



7. The Rules

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to [FreeBibleImages](#) for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term.



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

This week, the focus is on **rules**, and how these are essential for harmonious community living. You will have specific rules of your own that you can refer to during this collective worship.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **You will need the road signs**, enlarged and printed from p.5. All but one of the road signs used here are all from the Highway Code & pictures are credited as such. For smaller assembly groups, you could use the road signs as a reflective story, with a long black cloth, lain out like a road & setting out the signs following the order in the script.
- If you want to follow this up with a short video of the Jewish book for children ‘Ten Good Rules’ there is a video here: [Ten Good Rules - YouTube](#)
- **There is also a second PowerPoint with a child-friendly version of the Ten Commandments, if you would find this helpful.**
- **There are 2 sets of ‘wondering’ questions in this week’s script: you may wish to use one at a different time in the week if time is short.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** Print some road sign outlines (differing shapes) for children to choose from. There are further instructions below, and also some thinking cards for older children. (p.6)

Gathering:

Slides 1&2 Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!



- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.

Engaging:

- **Slide 3: Know your highway code!** This is a book of rules to help people to stay safe on the roads. You probably know what this road sign (GIVE WAY) means, as it’s one of the most familiar. Let’s look at some others, because they will be important to our story this week.
- Look at the different road signs [*choose some / all*] – do children know what they mean? Why are they mostly pictures, not words? Why is it important to have rules on the roads? What about rules in life?
- **Slide 4:** We’re going to use the road signs again now, to tell the next part of our Moses saga, which includes some very important rules. [*use script p.3 & road signs on Slides 5-13*]
- **Slide 14:** **Let’s wonder together about this story now.... I wonder how the rules helped God’s people as they travelled?... I wonder whether one rule is more important than the others?.... I wonder how rules help us in our school community?....** [*talk about your ideas together*]
- **Slide 15: *optional** You can find the ten good rules in the Jewish holy book, the Torah – and in the Old Testament part of the Christian Bible, in Exodus chapter 20.



Slide 16: Responding (words for worship):

But first, let's be still and quiet and continue to think about what today's story might have to say to us, in our school community....



- ...We've been thinking today about the story of God's ten good rules....
-they were given to Moses to help God's people to live well together.....
-I wonder what you think about the rules that God gave?....
-I wonder which rules you think are important for us to live well together?.....
-I wonder if you have an important rule that you try to live your life by?.....

Slide 17: Prayer

Now I'm going to use the words of a prayer to draw our time together today to a close. Make it your own if you would like to, or just be still and quite with your own thoughts.

Dear God

As we travel on the road of life, help us to live well together.

May we remember that rules make life fair for everyone.

Amen

Sending: Slide 18

Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: Let's keep the rules – and live well together!



To listen to / sing:

'The Golden Rule' from BBC resources 'All about our school' here: [Keep the golden rules - BBC Teach](#)

'The Golden Rule' from Nick & Becky Drake [Worship For Everyone & Nick & Becky Drake - The Golden Rule](#)

Reflective activity: Road sign reflections



Print some roadsign outlines (differing shapes) for children to choose from (some included here). Leave the middle blank. Children write a rule for living that applies to them – or they could choose one of the Ten Good Rules from the story. Put these into a 'Book of Rules' – or hang them up in your reflective area.

For older children, you could alternatively use the reflection cards on p. 6.





Rules for living



Our theme this week reminds us that we all have to follow rules to help life to be fair for everyone.



**How do rules help in our classroom?
What rules do you 'live by'?**



Choose a road sign. Write a rule that's important for you – a rule you 'live by' – on the road sign.



The Rules: sections in bold tell you when to click in the PPT, or lay signs out on your 'road'



The Israelites had just walked right **through the Red Sea**, on dry land, with the Egyptian army in hot pursuit. God himself had opened the sea up right in front of them and kept the waters back until they were all safely through to the other side. God had promised them a land where they would be free forever.



But now it felt like they'd taken a **wrong turn**, because they were stuck in the desert and they didn't know where they were going. God's people wondered if they would ever find their promised home. And so they complained, just like every other person who's been on a long journey.... "Are we nearly there yet?!"



Despite all their moaning, God promised the people that he would **look after them** and travel with them on their journey. He gave them food to eat – and water to drink. But the people still complained.



Then God sent Moses up into the **mountains** and gave him ten good rules to help the people know how to live good lives. 'These good rules will keep you safe and show others that I am your God, and you are my people,' God said to Moses.



So Moses told the Israelites the rules. 'Love God and **worship only Him**. This is very important!'



There are rules to help you to **get along together**. You must treat each other with love and respect.

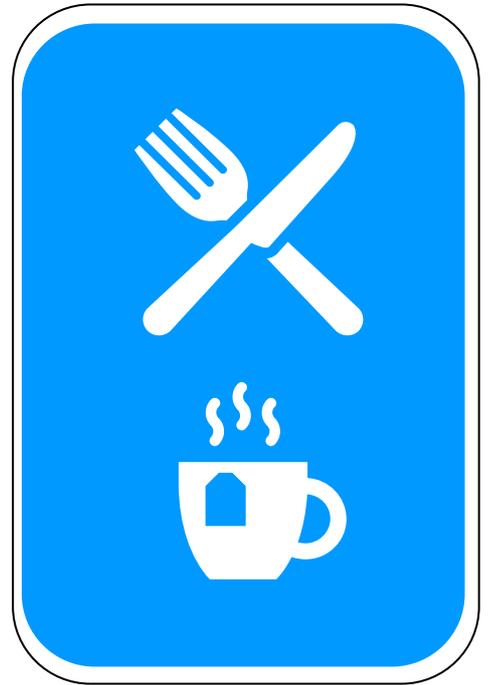


'You should **work hard** for six days, but on the seventh,' Moses explained, 'you should **STOP**. If God rested on the seventh day, then so should you! This day of rest is a sign that you are free, and no longer slaves in Egypt. It is a gift for you and all you love. Celebrate Shabbat!'



'And always **remember**,' God told them, on many occasions, 'I am your God, and you are my people. Whatever happens, you don't need to be afraid. I will go with you.' But the people often forgot this important information, as we'll find out next week, when everything goes wrong.....! *[add your own cliffhanger sound effects here!!!]*





Moses: Are we nearly there yet?!!!

7. The rules

Reflective activity: Thinking cards for older children



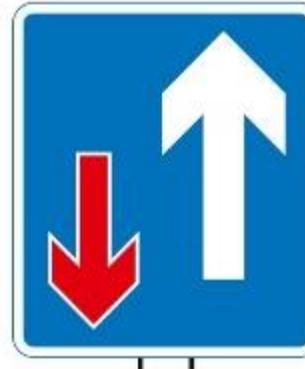
The Israelites often got lost in the desert when they didn't listen to the messages Moses gave them from God. Whose 'voice' do you listen to? Who helps you to do the right thing?



The Israelites were told to work on six days, as God had done, but to rest on the seventh day. Why do you think God said this? Why is it important to rest? How do you get a balance in your life?



God gave his people ten good rules to help them live their lives. What do you think the rules said? Why are rules important?



God asked the Israelites to worship only Him. This is still the most important rule for all Jewish people. What's important to you? What do you 'put first' in your life?



God brought water out of the rocks in the desert! Do you have any 'rocks' in your life at the moment? Think about the people who could help you. You might like to bring them to God and ask for his help.



God asked the people to care for each other. Think about the people who journey through life with you.... friends... family.... teachers.... Give thanks for them and think about what you could do to show you care for them.

