

Lesson 36: WAYS THAT THE LORD APPEARED TO PEOPLE ON EARTH

Matthew 17: 1-5; Mark 9: 2-7

PREPARATION: Make a photocopy of each picture. Bring Bibles to class.

INTRODUCTION: Now spread the pictures out in front of the group in random order. Tell them these are pictures of some of the ways the Lord has appeared to people on earth as described in the Word. Ask them to identify what story each scene comes from, and then to determine whether each story comes from the Old Testament or the New Testament. Have them sort the pictures into two groups – Old Testament scenes and New Testament scenes.

Ask the children what they notice as the main difference between how the Lord appeared in the Old Testament and how He appears in the New Testament. See if they pick up that the Lord always appears in the New Testament in Human form.

READING:

Now read aloud family talk, “**Why the Lord was Born on Earth**” by Rev. Frederick L. Schnarr.

Have the children open their Bibles and take turns reading aloud, first from **Matthew 17:1-5**, and then from **Mark: 2-7** (the story of the Lord’s transfiguration.)

DISCUSSION:

Ask them, “Why do you think that the Lord appeared this way to Peter, James, and John? What was He trying to show them?” (The disciples saw Jesus each day as a man. He wanted to show these three that He was not just a man, but that He was also God.)

“So you see that the Lord came to show the world that He is Human, and that He, Jesus Christ, is God. That is why we call Him the Divine Human. He is a Person we can turn to for love and guidance, and He is the God who has all power to help us.”

PROJECT: Poster

Now have the group cut out and color all the pictures of the Lord. Have them decide how to arrange them and mount them on a large piece of construction paper or poster board, and create a title: **WAYS THAT THE LORD HAS APPEARED TO PEOPLE ON EARTH.**

(Note: If you need to fill more time, perhaps they could make some of the words with Letter stencils and colored paper.)

Old Testament

The Burning Bush
The Pillar of Cloud
The Ten Commandments
The Ark

New Testament

Teaching in the Temple (at age twelve)
Feeding the 5000
Healing (raising Jairus’ daughter)
The Lord in the Clouds (as described in Revelation)
Being transfigured for Peter, James, and John

Quote

The Lord came into the world to teach us how to love. The God of the Old Testament seemed like an angry God, and the children of Israel learned from Him how important it is to be led by the Lord — to obey. He led them as a pillar of fire or a pillar of cloud.

But what is the Lord in the New Testament? He is a tiny innocent Baby, who grows up to be a wise and loving Man named Jesus Christ. He gives His people a new message — to be loving and kind to the neighbor. He shows us how to be human. So when He appears to Peter, James, and John, He is in human form, but shining in brilliant white light.

Why the Lord Was Born on Earth

Sermon by Rev. Frederick L. Schnarr
(*Matthew 17:1-5*)

We gather together on Easter Sunday to remember the time of the Lord's resurrection — the time when from living on earth, the Lord rose from the sepulchre into the heavens. We bring flowers to the Lord's altar as a sign of our thanks and love for the many things He did for us by being born into the world and living as a Man among us.

After the Lord was crucified, the disciples wept and were sad. Because they thought the Lord was indeed dead, some of them even left Jerusalem because they thought they would never see the Lord again. They thought that if the Lord really were the God of heaven and earth, He would not allow Himself to be killed. They thought that He would call great armies of angels to come and fight for Him, so He could become a great and powerful king on the earth.

But the Lord did not come to make himself an earthly king. He was already the King of heaven and earth. Every created thing was the work of His hands. There was no greater King than the Lord, nor could there ever be. So why did He not come to make Himself an earthly king? Why then did He come?

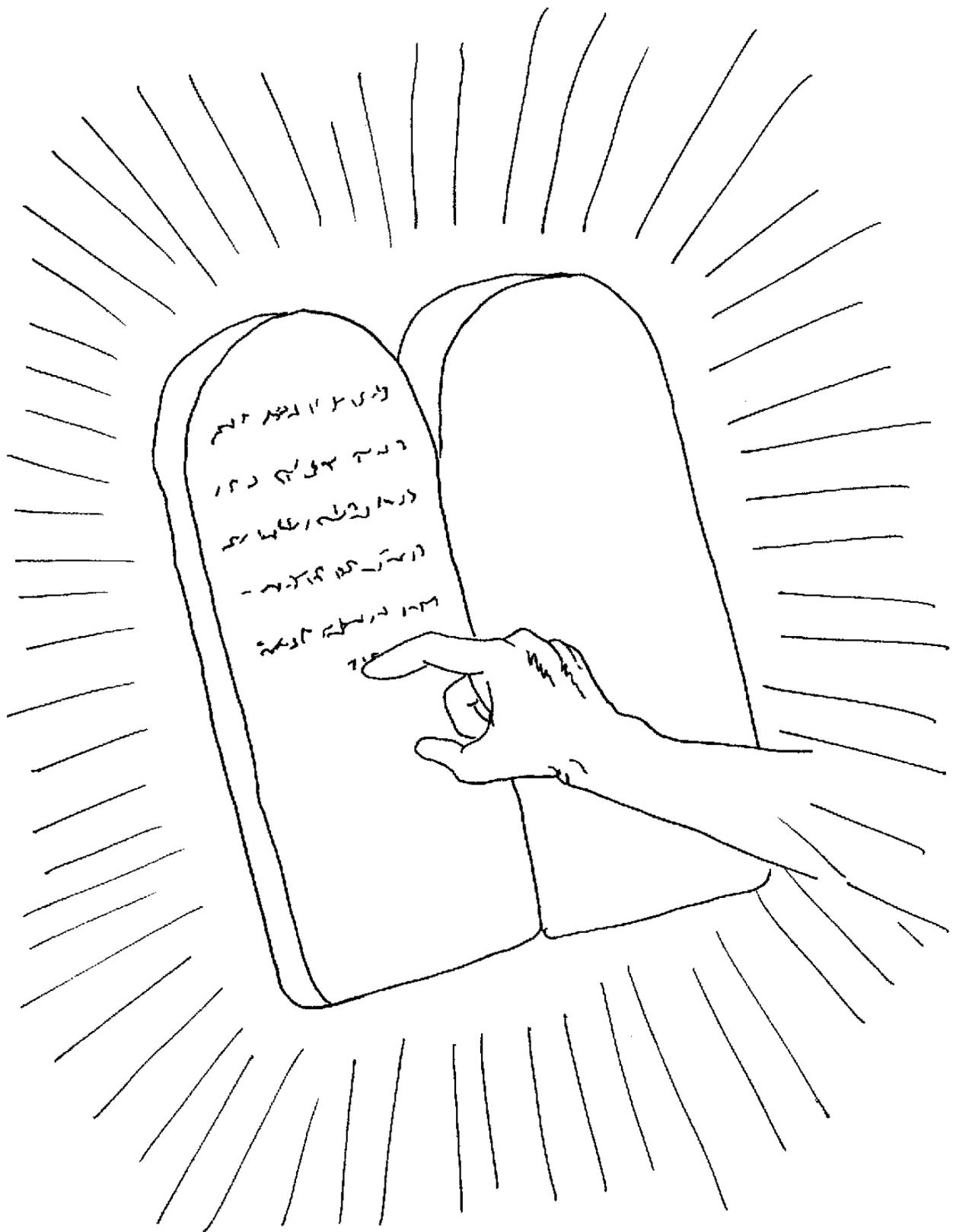
Do you remember how the children of Israel thought that the Lord was an angry God? They thought that He liked to punish people; they thought that He was the only God of Israel, not of all the world. They thought that if somebody did something wrong or bad, he could not be forgiven. Think of what a false idea of the Lord people had, when they were willing to fall down and worship a golden calf, or some other image made of wood or stone. They did not think of the Lord as a human God. They followed Him as a pillar of smoke and of cloud. They could not really understand Him, because they could not see Him.

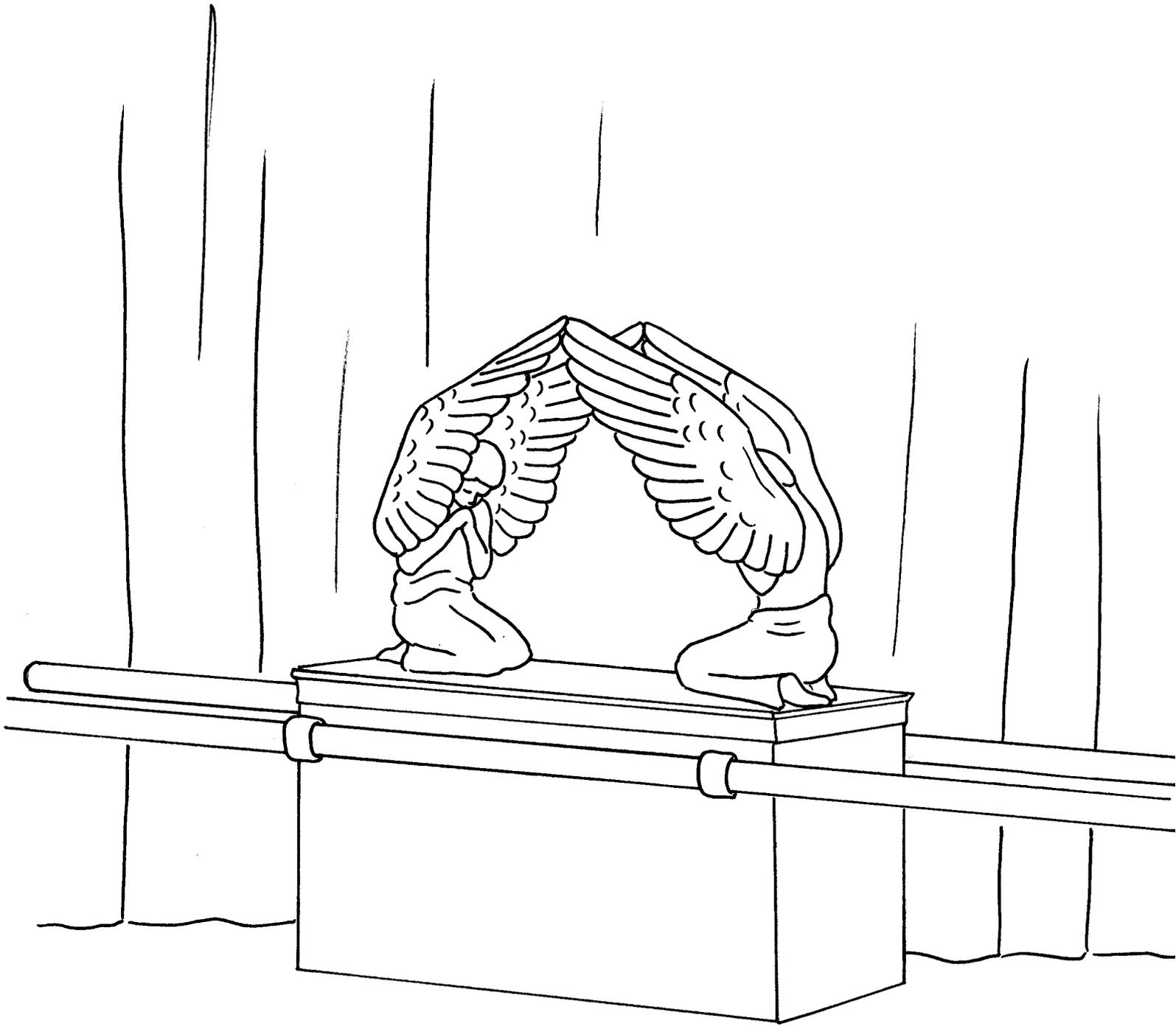
When the Lord came into the world, people did not know anything about heaven. They knew nothing of the holiness of marriage. And they did not know why the Lord created them. They thought of the Lord as some faraway force — they thought of Him as the wind or lightning. So the Lord was born on the earth to live among men, to teach them about Himself, and to show them how to love.

Throughout His whole life on earth, the Lord showed everyone how much He cared for them. He healed the lame, the sick, the blind; He forgave everyone. He gave them a new commandment: "*that you love one another as I have loved you.*" Now everyone could see the Lord, not as an angry God, but as a loving father, a bright shining Man. Now all people, for all time, could know the Lord as a *Human* God — a God of mercy, and a God of love. He showed that for us to become truly human we too must learn the human qualities of mercy and of love (*Micah 6:8*)

**He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy
And to walk humbly with your God?**







CHERUBIM ON THE ARK

EXODUS 25: 18-22









