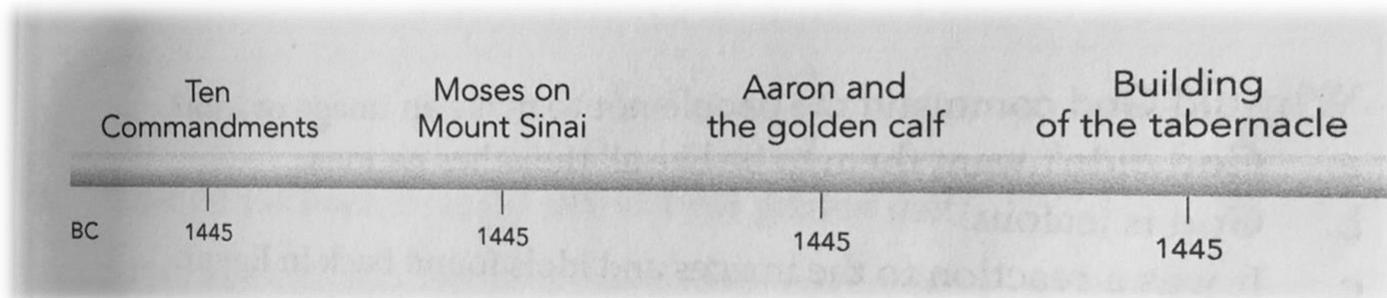


The Story

Session 6: New Commands and a New Covenant

Buhler Mennonite Church ZOOM Live – January 20, 2021

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.” Exodus 25:8-9 (NIV)



1. Opening & Praying

2. Introduction:

God gives his laws and commandments to free us, protect us, and show us his love ... not to take away our fun and ruin our lives.

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** *When you were a child, how did you picture or imagine God?*
 - *How has that changed through the years?*

- 3. Review:** As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we continue our focus on Movement 1 portion of the Story. Read through Movement 1 below several times as you continue to commit it to memory.

In the Upper Story, God creates the Lower Story. God’s vision is to come down and be with us in a beautiful garden. The first two people reject God’s vision and are escorted from paradise. Their decision introduces sin into the human race and keeps us from community with God. At this moment God gives a promise and launches a plan to get us back. The rest of the Bible is God’s story of how he kept that promise and made it possible for us to enter a loving relationship with

US. Movement 1: The Story of the Garden (Genesis 1 – 11)

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the Garden	Genesis 1 – 11
	The Story of Israel	Genesis 12 – Malachi
	The Story of Jesus	Matthew – John (Gospels)
	The Story of the Church	Acts – Jude
	The Story of a New Garden	Revelation

4. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- Why did God want the people to hear him speaking to Moses from a dense cloud?
 - a. God didn't want anyone to see him while he talked.
 - b. God wanted to make sure the people heard him clearly.
 - c. God didn't want Moses to have to remember everything God said.
 - d. God wanted the people to always trust Moses.

- Why did God command the people not to make an image or idol?
 - a. God didn't want them to be like all the other nations.
 - b. God is jealous.
 - c. It was a reaction to the images and idols found back in Egypt.
 - d. They did not yet have access to the right materials for proper idols.

- Why did Aaron make a golden calf for the people?
 - a. They wanted an idol like they had in Egypt.
 - b. They were looking for a temporary distraction so they could have a party.
 - c. Moses had been gone so long they didn't think he would return.
 - d. Aaron was trying to take over leadership of the Israelites.

- Why did Moses put a veil over his face when he talked to the Israelites?
 - a. His face was radiant.
 - b. He didn't want them to see his facial expressions.
 - c. God told him to wear it as a sign of his leadership.
 - d. It was the first of the priestly garments described by God.

5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

Video Guide: As you watch the video use the following outline to record anything that stands out to you.

- Guidelines on how we should treat each other:
 - People see God as a cosmic _____

 - If I come down, there have to be _____ on how you treat me and how you treat each other.

- Tabernacle accommodations:
 - If I come down, I'll need a place to _____.

- Atonement for sins:
 - If I come down, sin must be _____ for.

- The God of the Upper Story wants to do life with the Lower Story:
 - And this new nation was to be _____.

 - "If your _____ does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

6. Video Discussion/Journaling: Write down your answers.

- If we see God as a cosmic killjoy just waiting for people to do something wrong so he can catch and punish them, how will this impact our relationship with God?

- The 10 Commandments are the basic "rules of the road" for how people are to relate to God and each other (Exodus 20:1-17; *The Story* pp. 61-62). How would our lives and faith improve if we followed these commands (in action and in spirit)? What are positive cause and effects results from following the commandments.

*Our life is like a road trip. God wants to lead us every step of the way with his GPS.
God sees the picture from the Upper Story and wants the best for us.
God wants us to make it to the final destination and to enjoy the journey.*

- Randy unpacked the reality that God is seeking to come down and connect with his people ... with us! Randy said three things need to happen for God to draw near to us in the Lower Story and experience God's presence. Why is each of these so important?

1. There must be rules to guide how people relate to God and to each other.

2. God will need a place to stay.

3. Sin must be atoned for.

- Today, God no longer dwells (tabernacles) in tents or temples; God lives in us (Acts 7:48-50; 1 Corinthians 6:19). How does recognizing that God dwells (tabernacles) in us help connect God's Upper Story to our Lower Story on a daily basis?

7. Personal Reflections: Ask yourself:

1. How am I doing when it comes to the three things God set in place so God's story can connect more with my story?
2. Am I seeking to do my part to insure my relationship with God is as close as possible?
3. Am I following God's commands and direction?
4. Am I seeking healthy relationships, loving others the way they would want to be loved?
5. Do I invite God to dwell (tabernacle) fully in my heart, life, and actions?
6. How might I celebrate God's presence in me and communicate with God more freely and more often?
7. Do I live with an absolute, rock-solid confidence that all my sins have been atoned for through Jesus' death and resurrection?

*We need to be reminded that whatever choice we make, our lives impact others.
They will experience the blessings of our good decisions and they will experience the pain of our destructive choices.*

8. Double Check Your Pop Quiz

Answer Key: d / b / c / a

Video Notes Answer Key: killjoy / guidelines / stay / atoned / different / Presence

9. Next Week: Session 7: Wandering (Exodus 32:11)