**5.2 THE COMMANDMENTS / GOD’S COVENANTS**

**CONCEPTS:** Covenant, Incarnation

**About this unit**

In this unit the children will study the Ten Commandments. They will learn that God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses as a gift to help us to live as God wants. In the latter part of the unit the children will learn how God sent Jesus, his only Son, to help us live the commandments.

**Where this unit fits in**

This unit builds on work on Moses in Year 2 during the topic ‘The Chosen People’ and in Year 4 during the unit ‘The Bible’. It continues the theme of the Nativity which is taught throughout the programme.

**Prior learning**

It would be useful if the children had knowledge of Moses and the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

**Key Words**

Exodus, Moses, Ten Commandments, Mount Sinai, Covenant, Relationship, covet, Lord’s Day, neighbour, Incarnation

**Links to God’s Story’ and ‘Church’s Story’**

*God’s Story 3,* pp.24-27

*Church’s Story 3,* 92-95

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 13: 17-22; 14: 1-31 (the Exodus from Egypt through the Sea)

Exodus 20: 1-17 (the Ten Commandments)

Matthew 22: 34-40 (Jesus’ teaching on the greatest commandment of all)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

* God creates covenants with his people
* People show trust in God.
* People live their lives according to God’s covenants.
* Prophets foretold the birth of Jesus
* The birth of Jesus is God’s New Covenant.

**WTL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

* *Know that God loves us and calls us into relationship with him*
* *Understand the meaning of covenant*
* *Reflect on God’s covenant with Noah*
* *Know about the covenant God made with Abraham*
* *Reflect on Abraham’s trust in God*
* *Understand that God guides and challenges His people*
* *Be aware of our need to grow in faith and trust in God*
* Know that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai because he loves us
* Understand that the Ten Commandments are a gift from God to help us
* Reflect on ways we can deepen our relationship with God
* *Know that God sent prophets to remind His People of His covenant*
* *Reflect on the message of the prophets for us*
* Understand how we can show our love for God by keeping his commandments
* Knowhow Jesus summarised the Ten Commandments
* Know that God makes a New Covenant with us
* Reflect on our part in the New Covenant.
* Know that God sent his Son Jesus into the world because he loves us
* Reflect on how the birth of Jesus at Christmas is a sign of God’s love for us

**BY THE END OF THIS UNIT PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO:**

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| Have a detailed knowledge of the story of either Noah, Abraham or the covenant with Moses and an understanding of what a covenant is (new book). | Show some understanding of how the decisions of Abraham or Moses were informed by their beliefs (new book). | Suggest answers to questions like, ‘What’s surprising about God’s choice of people?’ e.g. Abram, Sarah, Moses, the Israelites. Why does God choose them?’ Compare responses (new book) | Have an accurate knowledge of the Ten Commandments |
| Show how own and others’ decisions are informed by the Ten Commandments | **Show some understanding of what the Ten Commandments tell us about God and human beings** | **Jesus shows us that God is a loving God, but some actions of God in the Old Testament are very disturbing (flooding the world [Noah], Death of the first born and drowning the Egyptians in the Red Sea [Moses]). Express a point of view about this giving a reason** (new book). | Begin to show some understanding of the New Covenant by making links between the birth of Jesus and the covenants with Abraham and Moses (new book) |
| Show understanding of a liturgy to celebrate the Incarnation (old book) | Suggest answers to a question like, ‘What matters most at Christmas?’ comparing responses | Use the religious vocabulary covenant, commandment, prophet widely, accurately and appropriately |