

God Gives Us the Law



CHAPTER 11 Study Guide

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. They wandered in the wilderness for 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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The number 40 is a symbolic number that often appears in the Bible. It represents an important period of time during which one’s faith is tested.

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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 made a covenant with God, promising to obey his 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. It was housed in the Tent of Meeting.

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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. This sin is called idolatry.

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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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