

God Gives Us the Law

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 11*.

❖ To keep the Chosen People safe, God had Moses and Aaron lead the people by a long, indirect route to the Promised Land. The journey would take 40 years.

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❖ The Israelites traveled without water through the desert. The oasis known as Marah had water, but it was bitter until God told Moses how to make it fresh. Later, God told Moses to strike a rock, from which water flowed. The people complained again and again, but God always took care of them.

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❖ When the people had nothing to eat, God sent them quail in the evening and manna in the morning. Manna was called “bread from heaven.” This story foretells the Eucharist, because Jesus refers to himself as the bread that came down from heaven.

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❖ God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on a mountain in Sinai. God said that the Israelites would be his people if they followed his law. When Moses told the people the commandments, they were grateful. They made a Covenant with God, promising to obey God’s law.

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❖ The Ten Commandments were kept in the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was a sign of God’s presence and a reminder of the Covenant.

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❖ Aaron made a golden calf while Moses was on the mountain. The people broke the First Commandment by worshiping the calf. When Moses saw the golden calf, he grew so angry that he smashed the commandments and melted down the calf.

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❖ Moses had a special friendship with God. He prayed that God would forgive the people for their idolatry, and God listened. God forgave his people, renewed the Covenant, and replaced the broken tablets.

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❖ The Eucharist is a special gift, much like the manna God provided for the Israelites. It nourishes us during our spiritual journeys. It brings us into union with Jesus Christ and his saving Death and Resurrection.

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❖ The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist bring us into the Church. The Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are ways that we can be healed. Everyone sins from time to time. The important thing to remember is that when we sin, we should confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

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