

Reviewing the Top Ten

(Exodus 20:1-17)

Introduction

- Why did God give us the Ten Commandments?
- What happens to the people who can't keep them all?

Today we're going to review God's Top Ten, why He gave them to us and what to do if we break one.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, what can we say to a God as great as You? You are holy, perfect, and wonderful. We are full of sin. We break Your commandments every day. Forgive us. You don't change the commandments to make it easier for us, and you don't leave us hopeless. You paid the price for our disobedience by dying on the cross to take away our sins. We'll love you forever. Thank You for Your loving laws that keep us safe and show us how much we need You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." ... "Love your neighbor as yourself."
(Matthew 22:37, 39b).

Lesson

After God gave the Ten Commandments to the people, here's what He told them...

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.

(13) And you must always obey the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.

God gave us the Ten Commandments for our own good. The Ten Commandments tell us how to live so that we don't offend God or hurt other people. He knows that if we obey all these laws we will be happy. He wants us to obey them. But, in order to be saved by keeping The Law, you would have to keep it absolutely in very point throughout your whole lifetime.

James 2:10

For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as the person who has broken all of God's laws.

No one but Jesus Christ could ever keep all of the Ten Commandments all of the time! The reason God gave us the Ten Commandments was not to show us *how* to get to heaven. No! He gave them to us to show us what sin is. *Because* we can't keep them, proves our sin is real. Since we can't keep all His laws, Jesus came to Earth to do for us what we can't do for ourselves.

The Ten Commandments show us our desperate need for Jesus.

Romans 3:20

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Before Jesus came, people thought they had to keep the Ten Commandments perfectly in order to get to heaven. But they kept failing and failing. How hopeless it was! But now God has a better way.

Romans 3:21-22 [Teacher, read...]

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law.... (22) We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

There is no one who can keep all Ten Commandments all the time.

Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- How does God help us since we can't keep them all?

Romans 3:25 [Teacher, read...]

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood....

God said we are His treasured people. He wants us to show that we are His special people by obeying His commandments.

Dallas Understands

[Teacher, before class take a diaper, and tear off the outer layer. Stuff the diaper lining into a cup until it is about half full. Try not to let the kids see in the cup. Also, have a pitcher of water.]

Let's say this cup is you and me. And this water is our sin. I'm going to tell you a story about a boy named Dallas. He was a lot like most people.

One day I asked Dallas, "*If you died tonight, would you go to heaven?*" Dallas answered, "*Yes, I guess so.*" When I asked him why God would let him into heaven, Dallas said, "*I'm pretty good. I mean, I've never killed anybody, and I don't steal.*"

Let's see if Dallas' good behavior is good enough for God's standards.

First, I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #1. Can you tell me what that is? [Teacher, let the children tell you what each commandment is.] I told Dallas other gods come in many forms. Sometimes we don't even recognize them. Dallas realized that he didn't always worship God alone. "*Oh, yeah,*" Dallas said. "*After my grandfather died I used to try to talk to him. One time I asked him to help me make a free shot in a basketball game.*" Have you always kept God in first place in your life? [Teacher say, "*I have sinned. I*

have not always given God first place in my life. Sometimes I take more time with TV than with God." [Put a little water into the cup,]

Next, I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #2. Can you tell me what that is? Dallas didn't think he had made any idols. But he then he remembered, "*I have gotten so hooked on sports heroes that I'm afraid I spend more time on my baseball card collection than I do thinking about the things of God.*" How about you? Do you have any "idols" in your life? [Put a little water into the cup.]

Then I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #3? Can you tell me what that is? Dallas had an older brother named Dan. Dan used bad language all the time. And it was becoming a bad habit with Dallas, now too. Have you ever spoken God's name in an ugly way? Have you ever said a swear word? [Put a little water into the cup.]

Then I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #4? Can you tell me what that is? On Sundays, Dallas went to church—sometimes. Well, most of the time he'd rather go fishing. Sometimes a whole month would slip by without his setting aside a special day for God. Have you always remembered and worshipped God? [Put a little more water into the cup.]

Then, I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #5? Can you tell me what that is? Dallas didn't even have to think hard about this commandment. He knew that he didn't always obey his parents. Sometimes he was sassy to his mom. Have you always respected and obeyed your parents? [Put a little more water into the cup.]

Then, I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #6? Can you tell me what that is? "*Phew,*" Dallas thought. "*I've never killed anyone.*" Then he remembered shouting, "*You idiot!*" when his brother broke one of his favorite model cars. "*Oops, I guess in a way, I've even broken that commandment, too.*" [Put a little water into the cup.]

Dallas was starting to wish I would stop asking him about all these Commandments. It was as if a flashlight were shining into his secret soul.

Dallas was happy to learn that God's 7th Commandment was, "*Be true to your husband or wife.*" He decided he'd just never get married when he grew up. But when I explained that this commandment was about being faithful and true to *all* your friends, he let out a slow moan. He knew he has let some of his friends down.

Next, I asked him how he was doing with Commandment #8. Can you tell me what that is? Dallas said, "Yes, OK, *once I stole my sister's gum. But she...oh, never mind, I'm guilty!!!*" [Put a little more water into the cup.]

When I asked Dallas how he was doing with Commandment #9, he was beginning to wish he could run away. What's #9? Dallas said, "*I've lied lots of times, even when I knew that it's always best to tell the truth.*" Have you always told the truth? [Put a little water into the cup.]

Finally, I asked him about Commandment #10. Can you tell me what that is? Dallas said he just couldn't stop thinking about Mark's four-wheeler. "*Oh, boy, I'm breaking this commandment even while I'm learning about it!*" He hung his head and mumbled, "*I guess I'm just hopeless.*" Then he stood there, without saying another word. Have you ever wanted what others have? [Put a little water into the cup.]

- How do you think Dallas felt about himself?
- How do you feel about yourself?

Romans 3:10-20 tells us, "There is not one person who is right with God. We all have turned away. We all have sinned. In fact, all the world stands hushed, dirty, and guilty before Almighty God. The more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them." (TLB) His laws serve to make us see that we are sinners. Our sin is real.

You and I are full of sin, just like this cup is full of water. But thankfully Jesus came and died on the cross. [Teacher, draw a cross on the cup.] He took my sins away! My sin is real. [Turn the cup over, squeezing it slightly.] But my sin has disappeared!

We would be without hope if it weren't for Jesus. God said that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sin. But, He came to Earth and lived a sinless life for the sole purpose of dying for your sins and mine. Jesus let soldiers nail Him to the cross because He loves us so much. Now, because He shed His blood for us we don't have to suffer.

But this doesn't mean that we can live our life just anyway we please. Now, out of gratefulness for what He has done for us, we should want to live our lives in a way that pleases Him.

You always have a choice to live as God's treasured people by listening to Him and obeying Him. Every day you have many opportunities to choose to do things God's way, or you *can* choose to do things your own way. We are all born with a "*want to*" to do things our own way. Each and every one of us, if left on our own, would be selfish, disobedient people. We have to be taught how to behave properly and to have manners. It's your parent's job to teach you how to say *please* and *thank you*; how to be thoughtful and kind, and how to share with others.

Jesus summed the Ten Commandments up in our Memory Verse for today. [Review.] By fulfilling these two commands, a person keeps all the others.

Remember, the first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others. Jesus says that if we truly love God and our neighbor with the same kind of perfect love, we will naturally keep the Ten Commandments. We should always do all we can to show our love for God and others. Ask God to give you the desire to always do the loving thing.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to take the punishment that I deserve. Lord, if you hadn't made a way of escape for me I'd be doomed to spend all of eternity in hell apart from You. Help me to live

my life worthy of your gift of salvation. I want every thought I think, every word I speak and everything I do to bring your name honor and blessing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

[For more lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments? (God gave us the Ten Commandments for our own good. The Ten Commandments tell us how to live so that we don't offend God or hurt other people.)
2. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments if He knew we couldn't keep them? (He gave them to us to show us what sin is.)
3. What happens to the people who can't keep them all? (If they believe in Jesus, confess their sins to Him, He will forgive them.)
4. How did Jesus summarize the Ten Commandments into two commandments? (See Memory verse)
5. What did God say there had to be in order for there to be any forgiveness of sin? (Shedding of blood.)
6. What did Jesus do for us on the cross? (He shed His blood.)
7. What are some things that you are truly thankful for?