



STANDING TOGETHER

AT SINAI:

Conversation Cards




Jewish  
Education  
Center  
OF CLEVELAND

**THE PREMISE:**

Seven weeks after our miraculous escape from Egypt, we (the Israelites, eventually to be called: Jews) stood together at the foot of Mt. Sinai to hear God and receive an incredible gift - the Ten Commandments. *Standing Together at Sinai: Conversation Cards* focuses on our experiences in the wilderness, helping us see ourselves as if we personally left Egypt and as participants in the awesome experience together at Mt. Sinai.

To play, pick a card and share it with the group. Give the players time to think about question. Have a few of the players share their thoughts.



A story about the experience at Mt. Sinai is that the Israelites were sound asleep at the moment God was ready. To make up for this, there is a Jewish custom to stay awake all night on Shavuot learning with others.

Make a list of things you would find interesting to learn all night long.

When Moses reported that God wanted us to follow the commandments, you heard the Israelites around you say, "All that God has spoken, we will do."

What do you do that helps connect you to God, to the Torah, or the Jewish people?

Commandment #5 -  
*Honor your father and mother*

What are ways that you can honor your father and mother?

In 1846, the Reform movement created Confirmation, a ceremony when teenagers confirm their commitment to Judaism.

Why do you think Confirmation was placed on Shavuot?

It is a custom to eat dairy foods on Shavuot because according to a story, the Israelites needed to make some quick meal preparations. Dairy is faster to cook than meat.

What would you eat for dinner on Shavuot (don't forget dessert!)?

God could have chosen to speak to the Israelites within a few days from their escape from Egypt. But the meeting at Sinai was 7 weeks later.

Why might God have chosen to wait?

Commandment #4  
*Remember to keep Shabbat*  
How can we make Shabbat  
look different from the other  
days of the week?

Make a list of things you  
can do to make Shabbat  
special/ different from the  
rest of the week.

You stood at Mt. Sinai with  
millions of Jews.  
The mountain shook with  
thunder, lightning, and the  
shofar blasting. If that wasn't  
awesome enough, God spoke  
the Ten Commandments.

If you created a tweet of  
your experience or feelings.

When we didn't have food in  
the wilderness, God sent  
manna. It was harvested every  
morning, each person according  
to his/her portion. It is said that  
manna tasted like whatever the  
person eating it imagined.

As a newly freed slave,  
what did you imagine  
it tasting like?

Your fellow Israelites  
complained about so much:  
not having food, not having  
water, not being in the  
"comfortable" and familiar  
land of Egypt.

What was your major  
complaint in those first  
49 days out of Egypt.


When the Israelites arrived at  
Mt. Sinai, God told Moses that  
no one was touch the mountain.  
As you went to wash  
your clothes, you overheard  
someone saying that not  
touching the mountain  
was a silly rule.

You went over to talk to her.  
What did you say?

God said, "I make this covenant  
not with you alone, but both  
with those who are standing  
with us this day, and with those  
who are not with us here this  
day." (Deuteronomy 29:13-14)

So, the tradition is that we  
ALL stood at Sinai.

Among the millions of Jews  
(past and present) there  
that day, which two were  
at your side when God spoke?



When you arrived at Mt. Sinai,  
God told Moses to tell the  
Israelites to get ready. You had  
to make yourselves holy, wash  
your clothes and be ready  
on the third day.

You had a conversation with  
your best friend about this.  
What did you say?

Standing at the foot of  
Mt. Sinai, we all heard the  
Ten Commandments  
(it was AWESOME!).

What hopes do you have for  
how the people around you will  
behave, now that they heard  
these new laws?

We all stood at the foot  
of Mt. Sinai with about  
2 million other Israelites.  
The sky was so dark, the  
thunder was so loud and it  
looked like a light show  
with all the lightning.

What were you feeling at  
that moment?

We all left Egypt with the  
clothes on our back,  
some jewelry we borrowed  
from your Egyptian neighbors,  
and some unbaked dough.

What questions did you ask  
Moses as you passed by him  
on your way out of Egypt?

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro,  
helps Moses better manage the  
complaints and issues that  
occur when more than two  
million people are camping  
together in the desert.

You are picked to be a judge  
and leader over a hundred  
people. What will you tell  
those 100 people.

In the 15th day of the second  
month after leaving Egypt,  
you are still in the desert.  
You join everyone else in  
complaining about missing  
the "good life" that you had  
in Egypt.

What things about life in Egypt  
are you missing?