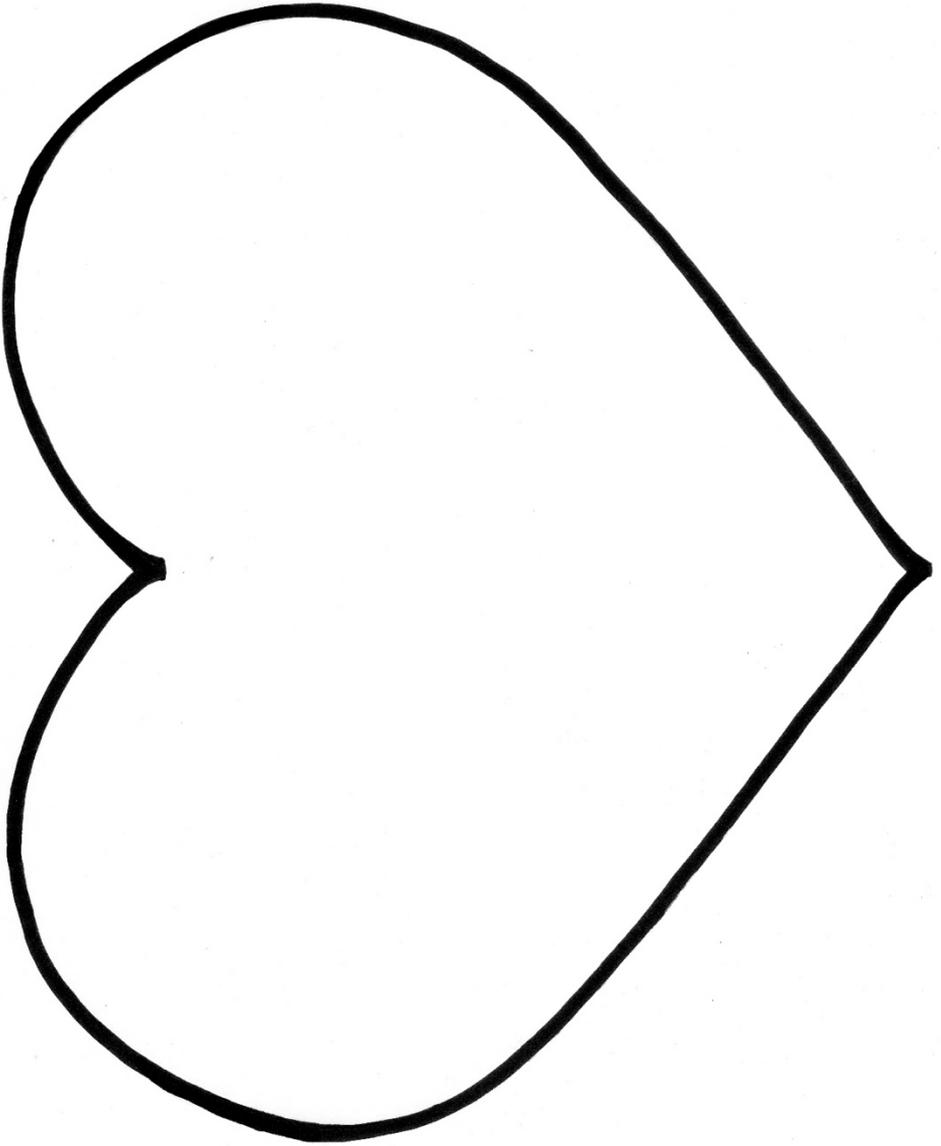
1. Have the children color the picture of the praying disciples. (Page 14)
2. Cut out tongues from red or orange foam, felt or card, and have the children glue them over the heads of each of the people in the picture.

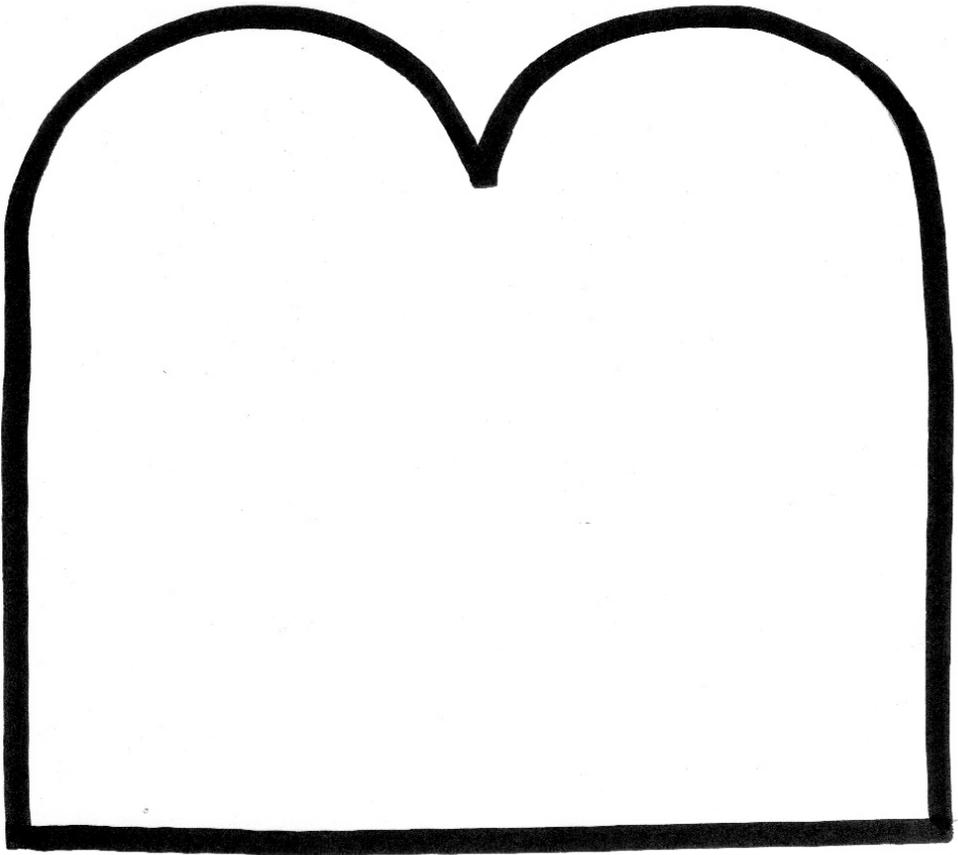
**Activity 2:**

Have children color the pictures of the High Priest paper doll, then paste on card and cut. Show the children a picture of a high priest so they can see the proper colors to use. They will be able to “dress up” Jesus as a high priest, to remember that He is our high priest. (Pages 15-16)



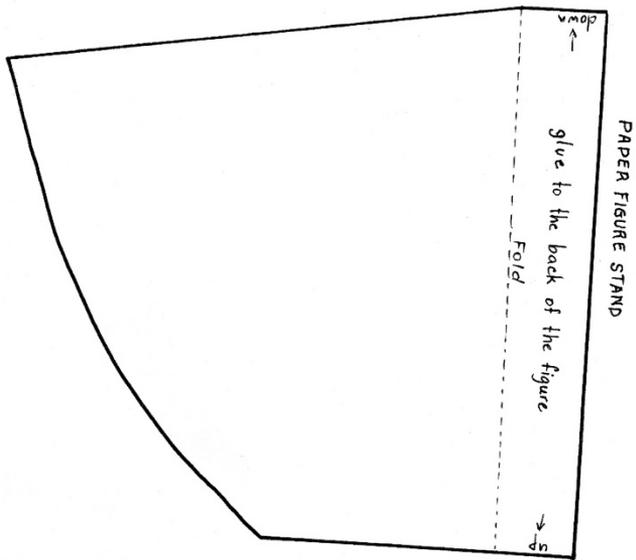
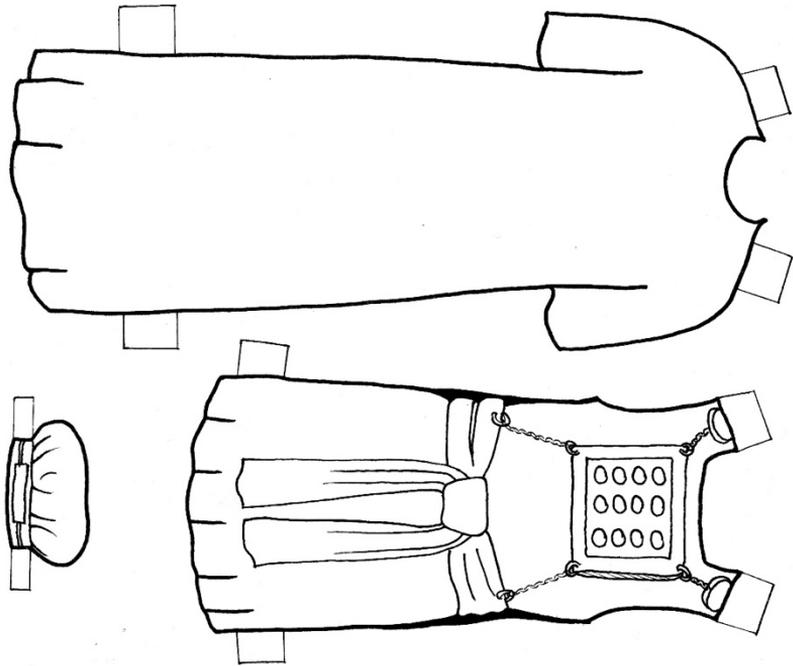


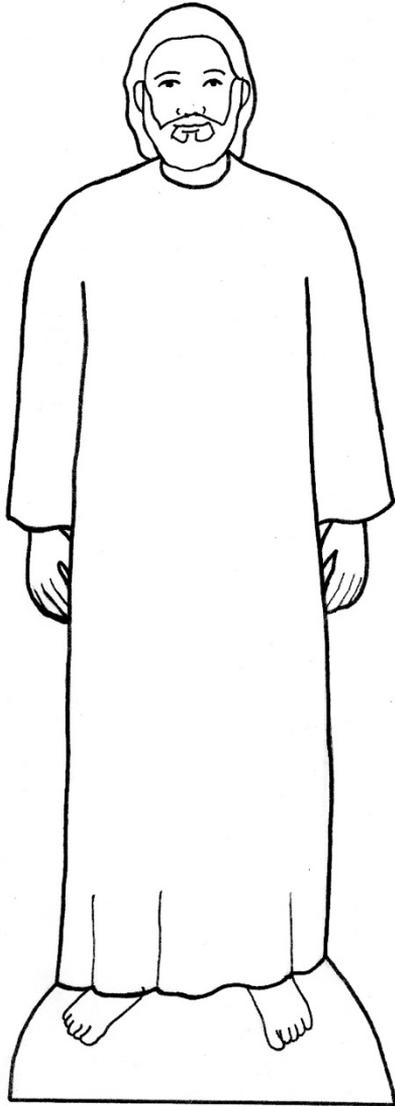




1. You will have no other gods before Me.	5. Honour your father and your mother.
2. You will not make any graven images for yourself, nor worship them.	6. You will not kill.
	7. You will not commit adultery.
3. You will not take the name of the Lord in vain.	8. You will not steal.
	9. You will not bear false witness against your neighbour.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.	10. You will not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.







# Scripture Songs

Hebrews 8:10 (Music by Marlise Schneider)

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Isra-el  
after those days, for this is the covenant that I will make with the  
house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in- to their  
minds, I will put my laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and  
write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and  
they will be to me a peo-ple, He- brews eight verse ten.

Hebrews 8:1 (Music by Marlise Schneider)

Now of the things which we have spoken, this is the sum; now of the things which  
we have spoken, this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is  
set by the righthand of the throne; we have such a high priest, who is set by the righthand of the  
throne of the majes - ty in the heavens, Hebrews eight verse one