

L.O I UNDERSTAND THE GIVING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



People who want to live or work together make rules for themselves. The rules give them freedom to live as they wish, but at the same time, be responsible for the happiness of the whole group. After Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they wandered in the desert for many years. They were glad they were free but it was hard going at times, sometimes they were hungry and thirsty, then they began to grumble. But God provided for them, in spite of their grumbles and they knew that God was with them leading and guiding them.

As they made their way through the desert they lived together as a community learning to care for each other's needs, but above all learning to know and worship the God who had saved them.

When they reached a very high mountain called Mount Sinai, Moses ordered the people to camp at the foot of it and not to climb its slopes, because it is God's mountain.

Moses himself began to climb and asked the people to pray that God would teach them the laws which would bring them together as a people. Moses stayed on the mountain for a very long time, praying and talking with God. Then he returned to God's people and gave them God's Laws: The Ten Commandments. These were to help the people to live in freedom and to be responsible for their actions.

What is the terrain like around Mount Sinai?



Key Questions

- ▣ Why are rules necessary to enable people to co-exist successfully?
- ▣ Why was this particularly true for the Israelites wandering in the desert?
- ▣ In what way do rules and laws bring freedom to people who follow them?
- ▣ Why did Moses feel it was his duty to seek advice from God on rules to live by?
- ▣ Would all the rules necessarily be about religious belief and practice?
- ▣ Why would the Israelites accept these rules from Moses?

Activity

- ▣ Challenge 1 create a prayer that Moses made when asking for help from God.
- ▣ Challenge 2 create a prayer from Moses to God asking for help to establish rules by which to live.
- ▣ Challenge 3 create a speech by Moses to God asking for help to establish rules by which to live.