
Forward

This book contains lessons that will get your students into the 10 Commandments—and get the 10 Commandments into the hearts of your students. They'll learn that God gives us laws because He loves us. And best of all, they will discover that the 10 Commandments lead us straight to Jesus. This study will bring you and your students into a closer and more obedient walk with God.

I have designed these lessons to enable you to teach the Bible expositionally. The idea is to have the kids read the passages in their own Bibles and the teacher explain the scriptures and give good practical applications that are age-appropriate. My goal is to ensure that children learn that God's Word is exciting and meaningful and that teachers teach sound doctrine!

Even though I've scripted the lessons, I don't expect teachers to read my lesson materials verbatim to the children as they teach. My lessons are meant to provide the details you need to get background information and some suggestions for child-oriented personal application. Once you know and understand the Bible lessons for yourself, you'll be ready to teach your class.

The two-column layout of this book is designed so that you can copy and cut the pages in half to fit into your Bible. When the children observe that you are teaching right out of the Bible, rather than from

a curriculum book, it validates God's Word and gives your teaching more authority.

You will discover that there is not always a Craft or Game idea suggested in each lesson. When I've had a good idea that really seems to support the lesson objectives, I've included it. But I have another handbook called Tips and Tricks — Making Children's Bible Lessons Come to Life that gives lots of suggestions for activities that will help reinforce your lesson and teach the memory verse. (This is available from my website: <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/>)

Use the Teaching Schedule to help you organize your teaching rotation.

I pray that you will use these lessons for God's glory by teaching the Bible as an entire plan by a systematic and connected study of the Word.

Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)

Sheila Scroggins

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Teaching Schedule

| Date | Teacher | Lesson | Memory Verse |
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| | | Moses Receives the Commandments (Exodus 19) | <i>Obey every word of these instructions...they are not empty words—they are your life! (Deuteronomy 32:46b-47a)</i> |
| | | #1. Have No Other Gods (Exodus 20:2-3) | <i>I am the Lord your God.... You must not have any other god but me. (Exodus 20:2-3)</i> |
| | | #2. Do Not Worship Idols (Exodus 20:4-6) | <i>You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind. (Exodus 20:4a)</i> |
| | | #3. Keep God's Name Holy (Exodus 20:7) | <i>You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. (Exodus 20:7)</i> |
| | | #4. Set Aside A Special Day for God (Exodus 20:8-11) | <i>Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8)</i> |
| | | #5. Honor Your Father and Mother (Exodus 20:12) | <i>Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)</i> |
| | | #6. Do Not Murder (Exodus 20:13) | <i>You must not murder. (Exodus 20:13)</i> |
| | | #7. Be True to Your Husband or Wife (Exodus 20:14) | <i>You must not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)</i> |
| | | #8. Do Not Steal (Exodus 20:15) | <i>You must not steal. (Exodus 20:15)</i> |
| | | #9. Do Not Lie (Exodus 20:16) | <i>You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)</i> |
| | | #10. Do Not Want What Others Have (Exodus 20:17) | <i>You must not covet your neighbor's house... or anything else that belongs to your neighbor. (Ex 20:17)</i> |
| | | Reviewing the Top Ten (Exodus 20:1-17) | <i>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).</i> |

Moses Receives the Commandments

(Exodus 19)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Why do we have rules? Can you imagine driving around town if there were no rules? All the cars would crash into each other and people wouldn't be able to get across the street! It would be so confusing!

Can you imagine playing a game without rules? What would it be like to play football without rules? How would you know how to play? How would you know who was the winner?

Have you heard of the Ten Commandments? God gave us ten rules to live by so that we would have peaceful and joy-filled lives. Can you list the Ten Commandments? [Teacher, let them try to list them all, but don't help them out!]

Did you know that breaking even one of these ten rules only once in someone's whole life would keep them from going to heaven? God said in Deuteronomy 27:26, "*Cursed is anyone who does not obey these laws.*" Only by keeping *all* of the Ten Commandments every minute of every day of your life will you be perfect enough to be suitable to enter heaven. If it is *this* important to God that you keep the Ten Commandments shouldn't you know what they are?

Well, today we start a series of lessons which will teach us that God gave us these rules because He loves us and wants us to live a peaceful and joy-filled life.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are our Father and maker. You created us, so You know how we need to act. Thank You for giving us loving laws to keep us safe. Giving us rules proves You love us. Help us to learn what Your rules are, why You gave them to us and how we can make them work in our lives. We love You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Obey every word of these instructions...they are not empty words—they are your life! (Deuteronomy 32:46b-47a)

Lesson

Thousands of years ago, God chose the Israelites to be His special people. They had been slaves in Egypt and cried out to God for help. He heard their cries and sent Moses to rescue them.

After escaping through the Red Sea, the children of Israel kept traveling through the wilderness over the desert sand, heading to a new country, the land that God promised to Abraham.

Exodus 19:1

Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai.

About two months after they left Egypt, they reached Mt. Sinai. And it was here that God gave them detailed instructions about how to live and how to worship Him.

God told Moses why He picked the children of Israel to be "His Chosen People."

Exodus 19:5-6a

Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. (6) And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.

God chose the Israelites to be his special people—a special family set apart for Himself, safe and happy. He wanted them to be spiritual leaders showing everyone else in all of humanity how to live according to God's way—how to properly serve and worship Him, the only true and living God of the universe. He wanted them to show everyone the Way to everlasting life with Him.

God chose this one nation to be a channel of his blessings to the whole world. And, God wants you to be an example to the rest of the world, too. He wants you and me to show people what He is like by the way we live and act and think.

Before leading the people into the Promised Land, God had to teach them what it meant to be His special people. They had to learn how God wanted them to live. So, He led them out into the desert and while they were camped next to Mount Sinai, the Lord called to Moses from the mountain.

Exodus 19:10-11

Then the Lord told Moses, "go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing. (11) Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch."

Whenever you read about the third day in the scriptures like this, it's important. What did Jesus do on the third day that was out of the ordinary? He rose from the dead!

This time God was about to give His people the Ten Commandments. And, to get the people ready, Moses had them wash their clothes. The people had to prepare themselves for God's appearance. Washing their clothes would remind them how pure and clean they needed to be in the presence of God. They were to set themselves apart from their daily routine in order to dedicate themselves to God.

Just like the children of Israel needed to get their minds and hearts ready to meet with God, when we meet God for worship, we need to get our minds and hearts ready. When you get ready to come to church, don't you put on your good clothes? When we get ready to come to church we should also make sure that our hearts and minds are clean, too. We should always be our best for God and

God then told Moses that anyone who touched the holy mountain would die, so Moses built a fence around the mountain. The fence would keep the people safe, just as God's loving laws would keep them safe.

[Teacher, as you read the following passage let the children get involved in the story by making sound effects. Have someone be the

lightening, another the thunder, and yet another the horn. Then have the children shake at the appropriate time. Dramatize the passage.]

Exodus 19:16-20 [Teacher, read...]

*On the morning of the third day, **thunder** roared and **lightning** flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long loud blast from a ram's **horn**, and all the people trembled. (17) Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God and they stood at the foot of the mountain. (18) All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain **shook violently**. (19) As the blast of the ram's **horn** grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God **thundered** his reply. (20) The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.*

This was the scene when God gave the people the Ten Commandments. God wanted the people to know that He was serious. He wanted to show the people just how awesome and important the Ten Commandments are. These were not just to be ten good ideas; they are ten holy commandments from the God who made us and knows what is best for us.

The Lord called to Moses. Moses went up to the top of the mountain, and God gave him these ten rules:

1. Do not have any gods but Me
2. Do not worship idols
3. Keep God's name holy
4. Set aside a special day for God
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not murder
7. Be true to your husband or wife

8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not want what others have

Why did God give the Israelites the Ten Commandments? God gave the Israelites the Ten Commands to keep them safe and to create a special people for Himself—a family who would love, honor, obey, and respect Him so they could show the rest of the world how to live God’s way.

Please Fence Me In

We’re going to talk about how these Ten Commandments are like a fence around us to keep us safe. When we keep God’s rules we stay inside the sheepfold, nice and safe and sound.

[Teacher, have each child make a section of fence by gluing two tongue depressors between two Popsicle sticks. Have them write a commandment on each of the horizontal sections. Make a corral by letting the kids stick the fence posts into clay or play dough so they stand upright. Once you have a completed corral, scatter cotton balls on the table outside the fence.]

Let’s pretend that these cotton balls lying outside the fence represent the Israelites. If we stay inside the fence, we won’t get hurt or lost or kidnapped away. No wild animals will come in to get us and we’ll live in peace and harmony inside the fence.

Let’s put the sheep inside the sheepfold.

- What keeps the flock protected? (The fence.)
- How are God’s commandments like the fence? (God’s rules protect the people.)

If everyone everywhere always obeyed these rules, they would have peaceful and joy-filled lives. There would be no anger, or sadness, or

jealousy or anything evil. People would be doing God’s will here on Earth as it is in Heaven, just like the angels do. It would be like Heaven on Earth!

Unfortunately, the Israelites didn’t always keep all of God’s commandments [have some of the “sheep” jump the fence].

- How many of you have obeyed all of God’s commandments?
- Have you always obeyed your parents?

God knows that we are just like sheep—we are naughty and can’t keep all of His commandments all the time. The Bible says, “*No one is righteous [blameless]—not even one.*” (Romans 3:10)

- Why did God give us laws He knew we couldn’t keep?

God gave us rules we couldn’t keep to show us what sin is. Because we can’t keep the Ten Commandments, it proves to us that we are sinners! We aren’t perfect! You can try all you want, but you just can’t be good enough on your own. He wanted to humble us and make us appreciate what Jesus came and did for us. Our only hope is to run to Him for forgiveness and mercy and rely on what He did for us on the cross.

If someone breaks one of God’s rules [jumps the fence], he deserves to be punished. And, he can never deserve to go to heaven and live with God. God’s Word says, “*For the wages of [punishment for] sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (Romans 6:23)

That’s why God sent Jesus. He is our Good Shepherd; He loves us and came to Earth to take the punishment you and I deserve for breaking His rules.

So, what do we do when we “jump the fence” and break one of God’s rules? How do we get back inside the sheepfold? We must confess our sins to Him and stop sinning. 1 John 1:9 tells us, “*If we confess*

our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

Does keeping the Ten Commandments get us to heaven? No! Following God's rules keeps us safe and happy and also shows God how much we love Him when we try to obey Him. But it's important to understand that following God's laws does *not* make us part of God's flock.

What makes us part of His flock is believing in what Jesus did for us on the cross. If you believe that what Jesus did on the cross paid for your sins, you *are* part of His family. You're His child and you can call Him, "Father."

God gave the Israelites these loving laws to teach them how to live a peaceful and joy-filled life. God chose the Israelites to be His special people because He expected them to teach everyone else in the world how to live a godly life.

Did the children of Israel obey the Ten Commandments? (No!) Have you always obeyed them? (No!) No one can do that!

When we study the Ten Commandments, we see how perfect God is and how sinful we are. Only one person has ever lived in this world and always kept the Ten Commandments. That was Jesus.

God wants us to come to Him and say, "*Lord, I know Your rules are perfect. I want to keep them, but I know that I can't do it on my own. I need the power of Your Holy Spirit to help me. Thank You for dying on the cross and taking the punishment that I deserve. Forgive me of my sins.*" If you pray to Him like this, He will make you part of His flock and He will be your Good Shepherd. The Holy Spirit will come to live inside you and give you the power you need to obey His rules. And, He will take care of you and protect you and then you will be able to live with Him forever in heaven when you die.

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, before you begin the closing prayer, use the chairs to form a "fence." Gather the children inside the "corral" to pray.]

Dear Lord, thank You for choosing us as your special people and giving us Your loving laws that keep us safe. Help us to keep Your commandments. But, when we do "jump the fence" please forgive us and lead us back into the sheepfold. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game or discussion of your choice:

Review questions:

1. Why did God choose the children of Israel to be "*His Chosen People*?" (To be an example to the rest of mankind, spiritual leaders, to show everyone else God's way.)
2. Why did God tell Moses to have the people wash their clothes before He would speak to them? (He wanted the people to prepare themselves, set themselves apart.)
3. Why did Moses build a fence around the bottom of Mt. Sinai? (To keep the people safe.)
4. Why did God speak to the people with a majestic display of power? (He wanted to show the people just how awesome and important the Ten Commandments are.)
5. Why did God give us laws? (God gave us loving laws to keep us safe.)

6. What sorts of things do God's laws protect us from? (If everyone everywhere always followed God's rules, no one would ever get hurt or lost or kidnapped away.)
7. What would it be like if everyone everywhere lived according to His laws? (It would be just like heaven on Earth. There would be no anger or jealousy or bitterness or lying or cheating or anything evil.)
8. Why can't we get to Heaven by keeping His laws? (You are not perfect; you could never get to God if your life depended on it. You could never be good enough. You have to accept Jesus' death on the cross to pay for your sins; there's no other way to heaven.)
9. What is the punishment due a person for not keeping one of the Ten Commandments? (Death! God's Word says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23))
10. Why do we say the Ten Commandments are like a fence? (They keep us safe.)
11. When we are naughty and "jump the fence" how do we get back in the sheepfold? (We must confess our sins.)
12. How do we become part of God's flock? (By coming to Him and saying, *"Thank You for dying on the cross and taking the punishment that I deserve."*)

#1. Have No Other Gods but Me

(Exodus 20:2-3)

Pre-Session Warm Up

What are some things that are more important to people than God?
[Teacher, let the children discuss this.]

We can allow many things to become more important to us than God – money, school, play, sports heroes, singers, TV and movie stars, friends.

No one sets out with the idea of letting these things replace God in their lives. But by spending a lot of time on these things, they can start controlling our thoughts and energies. They start stealing time away from the things of the Lord. Whatever you spend the most time and money on, is your “god.”

None of these *things* should be as important to you as God. If you let God hold the central place in your life, He will keep these things from turning into gods.

Today we are going to learn that it is important for us to have no other gods but God alone.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, today as we learn that we should have no other God but You, open our eyes and ears for things, people, and ideas that steal Your place in our lives. Please help us to worship You alone. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me. (Exodus 20:2-3)

Lesson

When Moses led the children of Israel through the Red Sea and out into the wilderness, He had to establish His authority with the people. The Israelites had been living in Egypt for over 400 years. Egypt was a land of many idols and many gods. They worshipped the sun god, the god of the air, the goddess of the sky and many, many others. They worshipped every god they heard about just to be sure they wouldn't miss out on any blessings.

Then out of the whirlwind, God spoke. The Earth shook and lightning struck and thunder roared because God wanted the people to listen. And, what was the first thing He said? *“I am the Lord your God...”*

The people probably didn't really think too deeply about that at first. They had been living in Egypt where the people were used to worshipping many gods — He was just one more god to add to the list. But when He said, *“You must not have any other gods but me,”* this might have been difficult for the people to accept.

But if they didn't learn that the God who led them out of Egypt was the *only* true God, they could not be His special people — no matter how faithfully they kept the other nine commandments.

I think that God made this commandment the *first* one because He knew that if you perfectly obeyed the first commandment, you would automatically obey all the other nine commandments. Because to obey it – to have no other gods but Him alone – you would have to truly love Him and put Him first in every thought you have, in every word you speak and in everything that you did.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By honoring and loving God, you learn to honor and love others.

Jesus said, *“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”* (Matthew 4:10) The one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, deserves your love, worship, and obedience far above anything or anyone else.

Red Light/Green Light

Has anyone ever asked you to worship something that isn't God?

Other gods come in many forms. Sometimes we don't even recognize them. What would you do if you found yourself in situation in which someone or something besides God was worshipped?

Let's decide if God is being worshipped or if another god is being worshipped in some situations.

[Teacher, give each child a red, yellow, and a green 3" x 5" "flag" made of colored construction paper. Have one child at a time come to the front of the class, pick a situation card to read to the rest of the class and have the class vote by raising one of their "flags", as follows:]

If the situation would help you to worship God, raise the green flag. If the situation would encourage you to worship someone or something besides God, raise the red flag. But if it's a situation you aren't sure if it's wrong, raise your yellow flag.

Situations:

- Your friend plays a CD. You like the music. When you listen to the words, they are praising God. (green flag)

Read aloud Psalm 149:3

- In studying about American Indians, you learned about the shamans, or medicine men. Your teacher asks you to make a drum to beat while a medicine man chants to cure a sickness. (red flag)

Read aloud Exodus 15:26

- You are swimming in your Muslim friend's new pool, telling her how great it is. She says her family praises Allah for it. (yellow flag)

Read aloud Deuteronomy 4:39

- You are at a slumber party. After midnight the kids gather around a candle to talk to ghosts. (red flag)

Read aloud Deuteronomy 18:12

- The movie you've just seen was awesome. The hero, a little boy, was called the Chosen One and had the power of the Force. (yellow flag)

Read aloud Matthew 12:18

- Your gym teacher is making you run a mile, and you aren't sure you can finish. You ask your grandma in heaven to give you the strength to finish. (red flag)

Read aloud Isaiah 8:19

- Just for fun, you let your cousin read your horoscope for today. (yellow flag)

Read aloud Isaiah 47:13-14

- Your class is studying the gods of ancient Egypt. Some kids think it's cool that the Egyptians believed a cat was a god. (red flag)

Read aloud Isaiah 19:1

Have you ever found yourself in a situation like one of these? God is serious about asking us to worship Him alone. God chose you to be His special treasures and to worship only Him. He wants you to be good examples to your friends. He wants you to show others what it means to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Do you know people who may not worship God alone? What can you do when you are invited to their homes?

It isn't easy to stand up for God. But He wants us to be His messengers out in the world. And, we need to learn to do that just like Jesus did it, with love and compassion. It would be wrong for us to be rude or hurtful to others that don't know Him. We need to love and respect every person we meet.

But we don't need to accept what they believe if it goes against the Bible. God said, "*I am the Lord, and there is no others*" (Isaiah 45:5a).

For example, what would you do if you were asked to come to a "sleep-over" party where the other kids were lighting candles and trying to talk to ghosts?

Step It Up

[Write one of the Ten Commandments on each of ten construction paper "stepping" stones. Place #1 as the first step. (Note: this exercise actually works better if you have a staircase available to you.)]

A lot of people think that the way to Heaven is to keep all of His commandments. Let's see how well we keep them.

- Commandment #1 — If you have never worshipped any other God besides the one true God, you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #2 — If you have never made an idol, you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #3 — If you have always kept God's name holy, (never used His name in a dishonorable way, never done anything that would bring dishonor to His name), you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #4 — If you have always set aside a special day for God each week, you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #5 — If you have always honored your father and mother, you may stand on this step.

- Commandment #6 — If you have never killed anyone, you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #8 — If you have never stolen anything, you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #9 — If you have never lied, you may stand on this step.
- Commandment #10 — If you have never wanted what others have, you may stand on this step.

[Teacher, when you get to the point no children are stepping forward, read the following verses:]

Romans 3:23

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

Does this mean our situation is hopeless? No! Not at all, let's read on.

Romans 3:24-25a

Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. (25) 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.

[Teacher, gather the ten "stepping stones," turn them over on the floor, shaping them into a cross—six down and four across.]

God uses his laws to show us our sin. This brings us to Jesus. At the cross of Jesus, we say, "*Help! I can't do this!*" and He will help us. His death on the cross paid for your sins. That's the kind of God we have—the only one worth worshipping.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, You alone are worthy to be worshipped. Help me to never worship anyone or anything but You. Give me the strength and courage to stand up for You. I praise You because You are the one true God. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Bookmarks: Ten Commandments

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What are some things that are more important to people than God? (Money, school, play, sports heroes, singers, TV and movie stars, friends)
2. How do you let other things become "gods" in your life? (By spending a lot of time on these things, they can start controlling our thoughts and energies. They start stealing time away from the things of the Lord.)
3. How do you keep these things from turning into "gods" in your life? (If you let God hold the central place in your life, He will keep these things from turning into gods.)
4. Why might it have been difficult for the Israelites to be told that they were NOT to have any other god but God? (They had been living in Egypt where people worshipped lots of gods.)
5. Why was it important for the people to learn that the God who led them out of Egypt was the *only* true God? (If the people didn't learn that the God who led them out of Egypt was the *only* true God, they could not be His people — no matter how faithfully they kept the other nine commandments.)
6. Why do you think that God made this commandment the *first* commandment? (God made this commandment the *first* one because He knew that if you perfectly obeyed the first commandment, you would automatically obey all the other nine commandments.)
7. To get to Heaven you have to keep all of His commandments, true or false? How do you get to Heaven? (People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood, for our sins.)
8. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments if He knew we wouldn't be able to keep them? (To show us our sin and to bring us to Jesus.)

#2. Do Not Worship Idols

(Exodus 20:4-6)

Pre-Session Warm Up

God has given us a lot of wonderful things in this world to enjoy. What are some of the things that you like doing best? (Sliding on the snow, going on a picnic, fishing, in-line skating, hiking in the woods, playing with friends, and so on.)

God is so good! He blesses us by allowing us to enjoy all these things.

Psalms 104:24

O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all...

But sometimes we can allow *things* to crowd into our hearts and push God out.

Last week we learned that God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.

If a person was able to obey the first commandment, he wouldn't need the second commandment. If you love God with all of your hearts, you would never dream of allowing someone or something else to take the place of God.

But today we're going to learn that we need to be on guard. Sometimes *things* sneak into our lives and grab our time and attention and become like idols in our lives.

God not only wants us to know that He's *the* only God; He also wants us to worship *only* Him.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for all the wonderful things in this world that You have given us to enjoy. Sometimes we let these *things* take first place

in our hearts. Help us to understand what it means to put You first in our hearts. Show us the things in our lives that sneak in and grab our time and attention. Show us what we need to take out of our lives so that we can put more of You in. Help us so that we have no other gods before You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind... (Exodus 20:4a)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first one without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the second commandment.

Exodus 20:4-5a

"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. (5) You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..."

Who knows what an idol is?

In some places in the world people carve images in wood or stone or metal then bow down to it and worship it. It may look like something God has made — an animal, bird, fish or human form. It may be a huge statue or even a tiny good luck charm.

How many of you have heard of a "lucky charm"? Some people believe that if they carry a rabbit's foot around with them, it will keep them safe from harm. Other's think it is good luck to find a four-leaved

clover. We know that there is no such thing as “luck” in this world because we know God. Everything that happens in this world is according to His plan and purposes.

People who make idols believe that the idol itself is a god. They trust the idol rather than look to God. But an idol is only a created thing that takes the place of God. God cannot be reduced to an idol.

Psalms 115:3-8

Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes. (4) Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands. (5) They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. (6) They have ears but cannot hear, and noses but cannot smell. (7) They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk, and throats but cannot make a sound. (8) And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

We all can see how silly it is for people to carve an image out of wood and then bow down to it and pray to it. It’s just a piece of wood. But sometimes we can’t see how we make for ourselves idols out of the things that are important to us in our lives.

No Room for God

This wet-but-wonderful activity illustrates how a heart crowded with worldly things removes God from first place in our lives.

Materials: Plastic bucket or pitcher (be sure the container holds as many cups of water as there are children in the class), water, tray, and for each child: a cup, a rock, and a permanent marker.

Preparation: Tape a large red heart on the water pitcher, and place the pitcher on the tray. Pour a cup of water for each child, set aside for now.

Activity:

2. Hand each child a rock and a permanent marker. Ask the children to think about what takes up a lot of their time, attention, and money (TV, video or computer games, soccer practice, or playing with friends.) Have the children write or draw those things on their rocks.
3. Hand each child a cup of water.

This pitcher is like an empty heart. Our cups of water represent God. Let’s fill this heart with God. When it’s your turn, pour water into the pitcher and say, “*God deserves first place in my heart.*”

We want our hearts to be filled with the goodness of God, but sometimes other things try to crowd into our hearts. Each of you may tell us what’s drawn or written on your rock. Then you can place your rock into the water. [As the children add their rocks, the water will overflow. When they are finished, ask...]

- What happened to the water? Why?
- How is this like what happens in our own hearts with God?
- How can we keep our hearts full of God so he has first place?

God’s second commandment tells us not to worship idols. But, sometimes the things we love become like idols, crowding God out. God wants and deserves first place in your life.

Let’s look at the second commandment again:

Exodus 20:4-5a

*You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. (5) You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a **jealous** God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.*

What do you think it means that God says He's a *jealous* God? God hates anything that causes us to be unfaithful to Him. He will not tolerate any competition for our love. For example, I am a jealous wife. I love my husband and I will not stand for any other woman drawing his attention away from me. God feels the same way about you. He loves you and will not put up with anyone or anything that tries to steal your love away from Him.

God wants and deserves first place in your heart. He wants you to put Him first in your time, your thoughts, your prayers, your money, your energy, and your love. When other things steal God's place, they become idols in our lives. God won't settle for being number two in our lives. He wants and deserves first place in your life.

What things can steal God's place in your life? We get so busy, don't we? Sometimes a whole day can slip by, without us giving God any of our time or love. We need to watch out for those people or things that want to grab first place from God.

Know Your God

I'm going to randomly tell you a quality of a god. You tell me if it describes our only true God, or a false god, an idol.

[Teacher, make cards out of the following lists and place them up on the board under the headings the children tell you.]

| True God | False God |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| can fill your heart with true joy | cannot make you happy |
| forgives sin | can change |
| is able to heal | will crumble into dust |
| is perfectly holy | can be carried around |
| knows your every thought | are expensive |

| True God | False God |
|--|----------------|
| loves you | can't love you |
| hears everyone in the world at the same time | can't hear you |

Isn't our God worthy of all our praise and worship?

It is important for us to think rightly about our God. Let's read this passage to see what happens when people don't really know who God is.

Romans 1:21-23

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. (22) Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. (23) And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

If you think rightly about God; if you really know who He is, then you will make God #1 in your life and you won't let anything or anyone else crowd Him out.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for being a God that deserves first place in our lives and hearts. Lord, sometimes it's hard to know what is taking Your place. We're sorry for the times we've let things fill up our hearts and crowd You out. Please, remind us when that is happening. We want you to be #1 in our lives. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What does the first commandment mean? (*Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.)
2. What does the second commandment mean? (*Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.)
3. What do the first four commandments teach us? (How to love God.)
4. What do the last six commandments teach us? (How to love other people with godly love.)
5. What is an idol? (A man-made thing, a carved image, that some people worship.)
6. What are some things that take up your time and attention that crowd out the things of God? (TV, video or computer games, etc.)
7. How do you fill your heart with the goodness of God? (Reading the Bible, praying, thinking about how good He is.)
8. The Bible says that God is jealous. What does that mean? (God hates anything that causes us to be unfaithful to Him. He will not tolerate any competition for our love.)
9. Tell me something that you know about our wonderful God? (He's forgiving, He's perfectly holy, He's all-knowing, etc.)
10. Why is it important for us to know what God is like? (If you think rightly about God you'll make Him #1 and you won't let anything crowd Him out of your life.)

#3. Keep God's Name Holy

(Exodus 20:7)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Do you think it matters what you say? Is it important to be careful about the words that come out of your mouth?

Our words tell others something about who we are. For example, who would say the following:

- "It was a six-alarm blaze." (A fireman)
- "Set the shutter speed for my next picture." (A photographer)
- "I need some nails to frame up this wall." (A carpenter)

Our words are like clues. They not only tell others something about who we are, but they also show others what kind of person we are. Our words are like windows into our souls and show what's really in our hearts.

Today we're going to learn how important it is that our words come from hearts that truly love God.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are wonderful. Your name is wonderful. We honor You by honoring Your name. Please teach us to speak Your name with respect. Everything You are is wrapped up in Your name. Our words tell others what's in our hearts. Let our words come from hearts that love You. Help us so that we never misuse Your name. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. (Exodus 20:7)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first two without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the third commandment.

Exodus 20:7

You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

Misusing the name of the Lord is using His name in vain or empty useless way. I can think of at least three ways we do that:

First, it is so common these days to hear people using God's name carelessly or in a curse that we may not realize just how serious that is. The way we use God's name tells others how we really feel about Him.

When you or I use the name of God or the name Jesus in a thoughtless way or as a swear word, we dishonor God. God's name is special. We should respect His name and use it properly, speaking it in praise or worship rather than in curse or a joke.

A second way we use God's name in vain is if we were to pretend to pray or praise Him so others would think we're being godly. If you are praying or singing praises to God and you're not really doing it out of a heart of love for Him, then the words of your prayer are empty and

useless. You must always use God's name in ways that show your love and respect. Ask God to help you honor His name and to protect it, too.

A third way we use God's name in vain is when we live and act and think in dishonorable ways. The other kids at school know you're a Christian and if they catch you stealing, or cheating, or swearing, or being rude, you bring dishonor to God's name. They'll think, "*He calls himself a Christian, but he lies!*"

We are to keep God's name holy. That means we should never misuse His name or do anything that would bring shame to God. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the Lord's Prayer, He started by saying, "*Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.*" If you don't really honor His name, there's no point in going on with your prayers.

What type of person would use God's name as a swear word? Someone that uses God's name thoughtlessly is someone who must not really know Him.

Why do you think some kids speak God's name without respect? Well, probably because they want to impress their friends. Sometimes using God's name in an ugly way can become a bad habit for some people. But when you really know who God is and appreciate what He's done for you, your heart changes towards Him. And, when your heart changes toward God, the way you talk about Him changes, too. Respect for God and God's name begins with a heart that is totally given to God.

When we become Christians, God gives us new hearts. As Christians, we want the whole world to know that we love and honor God. People won't believe that we honor God if they hear us using His name without respect. God asks us to speak His name with respect to show the rest of the world that we love and honor Him.

Chameleon Christians

Do you know what a chameleon is? It's a lizard that changes colors depending upon what it's sitting on. So, for example if it's sitting on the branch of a tree, it turns brown. In fact, it becomes the same color as the branch so that you can't see him very well. And, if he is sitting on a green leaf, it turns green, just like the leaf. It's almost like he becomes invisible. This is the way God made him so he can "hide" from his enemies.

Well, some Christians are like chameleons. They change when they are with certain groups of people. When they are with their parents or at church, they speak God's name with respect. When they are with some of their friends, they misuse God's name because their friends misuse His name. They don't want to look different than their friends.

It's hard to stand up for God when all your friends don't. But you have to make a stand for Him. Don't be a "*Chameleon Christian!*" People are listening to your words to know what is in your heart!

Matthew 12:34b-35

...For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.

Our words tell what's in our hearts.

- What kind of words do you think come from a clean heart?
- What do we need to do to have clean hearts?

We need to ask God to clean our hearts so that we can speak His name with respect. We want the world to know that we are God's special people. Let's let only good words come out of our mouths.

Scribbles as Sin

[Teacher, before you tell about Monique and Jeremy, make two squares on the white board, one for Monique and one for Jeremy.]

Let me tell you about a girl named Monique. She had a very bad habit that she had learned from her older cousin: speaking God's name without respect. [Start to scribble in Monique's square.] She let God's name fly out of her mouth when she was mad or surprised [scribble, scribble...] or when she wanted to shock her little brother [scribble]. Monique's words show that she didn't have a heart that cared much about God.

Then there was Jeremy. He tried his whole life to please God. He never used God's name without respect – except for one time when a football hit him in the face. [Put one mark in Jeremy's square.]

- What do you think will happen to Monique when she faces God?
- What do you think will happen to Jeremy?

James 2:10

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

In God's eyes, sin is sin. If you've broken one commandment one time or all of them all the time, you are a sinner. God will not live with sin—neither a lot of sin nor a little sin. God knows that we can't keep His commandments and that we all sin. That's why He sent Jesus, to die for our sins. When we turn to Jesus [erase both squares clean], He takes all of our sins away! That's the kind of God we have, loving and forgiving. I respect God, so I'll speak His name with respect!

The words that come from our mouths are very important.

Matthew 12:36-37

And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. (37) The words you say will either acquit [free] you or condemn you.

Your words reflect your fate: either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned. Which will it be for you?

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, You are good and great and mighty. You deserve all of our respect. Please help us to never misuse Your name. We want the world to know that we are followers of Jesus. Help us to always have a clean heart so that clean words always come out of our mouths. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What do the first four commandments teach us? (To love God with all of our hearts.)
2. What do the last six commandments teach us? (To love others with the same kind of love we have for God.)
3. What does "vain" mean, when it says, "*Don't take the name of the Lord your God in vain?*" (empty or useless)
4. If we use God's name in a thoughtless way or as a swear word, what does that tell others? (That we don't honor or respect God.)
5. What are some ways we bring dishonor to God's name? (By the way we live or act or think.)
6. How do you keep God's name holy? (Never misuse His name or do anything that would bring shame to Him.)

7. What type of person would use God's name as a swear word?
(Someone that must not really know Him.)
8. Why do you think some kids speak God's name without respect?
(They want to impress their friends.)
9. What does it show the rest of the world when we speak God's name with respect? (That we love and honor Him; that He is worthy of our respect.)
10. What is a chameleon? (A lizard that changes colors depending upon what its sitting on.)
11. How are Christians like chameleons? (They change when they are with certain groups of people. When they are with their parents or at church, they speak God's name with respect. When they are with some of their friends, they misuse God's name because they don't want to look different than their friends.)

#4. Set Aside A Special Day for God

(Exodus 20:8-11)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Do you live a busy life? I sure do. I find myself dashing from one thing to the next all week long. Before I know it, the whole week has gone by, just like that! And I can find myself exhausted.

Our busy world bombards us with work and school and sports and lessons and all kinds of other activities. How we need a special day to re-energize our bodies and refresh our spirits!

Today we're going to discover that God, in His kindness, commands us to set aside one day a week to refuel and remember Him.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are so smart to think of such a wonderful plan. Thank You for giving us one free day. Thank You for giving us this special time to refuel and reflect on You and Your goodness. Thank You for making us Your people—set apart as special. Help us to keep your commandments. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first three without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.

3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the fourth commandment.

Exodus 20:8-11 [Teacher, read...]

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (9) You have six days each week for your ordinary work, (10) but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. (11) For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

The word *Sabbath* comes from a Hebrew word meaning "*intermission*." Have you ever been to a sports event that has an intermission in the middle? That's when they stop the play so you can stretch your legs, go to the bathroom, or buy more popcorn. In this case, it means "*to stop from work*." It says you are to remember to take the seventh day off from work and to keep it holy. "*Holy*" means "*set apart*." God was telling the people to set aside a special day each week for rest and worship.

Israel observed the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week, our Saturday. But, because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, His followers began to set aside Sunday as their special day of worship.

Mark 2:27

Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.

- Why do you think Jesus said this to the people?

Some people think that if they just keep the Ten Commandments they'll be able to go to heaven after they die. But really, God was giving this day of rest to the people as a gift.

Exodus 20:9

You have six days each week for your ordinary work.

God knew that doing ordinary work seven days a week would be too tiring for us. He goes on to say,

Exodus 20:10a

The seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God.

When we use one day a week to rest and worship, we show others how important God is to us and it gives us the extra benefit of refreshing our spirits.

Object Lesson

We live in a dark world that often forgets God. [Turn off the lights.] People out in the world don't know God. They break all of His commandments all the time. They take His name in vain and are disobedient to their parents. They lie and cheat and steal.

But God wants us to shine His light in this dark world. [turn on a flashlight] He wants us to show people the way to please God. God wants us to point the way to Him so that people can come to know Him and live a godly life that is pleasing to Him.

On Sunday, we come together at church to remember God and fill up on His love! When we are around other Christians, we glow like this light. It's as though our batteries are recharged.

But then Monday comes along and we go to school and someone calls us a mean name. So, we want to call them a name back. [put a plastic cup over the flash light] and then Tuesday comes along we have to take a test we didn't study for. So, we're tempted to look over

on someone else's paper to see what they put down for the answers [add another plastic cup] and on Wednesday Mom asked us to clean up our room and we sassed back at her [add another plastic cup]. Thursday and Friday come along and pretty soon we've forgotten all about God. Our lights grew dim. Not only are we not showing others the right way to live, we've lost our way, too.

Then Sunday comes along again and we go back to church. [Take away the cups.] Our batteries get recharged so we can zoom through another busy week. [Turn the lights back on.]

- What did you notice about the light? It got dimmer and dimmer, didn't it?
- How is this like the way our weeks go?
- How do you lose energy and enthusiasm for God during your week?
- What can we do to get our lights to shine brightly again?

This flashlight shines brightly because its batteries are fully charged. As the cups were added, the light got dimmer, as though the batteries were running out of power. That's how it is for us as Christians. But, when we come to church our batteries get recharged. God knew we needed a special day to refuel and remember Him, so He gave us His fourth commandment: Set aside a special day for God.

God commanded us to rest every seventh day. But not just to rest from our busy schedules... no, we're to take time out to think about Him and how good He is.

God knows what we need, isn't He wonderful? He knows that we will run around until we wear ourselves out and forget all about Him. God made us like a car that runs out of gas every six days. He planned for us to work six days and then to rest and remember Him on the seventh. In fact, He gave us this example when He created the universe. He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

Exodus 20:11

For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

We all work hard during the week at school and at home, so God gave us one special day called the Sabbath. He wants us to use that day to be refilled with energy and His love. That's why God thinks it's so important to set aside a special day for Him. Really it's for us.

- What can you do on Sunday to get filled up again?

God is so thoughtful to give us a day to refuel and remember Him, isn't He?

So far we have looked at the first four commandments, the ones that teach us how to love God. The next six commandments teach us how to love our fellow human beings. We will start looking at those next week.

Who's Acceptable?

Who is really acceptable to God—the one who obeys God's commandments or the one who believes in Jesus Christ? [Teacher, let the children discuss this.]

Many people in the world are confused about the way to be suitable to God. Do you need to obey or believe?

Most people believe that if they obey most of the commandments, they'll be good enough for God. Some people believe if they keep the Ten Commandments, then God will have to let them come to Heaven.

Here's the truth: The only way to be acceptable to God is to believe in what He has done for you on the cross. You are NOT saved by keeping the commandments. But if you really believe in Jesus, you will show your love for Him by obeying God's commandments. You wouldn't want to disobey Him because of the wonderful things He has done for you.

If you believe in Jesus, you *are* acceptable to God, even though you'll sometimes mess up and break a commandment.

John 1:12

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

If you really know who Jesus is and appreciate what He's done for you, you will want to obey Him with your whole heart.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, we come to You from our busy world. We come together with our Christian brothers and sisters to praise You and remember how awesome You are. Thank You for loving us enough to order us to set aside a special day for You. Help us to set aside time *every* day to think about You. We love You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What does the word "*Sabbath*" mean? (The word Sabbath comes from a Hebrew word meaning "*intermission*.")
2. What does this verse mean: "*The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath*"? (God gave us this special day to rest and remember Him.)

3. Why do we say that the Sabbath was God's gift to His people? (God knew that doing ordinary work seven days a week would be too tiring for us. He knew we needed to spend at least one day a week thinking about how wonderful He is.)
4. How do you lose energy and enthusiasm for God during your week? (By not spending time with Him.)
5. Where did God give us an example of His plan for us to work six days and rest the seventh? (In creation.)
6. What does God want us to do on the Sabbath? (Rest and worship Him.)
7. What can you do on Sunday to get filled up again spiritually?
8. What do the first four commandments teach us? (How to love God.)
9. What do the last six commandments teach us? (How to love others.)
10. What is the way to be acceptable to God, to believe or obey? (To believe! If you really know who Jesus is and appreciate what He's done for you, you will want to obey Him with your whole heart.)

#5. Honor Your Father and Mother

(Exodus 20:12)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Polite, respectful children don't just happen automatically. Kids must be taught everything! It's your parent's duty to God to teach you how to live God's way.

Today we'll learn that you are to always honor your parents. Honoring your father and mother means respecting and obeying them because they are God's gift to you.

Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven, You are holy. Your commandments are wise. You ask us to honor our fathers and mothers. Please help us to understand what that means. Help us to obey You by respecting and obeying our parents. Sometimes it feels as though the world around us would rather forget You and Your commandments. But not us, Lord. Help us to honor our parents and, in so doing, honor You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first four without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.

3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the fifth commandment.

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

This was the first commandment with a promise attached...

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. (2) "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: (3) If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

When you respect and obey God by honoring your parents, your life will be happier.

To honor means to prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable. Why are your parents valuable to you? They are God's gift to you. Think of all they do and have done for you. They protect you from many dangers. They provide things you need like food and clothing. They even give you things you do not need but like to have — toys, bikes, special treats. You can honor them by obeying them, by being kind to them, by speaking *to* them and *about* them with respect.

Perhaps you have substitute parents. God wants you to honor them, too. Even if you don't live with your parents all the time, honor them in

every way you can. People who honor their parents are people who please God and receive His promise of blessing.

- What are some ways you can show your parents honor? (By respecting and obeying them!)
- What are some ways you break the fifth commandment? (By being sassy or pouting, by refusing to obey them.)

God told us to honor our fathers and mothers, which means obeying them and treating them with respect. It also means speaking *to* them and *about* them in nice ways.

- When you don't feel like honoring your parents, what should you do?

It can be really tough to do then when you're mad at them, but God doesn't just *ask* us to honor our parents, He *commands* it!

Sass or Pout—You're Out!

[Use this activity to teach the children how to honor their parents' requests.]

- What are some answers to parents that you should not use?
- What are some answers that honor your parents?

Preparation: Photocopy the “*Watching Our Responses*” cards onto card stock, and cut them apart.

Play: Have kids stand in a circle and each take a *Watching Our Responses* card. Ask a child to start this game as the “*parent*”. Have the “*parent*” tell the child to his right, “*It's time to feed the dog.*” The child reads his or her response aloud. Ask the other children if the response honored the “*parent*”. If it did, the child remains standing; if not, the child sits down. Continue around the circle until each child has read a response. The children who remain standing are examples of how to honor parents.

After the last round, gather the children and ask:

- How did some of these responses honor the parent?
- How would your parents feel if you responded with some of the sassy comments we just heard?
- The next time your parents ask you to do something you don't want to do, how will you answer them?

[Teacher, reread the response card that begins, “*I really don't have time because...*”] If you were to say this to your parents, you would be honoring them, even though you would not be obeying. You would be explaining in a respectful way why you can't feed the dog. Most parents are reasonable if you talk to them using respectful words. You can disagree with your parents, but do it with respect.

We have all been disrespectful to our parents at one time or another. Following God's commandments to honor your parents is hard to do sometimes. There will be many times you won't want to respect and obey them.

Ask God and He will help you honor them, even when you don't feel like it.

Closing Prayer

Today, instead of praying with our hands folded and our eyes closed, we're going to do something a little different. I want you to stand up in two rows facing each other.

In the military, soldiers sometimes form an archway of swords as a way of honoring someone. So, I want you to form an archway to honor your parents. Pretend your arms are the swords. Make an archway by touching the hands of the person across from you. Each of you will take a turn walking under the archway. But first I want you to think about why your parents are valuable to you and what things they do for you that deserves your honor and respect.

Then I want you thank God for your parents and tell Him why you want to honor them. For example: *“Thank You, Lord, for my mom and dad. I honor them because they give me such good food to eat.”*

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Declaration of Dependence

Let each child make, sign, and date a certificate telling how they plan to honor their parents.

| |
|--|
| <p>I Will Respect and Obey My Parents</p> <p>I Promise to Honor My Father and Mother</p> <p>by: _____</p> <p>Signed by: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> |
|--|

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What must you do to be saved? Are you supposed to keep the Ten Commandments? Or do good deeds? (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross.)

2. In order to be perfect as God is perfect how many of the Commandments do we need to keep? (All of them all the time.)
3. What does it mean to honor your father and your mother? (To prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable.)
4. What do the first four Commandments teach us? (How to love God.)
5. What do the other six Commandments teach us? (How to love other people.)
6. What promise does God make to you if you keep the fifth Commandment? (That things will go well for you and that you'll have a long life.)
7. What does it mean to honor someone? (To show them respect; to treat them as precious or valuable.)
8. Why are your parents valuable to you? (They are God's gift to you.)
9. What are some of the things that your parents do for you that deserve your respect? (They provide things you need and give you things you don't need.)
10. How can you honor your parents? (By obeying them and being kind to them. By speaking *to* them and *about* them with respect.)
11. What are some ways that you break the fifth Commandment? (By being sassy or pouting.)
12. When you don't feel like honoring your parents, what should you do? (Pray and ask God to change your attitude.)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Say, "I'm sick of that job!" | Sass, "So?" | Say, "Sure, where's the dog food?" |
| Say, "Why can't somebody else do it?" | Grumble, "It's always time to feed the dog!" | Say, "No!" |
| Complain, "I hate that job. That smelly food makes me sick!" | Say, "You're so mean!" | Whine, "I fed the dog yesterday. Why does that dog eat so much?" |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Say, "OK, Ill do it right now." | Yell, "I don't want to!" | Say, I really don't have time because I'm leaving for soccer practice. If Taryn will do it tonight, I'll do it tomorrow." |
| Say, "Yeah, yeah, later, later." | Whine, "Why can't Dad [or Mom] do it?" | Say, "Yes ma'am" or "Yes, sir." |
| Say, "OK, but I'm busy playing right now." | Mutter, "Why do I have to?" | Say, "OK, OK, after I finish watching TV." |

#6. Do Not Murder

(Exodus 20:13)

Pre-Session Warm Up

[Teacher, bring in a rubber brain from a novelty shop. Make a big batch of vanilla pudding with green food coloring in it. Stick plastic spiders and other bugs into the folds of the rubber brain and bury it in the green slime! Pull it out and talk about how we ruin our brains by the things we immerse them in. *Only the living water (Jesus) can clean our brains thoroughly from the inside out.* Have a bowl of clean water in which to rinse the brain off. Talk about how reading the word and meditating on the goodness of God can transform our minds.]

Have you ever heard of “*Brain Food*”? What do you think that is? How do you think you can feed your brain? If you read books, study and learn things, you can gain wisdom. If you study God’s Word, you can gain spiritual wisdom.

Do you think it matters what shows you watch? Did you know that what you allow your eyes to see and your ears to hear, feeds your brain, too? What kind of “*food*” do you think that violent movies feed your brain? Poison!

How many of you know about the horrible slaughter that happened at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado? The two boys that did that had watched a movie called *Natural Born Killers* repeatedly before they planned that shoot up that killed many of their school mates and teachers.

Today we’re going to learn how it is important to feed our brains good food so that we can learn how to say *no* to violence and *yes* to respecting life.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord our God, when You commanded, “*Do not murder,*” TV hadn’t even been invented, but violence had. You were so sad about the violent world, that You wiped it out with a flood. Help us to realize

that all of life is precious. We want to stand with You when You say, “*Choose life.*” Help us to say *no* to violence and *yes* to life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not murder. (Exodus 20:13)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first five without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn’t want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don’t let anyone or anything steal God’s place in your life.
3. *Keep God’s Name Holy* – God doesn’t want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we’re going to learn the sixth commandment.

Exodus 20:13

You must not murder.

Murder is taking someone's life in an unlawful way. Life is precious. God breathed His life into the first man, Adam. So everyone's life is important — your life, the lives of those you love, the lives of strangers, the lives of unborn babies. Life is God's gift; and we are responsible not only *not* to take another's life, but to protect the lives of others.

Here's what Jesus said...

Matthew 5:21-22

You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' (22) But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell."

God gave the sixth commandment loudly and clearly: "*You must not murder.*" But we live in a world that loves violence. Our movies, TV shows, music, and video games are full of people hurting one another. That's what violence is. God begs you to say *no* to violence and *yes* to life. He wants you to hear His voice and make the right choice. God's special people understand that all of life is special to God.

Most kids your age don't even notice that they are watching violent games and movies. How many of you think it's no big deal to see someone being killed on TV or in a movie or a video game?

Well, it matters to God.

[Teacher, tape a piece of butcher paper to the wall. At the top, write, "*You must not murder.*" On the left side write, "*Too violent,*" and on the right side write, "*OK to watch or play or read.*"] Let's make a list of books, TV shows, movies, video games, etc. that are too violent to watch, or play, or read; and another list of those that are OK for us.

- How can these movies or games harm you?
- How can a murder movie harm your mind?

One awful murder can stay in your mind for a very long time. God tells us to say *no* to violence because He wants us to be pure and innocent of evil. How many of you know about the terrible things that happened on September 11, 2001 when terrorists flew airplanes into the twin towers in New York City? For those of us who saw it happen on TV, those images will stay in our minds forever!

God doesn't want us to become a part of people harming other people. God tells us to set our minds on things above.

Colossians 3:2

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

God also tells us to be changed by having a pure mind:

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Sometimes it's hard to say *no* to violence when all your friends want to watch a particular show or play a certain video game. You need to ask your parents to help you. Ask your parents to tell your friends and their parents that you're not allowed to watch shows full of terror and violence. It will be hard to do at times, but God will be pleased with you when you watch shows and play games that respect life.

- How can saying *no* to violence be like saying *yes* to life?

Your whole life as a Christian will be a battle between wanting to join the world and wanting to please God. But, the Ten Commandments are not just good *suggestions*. They aren't just ten things you *may* want to do *sometimes*. They are *commandments*! God says, "*You must not murder.*" If you get used to watching shows that are filled with violence, you begin to think that it's normal acceptable behavior. But life is precious to God, he wants us to respect and protect life.

You must make that choice not to watch movies or play video games that are violent. You say yes to life by having something better to play or watch. You need to be ready to tell your friends that you just aren't allowed to watch those kinds of movies.

- If you were to invite Jesus to your home to watch TV, what show would you turn on?
- What would you want God to see you watching?
- What movies or video games do you think He wouldn't be pleased with? Why?
- What can you do to say *no* to violence and *yes* to life?

Tugged in Two

[Tell this story to the children:]

Joey was a happy boy. He loved God and wanted to please Him. He wanted to obey all of God's Commandments, including the Sixth one, "You must not murder." He knew that watching horror movies and playing violent video games made it seem that human life was worth nothing at all. Then he went to his friend, Jeremy's house. He liked Jeremy and he was hoping that Jeremy would like him.

Jeremy had his own TV, VCR, and Nintendo station in his bedroom. "I can watch and play whatever I want," Jeremy bragged. "Come on, let's play Death Squad."

"Death Squad?" asked Joey. "Isn't that the game where a killer goes around shooting anything and anybody that moves?"

"Yeah," replied Jeremy. "So what?"

Joey was in a horrible situation. He kind of wanted to play Death Squad, but he was sure God wouldn't be pleased. He wanted to see the action, but he was bothered by the way people were killed as if they had no value. He didn't want Jeremy to think he was a sissy, but he knew God's laws were for his good. "What should I do?" he thought. "Maybe I can

just watch it and not actually play it," he thought and prayed at the same time.

(How do you think Joey was feeling about this time?)

Joey felt pulled in two different directions. He felt Jeremy and Death Squad pulling him to play the game. What if Jeremy told his other school buddies, "Joey is a sissy. He only likes Toby the Tractor"? If he played this game with Jeremy, they'd be even better friends. Then he felt as if God was pulling his other arm, whispering, "Say no to violence. I love people. They are precious. Say yes to life. Watch something that respects people's lives."

Joey took a deep breath and shot a quick prayer to God for strength. He gathered all his courage. He looked Jeremy straight in the eye and said, "I can't play Death Squad. It's full of violence. It shows people getting killed as if they're nothing more than flies."

Jeremy said, "But nobody would know. I'll lock the door so no one can see."

Joey said, "God can see right through walls. He sees everything. He knows what's good for me."

I guess you're right." Jeremy shrugged his shoulders.

Then Joey had a great idea. He thought of something else they could do. "Hey, Jeremy," Joey said, "Why don't we build a fort in your back yard?"

"Sounds great," Jeremy said. "Let's go!"

Joey smiled up at God and it felt as if God smiled down at him.

- What's the big deal about watching violent movies? How can they affect you?
- Have you ever been in a situation like this?
- How do you think Joey might have felt when Jeremy suggested they play Death Squad?
- What did Joey do to say *no* to violence?

- What did Joey do to say yes to life?
- What can you do the next time you are faced with this problem?
- What's the hardest thing about saying *no* to violence?
- How is saying *no* to violence a way of obeying God's law: "*You must not murder*"?
- How is watching decent movies like saying yes to life?

Violent games and movies are popular today, but we all need to make a choice to guard our minds against the poison that seeps into our minds from the violence we see on TV and in movies, and in video games and music.

When we feel tugged by our friends to do things we know are not pleasing to God, it can be very hard to hear God's voice. Pray before you go to your friend's homes, and tell your friends and their parents as soon as you get there that you are not allowed to watch movies that have killing in them.

Deuteronomy 30:19

Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

God wants us to choose to do the right thing. He wants us to choose to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

Philippians 4:8

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Keep your minds clean and pure. Don't fill them with thoughts that are wicked and evil. Say *no* to violence and *yes* to life!

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, please help us to be strong when we're faced with tough choices. Please give each one of us the strength to say *no* to violence and *yes* to life. Help us to tell our friends that we're not allowed to watch violent movies. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is murder? (Taking someone's life.)
2. Why doesn't God want you to murder people? (Everyone's life is precious in God's eyes; we need to respect human life.)
3. Is it possible to murder someone with our words? How? (If we are angry with someone and call them a name, it's like killing them.)
4. How can you keep your minds clean and pure? (Don't fill them with thoughts that are wicked and evil. Think good thoughts.)
5. What's the big deal about watching violent movies? How can they affect you? (They can make murder seem like no big deal.)
6. What are some shows that you have watched that are too violent?

7. What does God tell us to set our minds on instead of evil? (We're to think about the things of heaven.)
8. Sometimes it's hard to say *no* to violence when all your friends want to watch a particular show... what can you do the next time you are faced with this problem? (Pray before you go to your friend's homes, tell your friends and their parents as soon as you get there that you are not allowed to watch movies that having killing in them.)
9. How is saying no to violence a way of obeying God's law: "*You must not murder*"?
10. How is watching decent movies like saying *yes* to life?

#7. Be True to Your Husband or Wife

(Exodus 20:14)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Has anyone ever made a promise to you and then didn't keep it? How did that make you feel?

Have you ever broken a promise to someone? Have you ever told someone that you were going to come over and play but then changed your mind and didn't go to their house? Can you share about a time you made a commitment and didn't want to keep it?

Today we're going to learn that God wants us to keep our promises. After all, He never breaks His promises to us.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are true to us. You keep all of Your promises. Please help us to keep all of our promises, too. When we grow up and get married, help us to always be true to our husbands or wives. Help us understand what that truly means. You are a good and loving God. You stick by us no matter what. Help us learn to become people who always keep our promises. We want You to be proud of us. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first six without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.

2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.
3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.
6. *Do not murder* – God wants us to honor and respect life by choosing to say *no* to violence.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the seventh commandment.

Exodus 20:14

You must not commit adultery.

Adultery is when a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband. When someone doesn't keep their promise to be faithful to their marriage partner we call that person an *adulterer*. This commandment shows how God looks at marriage. God planned the first marriage. He created Eve especially for Adam and planned that they should stay together. When we make a promise to someone, God asks us to keep our promises faithfully.

Jesus said...

Matthew 19:4-6

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' (5) And he said 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his

wife, and the two are united into one.’ (6) Since they are no longer two but, one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

After you are married, you should be true to your own husband or wife. People joined together in marriage must be careful not to “fall in love” with anyone else. When two people get married, they stand before the pastor and a group of people and vow to God that they will be loyal and true to their husband or wife. The bride and groom say something like, “*I take you to be my wedded wife (or husband) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part...*” The bride and groom promise to stay faithful for the rest of their lives no matter what circumstances they find themselves in. They say, “*Till death do us part*” or “*As long as we both shall live.*” Committing adultery is breaking those vows by doing something with someone else’s husband or wife that only a married couple should do.

Disobeying this command causes great unhappiness. It makes God so sad when He sees people hurting. The Bible tells us that God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:16

“For I hate divorce!” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

God’s plan has always been one woman for one man for life! God hates divorce. He wants husbands and wives to stay true to each other. That’s God perfect plan for families. He wants all children to grow up in a loving home with a Mom and a Dad.

When you grow up, your husband or wife will ask you to love only him or her for the rest of your life! So, while you are still young, begin praying that, at the right time, God will bring into your life the right person for you to marry. And, make a promise right now that you will obey God’s 7th Commandment.

But, don’t be in a big hurry to get married; it’s worth waiting for the right person. You want God’s perfect will for your life.

In the meantime, how many of you have been baptized? Your baptism was like a marriage ceremony with Jesus. At that time you stood before the pastor and a group of people and vowed to God that you would be loyal and true to Jesus. You made a promise to be faithful to Him all the days of your life. In a sense you told the Lord, “*I take you to be my Lord to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death...*” No matter what!

- Has it ever been hard for you to keep this promise?

There are other relationships that we need to guard with our lives, as well. God wants us to be faithful and loyal to our parents, to our brothers and sisters, and to our friends no matter how we feel.

God is very serious about a husband being true to his wife and a wife being true to her husband. And we need to be serious about being true to our relationships, too! You need to practice being a promise-keeper now so that when you do get married you can be true to your husband or wife when you grow up.

[Teacher, hold a pretzel stick.] When two people marry, the bride and groom make a vow and say, “*I promise to be true to you until death.*” And, they mean it. But sometimes things don’t work out the way God would want them to. Life can be hard and there are times when people don’t keep their promises to their partners.

If one of them breaks his or her promise, their relationship is broken. [Break the pretzel.] In the same way, we promise to keep God’s commandments. But when we break a commandment [break a pretzel], we have broken our friendship with God.

Isaiah 59:2 [Teacher, read...]

It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

But there are two pieces of wood that remind us of how our friendship with God can be restored. [Form two pretzels into a cross.] Jesus came to die for our sins. His body was broken on two pieces of wood

because of our broken promise. When you say you are sorry for your sins and can thank Jesus for what He did for you on the cross, you come back into a loving friendship with God.

If your mom and dad have been divorced, they have broken God's 7th Commandment and deserve to be punished. But remember, there is forgiveness with God. That's why He came down out of heaven and died on the cross; so that He could pay for our sins.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for coming to die for us. Thank You for paying for our sins with Your life. Thank You for wanting to be our friend. You are amazing and wonderful. Please teach us how we can keep our promises. Because we love You we want to please You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

I Promise

After the great flood, God promised that He would never destroy the earth by another flood. Then He displayed the very first rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise. Now every time we see a rainbow it reminds us of God's faithfulness. How cool is it that every time a rainbow appears you can remember that God always keeps His promises! We're going to make something to help us remember to keep our promises:

1. Cut a paper plate in half. Color or paint a rainbow on the plate half.
2. Cut raindrops from heavy paper. On each raindrop, write a promise to God.

3. Tape lengths of yarn to the raindrops, then tape the yarn to the back of the rainbow.
4. Hang your rainbow in a window where you'll see it every day and remind you to keep your promises, just like God remembers to keep His.

As the children work, discuss the following questions:

- Which of the promises is going to be easy to keep? Hard to keep?
- How can we encourage each other to keep our promises to God?
- Why is it important for each of us to keep our promises?
- How can we thank God for keeping all of His promises?

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What promise does God ask husbands and wives to keep?
2. What is *adultery*? (When a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband.)
3. When two people get married, they stand before the pastor and a group of people and do what? (Make a vow to be faithful.)
4. How long do they promise to be faithful? (For the rest of their lives.)
5. Why is baptism much like a marriage ceremony? (In both, you are making a promise to be loyal and true for the rest of your life.)
6. Tell about a time it was hard for you to keep a promise.

7. What other relationships do we need to guard with our lives? (God wants us to be loyal and faithful to our parents, to our brothers and sisters, and to our friends, no matter what!)
8. What happens to your relationship with God when you break one of His commandments? (It gets broken.)
9. How do you restore your broken relationship with God after breaking one of His commandments? (Ask forgiveness)
10. How did Jesus pay for our sins? (He died on the cross.)

#8. Do Not Steal

(Exodus 20:15)

Pre-Session Warm Up

I bet everyone here is a thief! We have all stolen; even me! Every one of us, at one time or another, has taken what was not given to us, lifted what was not purchased, kept something that wasn't ours, or ruined something that belonged to someone else.

Whether we have taken a piece of candy from a grocery store or wrecked a friend's toy, or borrowed something from our own brother or sister and just never got around to returning it, we have all broken the 8th Commandment: You must not steal.

Have you ever gotten into your mother's purse and taken money out? Have you ever been given too much change back at the store? Have you ever found money that wasn't yours on the side walk and kept it? That's stealing! We're all guilty.

And what are our excuses?

- Finders, keepers
- They made the error
- I deserve this
- They won't notice it's missing
- Everyone is doing it
- No one will notice

We've all taken what was not ours to take or kept what was not ours to keep.

As we take a deeper look at this 8th Commandment today, let's understand what causes us to sin against God in this way is not really believing that God takes our breaking this commandment seriously.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You give me everything I need and more. You give me food, clothes, and a family. You give me friends, a church, and love. Please help me to never dishonor You by stealing. Help me to become a giver and not a taker. Help me to have open hands, not hands that sneak and take things. I want to be known as one of Your special people. Thank You for making me one of Your treasures! In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first seven without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.
3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.
6. *Do not murder* – God wants us to honor and respect life by choosing to say *no* to violence.

7. *Do not commit adultery* – God wants you to be true to your husband or wife.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the eighth commandment.

Exodus 20:15

You must not steal.

Stealing is taking or keeping something that is not your own. Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the *only* ways to steal. Can you think of other ways people steal things?

- Copying answers from somebody else's school paper is stealing.
- Cheating in a game is stealing another's chance to win.

The Bible says we should love our neighbors as ourselves. If we love others as we love ourselves, we will want the best for them and will not steal things from them.

We are God's special people, His precious treasure. So we need to show the world how to be *givers*; not *takers*.

Punishment for Theft

There was a time in Israel before Jesus was born where whole families were punished for the sins of an individual family member.

- Do you think it would be fair if you were punished for something your brother or sister did?

After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. It was Joshua that led the people over the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. They had to fight many battles to get their land back

from the Canaanites. The first battle they fought was the Battle of Jericho. Remember? They marched around the city seven times, blew the trumpets and all the walls came tumbling down!

Joshua had ordered the people to take nothing from the city for themselves. If they found any silver, gold, bronze or iron they were to give these to the Lord so they could maintain the house of God. The soldiers were not to take anything for themselves.

So after they entered the city of Jericho, the soldiers went through the rubble, collecting the gold, silver, bronze and other riches. And every soldier brought everything he found to the treasury of the Lord. But, Joshua did not know that one man, Achan (AY-kuhn), disobeyed.

When Achan saw a beautiful robe, some silver and gold among Jericho's treasures, he desired them for himself and decided to steal them. When no one was looking, Achan took the robe, silver, and gold and buried them underneath his tent!

When Joshua found out about this, he was shocked and horrified! This was a very serious crime! Who would steal from God?

Joshua sent some men to search Achan's tent and they found the stolen goods hidden there. God told Joshua he had to punish Achan's whole family for what he had done!

This, I am sure, made Joshua very sad but he had to punish Achan for disobeying God's command. Joshua put Achan and his whole family to death then burned all of his possessions. God showed the Israelites that disobeying Him has serious results.

What a shame that Achan's whole family had to suffer because of Achan's greed. Aren't you glad you don't have to be put to death when one of your family members sins against God?

Since then God, in His mercy, has changed those customs:

Ezekiel 18:20

The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.

Now everyone is responsible for their own actions. Stealing is always wrong. It is never right. And God says if you are a thief you must be punished.

Did you know that there are places in this world today that have some very serious punishments for crimes? In Saudi Arabia if you are caught stealing, they will cut off one of your fingers! If you got caught stealing twice, how many fingers would you have left? 8! That's how we're going to remember the 8th Commandment: You must not steal!

Robbing God?

Did you know that some of us are guilty of stealing from God? Every day, millions of people all around the world steal from God!

Malachi 3:8 [God said...]

"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' You have cheated Me of the tithes and offerings due to me."

How did the people rob God? The people failed to give their offerings to God.

How many of you get an allowance from your parents? Do you get money for doing your chores? Do you baby sit in the neighborhood? How many of you get money for your birthday or Christmas? Have you faithfully given God your tithe? God asks us to give to him 10 percent of everything we receive. That's what a tithe is: 10%. That means for every ten pennies we get, he wants us to give Him back one penny. That's not much, is it?

[Teacher, bring in a pile of pennies, enough that kids can gather around a table and count out ten pennies in a row. Challenge some of the older kids to figure out how many pennies is a tenth of 50 cents and/or a dollar, and so forth.]

It costs a lot to keep our church going. We have rent to pay, supplies to buy, electricity and many other bills to pay. God expects people to help out with those expenses. When you don't give your tithe to God, it's like robbing Him.

Can you imagine stealing from God! Everything we have comes from Him in the first place!

You know, some people think they can get away with breaking God's Commandments. They think they can hide their sin from God.

Hide the Elephant!

Okay.... Let's say that I give you a real live elephant. Then I ask you to hide that elephant in your bedroom. When I say go, try to hide the elephant in your room! Then I'll try to find him.

Do you think you could hide an elephant in your bedroom? You could try to hide him in your closet, but parts of him would be sticking out. You could try to put him under your bed, but parts of him would be showing. You could try to hide that elephant, but that elephant would just be too big!

Did you know that is exactly what sin is like? Sin is so big in God's eyes, that no sin can be hidden from Him. When we sin, it sticks out all over the place! We cannot hide our sin from God.

Some people don't know that God is all-knowing. They go into a store and stick things into their pockets and think they are getting away with stealing. They may hide it from the store manager, but not from God. God knows they are stealing. He looks at them and sees sin sticking out all over the place. No matter what we do, we cannot hide our sin from God. God knows everything about us—everything we think, say, and do.

This commandment tells us not to steal. Stealing is a sin. And, if you have ever stolen anything, whether it's just a small thing or not, you deserve to be punished for your sin!

But, God wants everyone to have eternal life.

Ezekiel 18:21

But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my decrees and do what is just and right, they will surely live and not die.

God is gracious and merciful. He's not willing that anyone should die in their sins. The sinner who comes to faith will be forgiven and given a brand new start. But, your old habits must change! You can't keep on stealing or lying. God expects you to obey all Ten of His commandments!

What can we do if we've broken the 8th Commandment? We must confess our sins to God and come to Him for forgiveness. He wants you to come to the foot of the cross, confess your sin and thank Him for sending Jesus to take the punishment for your sins and my sins.

God wants us to be givers not takers.

Acts 20:35

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than receive."

God wants us to be kind to others and to serve one another. We are to lend to others without hoping for something in return.

Luke 6:35

Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

If we love people the way God loves us, we will want to treat them the way we would want them to treat us. We will want the best for them. We won't want to take things from them. We'll want to give things to them. Let's be "givers" and not "takers!"

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for leaving Your home in heaven. Thank You for becoming one of us. Thank You for suffering. I know You did it for us. It was our sin that put You on the cross and God's power that caused You to burst out of the tomb. All of us have sinned. All of us have stolen in big ways or little ways. Please help us to obey Your eighth commandment, "*You must not steal.*" We want to be givers, not takers. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the *only* ways to steal. Can you think of other ways people steal things? (Copying answers or cheating in a game.)
2. What happened to Achan's family when Joshua found out that he had kept a beautiful robe, some silver and gold for himself instead of giving it to the Lord? (He and his whole family were put to death.)
3. When you sin who is responsible? Who is the one that deserves to be punished? (me)

4. What do they do to you if you are caught stealing in Saudi Arabia? (They cut off one of your fingers.)
5. What is a tithe? (It's a tenth of your income.)
6. How do millions of people rob God? (By not giving their tithe to Him.)
7. Why do you need to give God money? (It takes a lot to keep a church going.)
8. Why do some people think they can get away with breaking God's Commandments? (They don't believe that God is serious about them.)
9. Why can you not hide a sin from God? (He knows everything about us—everything we think, say, and do.)
10. What can we do if we've broken the 8th Commandment? (We must confess our sins to God and come to Him for forgiveness.)
11. What is it that God wants us to be instead of "*takers*"? (He wants us to be "*givers*.")
12. If you really love other people, how will you treat them? (I will treat them the way I want to be treated.)

#9. Do Not Lie

(Exodus 20:16)

Pre-Session Warm Up

You don't have to teach a child how to lie. Lying is a part of our human nature. If you asked a two-year-old kid, "Who broke Mommy's vase?" He'd probably say, "Not me!" when you know he was really responsible.

Why do you think people lie? People lie for self-protection or to gain advantage. They might be embarrassed about the truth or fearful of the consequences of telling the truth. People often lie to cover up other sins. We lie mostly out of fear of other people. But, it's not other people we ought to fear! Our holy God who commands us not to lie is very serious about our being truthful!

Today we're going to discover the consequences of lying.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, please help us to be truth-tellers so that we can show others that we are Your followers. Help us to stop lying. We are sorry for all the lies we've told. You told us You are the truth. Help us to know that it's always best to tell the truth. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first eight without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.
3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.
6. *Do not murder* – God wants us to honor and respect life by choosing to say *no* to violence.
7. *Do not commit adultery* – God wants you to be true to your husband or wife.
8. *You must not steal* – God wants us to be givers and not takers.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the ninth commandment.

Exodus 20:16

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

This is just another way of saying, you must not lie.

This commandment means that we should always tell the truth. We give “*false testimony*” by leaving something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, inventing falsehoods, or even allowing others to believe something that is not true!

Ephesians 4:25

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

What is a lie? It is anything that misleads or tricks someone into believing something that is not true.

Can you think of ways people lie about things? You can tell a lie by the way you act as well as by what you say.

- It's a lie to pretend to be a certain way that you're not.
- Often gossip is lying — saying something unkind about someone when you aren't sure it is true.
- Exaggeration is lying — telling a story better than it really happened. (*Yikes! There's a spider the size of a football!*)
- Making promises you know you cannot keep is another way of lying.

The Devil is the “father of lies”.

John 8:44

For you are the children of your father the devil and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

And Jesus is “the truth”.

John 14:6

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

Deception is a way of life for many people, but God's children must not give into it. Ask the Lord to help you tell the truth. (Psalm 119:29)

Matthew 12:36

And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.

That means that you and I will stand before God on judgment day and have to explain why we've said the things we have said.

- Have you ever been lied to? How did it feel?

We feel awful when someone lies to us. God wants us to tell the truth so much that he made this rule one of His top ten. It's always best to tell the truth.

Why does God command us not to lie? God doesn't want us to get into a messy web of lies. He loves us too much to see us hurt others and ourselves. It's always best to tell the truth even when you'd be embarrassed by the truth or you're afraid the truth will bring a punishment. If you find yourself telling a lie, tell the truth right away so you don't get caught in a messy web of lies.

You want to be a trustworthy friend at all times.

Lies and God's Eyes

Mary had a problem. She had borrowed her sister's china animals for *Show and Tell* without asking anyone. On the way home, Mary dropped the bag of animals. Every miniature animal was shattered. Mary swept all the broken pieces back into the bag and hid it under her bed before her sister got home. When her mom asked her what she used for *Show and Tell*, Mary told her mom that she showed the class her seashells.

- What did Mary say that she brought to class?
- Why do you think Mary lied?

Mary took her sister's animals and broke them. Then she lied to cover up her mistake. We often lie to hide another sin, but God has very special eyes. He can see right through our lies.

- What can you do if you are afraid to tell the truth?

Mary lied about the animals because she was afraid of the consequences from breaking them. "*Consequences*" means what happens to you for doing something. Mary will have to suffer the consequences of breaking the animals and now also for lying. If you lie, you need to be truthful as soon as possible. God can see through all our lies anyway! Most people will be happy to forgive you. It's always best to tell the truth.

- What are some lies that are easy for you to slip into?

It can be tough to always tell the truth. God called you to be his special people. God's special people tell the truth.

One Little Lie

[Teacher, fill an 8-ounce glass half full with water. Gather the children around a table where they can see what you are doing.] Let's pretend that this clear water is you. Say you took your brother's toy race car and broke it and hid the pieces. When your brother asks you where the race car is, you lie. [Put a drop of food coloring into the water and stir it. Let the kids watch it swirl around.] One little lie makes you a liar and you've broken the 9th Commandment.

Revelation 21:8

But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

- What will happen to liars?
- Does that seem fair to you? Why or why not?

That's the bad news. Luckily for us, God didn't leave us in this awful situation.

The Bible tells us that Jesus poured out His life for us. [Before class, put bleach into a bottle with a label that says, "*Blood of Christ*". Now, during this demonstration, fill the glass with the bleach.] Jesus took the punishment for our lies so that we could be clean, innocent, and pure, like this water. [Hold the glass up to the light for the kids to see.] What would we do without Jesus? We'd be caught by our own lies.

When you ask Jesus to forgive you and you give your life to him, He makes you completely clean!

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, we want to obey You when You say, "*Do not lie.*" We know it's always best to tell the truth. Thank You for helping us to always tell the truth, and forgive us when we slip up and tell lies. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What do you call something that isn't the truth? (A lie.)
2. How do you teach a child to lie? (You don't have to! It's part of our human nature.)
3. Why do people lie? (Mostly out of fear of other people.)

4. Why is it always best to tell the truth?
5. How can you let your lips speak the truth?
6. Why does God say, "*Do not lie*"? (God doesn't want us to get into a messing web of lies. He doesn't want us to hurt others or ourselves.)
7. What does it mean to say, "*You must not testify falsely against your neighbor*"? (Don't tell a half-truth, or twist the facts, or invent something or purposely leave something out of a story about someone.)
8. What is a lie? (It is anything that misleads or tricks someone into believing something that is not true.)
9. Can you think of ways people lie about things? (By pretending to be a certain way that you're not; gossiping, exaggerating, making promises you know you can't keep.)
10. Who is the Father of lies? (The Devil)
11. What three things does Jesus use to describe Himself in John 14:6? (He said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*")
12. What must you give an explanation for on judgment day? (For every idle word you have spoken.)
13. Explain how one's lies leads to another? (If you tell one lie, you have to tell another to cover up for the first one.)
14. What happens to liars? Does that seem fair to you? Why or why not?
15. How do you get complete, full forgiveness when you lie? (Confess your sins to Jesus and He will cleanse you.)

#10. Do Not Want What Others Have

(Exodus 20:17)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Do you know what the “gimmies” are? Have you ever taken a two-year-old shopping? With outstretched fingers and whining cries, they *must have* everything they see, even if they have never even seen one before until a minute ago!

How about you when you’re home watching TV? What happens to you when the commercials come on? Do you get the “gimmies”? Did you know that the advertisers target children! They know that everyone is born with the “gimmies” – we are naturally greedy and covetous. We have to learn how to curb those appetites.

Today we’re going to learn that God wants us to be happy and content with what we have.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we already have so many things, forgive us for always wanting more. Teach us to be thankful for everything you’ve given us. Help us to be aware when we get the “gimmies”. Help us to remember to be thankful for all You have given us. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not covet your neighbor’s house... or anything else that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20:17)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first nine without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn’t want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.

2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don’t let anyone or anything steal God’s place in your life.
3. *Keep God’s Name Holy* – God doesn’t want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.
6. *Do not murder* – God wants us to honor and respect life by choosing to say *no* to violence.
7. *Do not commit adultery* – God wants you to be true to your husband or wife.
8. *You must not steal* – God wants us to be givers and not takers.
9. *You must not lie* – God want you to be truth tellers.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we’re going to learn the tenth commandment.

Exodus 20:17

You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”

To *covet* means to *desire* or to *take pleasure in*. Coveting becomes a problem when we want what others have. It’s wishing you had something that belongs to someone else. It goes way beyond simply admiring something that someone else has. It’s more than just thinking, “*I’d like to have one of those, too.*” It is *wanting* something

that you cannot afford to buy; that is way beyond your ability to get. Coveting includes jealousy and envy. It is feeling like you just have to *have* something and you won't be satisfied until you get it! It's resenting the fact that someone else has what you don't have and being willing to do something hurtful to get it.

James 4:1-3

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? (2) You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. (3) And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Getting' the "Gimmies"

[Teacher, have a variety of candy bars or other yummy treats, one per child. Put each treat into a paper sack and put the sacks on a table. Have the children number off. Let #1 take a sack and pull the treat out of the bag. Then let #2 decide if he wants to take #1's treat or take a new sack. #3 may take one of the other kid's treats or take a new sack. When every child finally has a treat, the game is over.]

- How did you feel when you saw a treat you wanted?
- What do you wish you could have done to get it?

All of us at times want things that belong to someone else. This is called *coveting*. That greedy feeling of wanting what others have breaks God's tenth commandment. The Bible teaches us to be happy with what we have.

- Can you share a time when you had the "Gimmies"?

When we do not let God control our *wants*, our coveting will lead us to break other commandments, too. We need to remember that God has promised to meet *all* our needs. Happiness won't come by getting

what you *want*. Happiness comes by being *content* with what you have.

Hebrews 13:5

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Are you thanking God for all that He has given you?

Luke 12:15

Then he [Jesus] said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

God wants us to be happy with what we have.

- What are some things that kids want these days? [Teacher, list them on the board.]

We all think that if we could just get one of these things it would make us happy. But, sometimes the more stuff we have the unhappier we become. We become greedy, discontent, and selfish.

We are God's special people; He wants us to be happy and contented with what we have. And, He wants us to show others how to do that, too.

Colossians 3:1-2

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. (2) Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

- What are some "*things of heaven*" that we should think about? (Heaven is a beautiful place. There will be no sorrow; no needs; streets of gold; and God has a mansion waiting for us there. God's thoughts towards us are more numerous than the grains of sand.)
- How does thinking about the things of heaven help you keep God's commandment to not want what others have?

- Which of the “*things of heaven*” do you need to set your heart on?
- How can you do that?

The secret to not wanting what others have is being happy with what you do have. Learn to count the “*things of heaven*” as some of your most prized possessions. After all, they are the only things that will last!

Green with Greed

This funny skit shows the kids how thankfulness cures greediness.

Materials: 2 copies of the “*Green with Greed*” script; green washable marker; 2 baby wipes; jar of jelly beans labeled “*Thank-Pill-Ness: This cures covetousness*”; extra jelly beans for class; optional extras, lab coat, stethoscope.

Preparation: Choose two kids to read this skit. Have one child make green marks on his or her face with washable marker.

Greenie: (Crying) Doctor, doctor, help! I’ve got a case of the greenies.

Doctor: Let’s check the symptoms. Hmm, has your neighbor gotten something new?

Greenie: Well, now that you mention it, my neighbor does have a new four-wheeler. Oh, that motor hums, and you ought to see the crazy colors it’s painted, and it goes, like, fifty miles an hour, and...

Doctor: Yes, I see. And have you been wishing you had one like it?

Greenie: You bet I Have! I’ve wanted one just like it since that first varoom...

Doctor: I see. And have you been dreaming of ways to get one yourself?

Greenie: Boy, have I! I’ve been looking in the paper for one and saving my money for one and...

Doctor: Aha! My friend, what you have is not so much a case of the greenies. You have a bad case of the greedies!

Greenie: Oh, no! Doctor, what can I do?

Doctor: (Handing Greenie the jar) This jar of “*Thank-pill-ness*” will cure the most covetousness, greediness, and downright wanting what others have.

Greenie: How often do I take them?

Doctor: Any time you feel the greedies coming on, thank God for what you do have. You will overcome the greedies by being happy with what you have.

Greenie: OK, doc.

Greenie: (Thanks God for things and people and all the blessing of God in his life. Each time he does, he pops a jelly bean into his mouth and uses the baby wipe to wipe off a spot of green marker until the spots and jelly beans are gone.)

- What was Greenie’s real problem?
- How is Greenie like you sometimes?
- How can you cure your greedies?

Ephesians 5:5

You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him.

If you have ever wished that you had something that belongs to someone else, you have broken the 10th Commandment; you are a lawbreaker! You’ve broken God’s law and deserve to be punished.

But thankfully God didn’t leave us in this hopeless situation! Jesus came to die on the cross. He lovingly shed His blood for you and for

me so now we can go to Him when we break any of these commandments, confess our sins and receive a full pardon. God forgives us for being lawbreakers when we trust what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, have each child thank God for something.]

Dear Lord, You have given us so much. Besides all the wonderful things we have at home, we have a God who loves us and smiles on us. We have You, Jesus, as our best friend, and we have a home in heaven waiting for us. You are so kind! Help us to be happy with what we have. We want to obey You when You tell us that we should not want what others have. We're so glad we have You! In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Make large hearts and have the children either draw pictures of or list the things that they have that they thank God for.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What are the "gimmies"? (Wanting what others have.)
2. What does "covet" mean? (To *desire* or to *take pleasure in*.)
3. When you admire something someone has, is that coveting? (No. Coveting is resenting the fact that someone else has what you

don't have and being willing to do something hurtful or illegal to get it.)

4. What brings us true happiness? (Finding contentment with what we have. Thankfulness.)
5. What are the "*things of heaven*" that we should think about? (Heaven is a beautiful place. There will be no sorrow; no needs; streets of gold; and God has a mansion waiting for us there. God's thoughts towards us are more numerous than the grains of sand.)
6. How does thinking about the things of heaven help you keep God's commandment to not want what others have?
7. How can you cure your greedies? (By being thankful.)

Reviewing the Top Ten

(Exodus 20:1-17)

Pre-Session Warm Up

- 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

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?