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Old Testament

Genesis



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To briefly summarise the first book of the Old Testament.
- To assure children they can be part of the Abrahamic promise and all the promises in the Bible by faith in Jesus.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis 12:1-7, Genesis chapter 15, Genesis chapter 22



MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 1:20: "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."

Note to the Facilitator:

This lesson is content based. While teaching, please ensure that you narrate the passages mentioned as a story.

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading "Read Aloud."



ATTENTION GETTER

Preparation:

- Ask the children to choose a partner and to stand in pairs.
- Ask the stronger child to stand behind their partner and take one arm distance. Ask them if they would be able to hold their partner when they fall back. Instruct them that when their partner falls back, to make sure to catch them! If they can, ask them to promise their partner that they can do so.
- Instruct the children standing in the front to close their eyes and fold their arms. When you tell them, they should fall back on their partners without turning their heads, opening their eyes, or moving their bodies or legs.
- Tell the child standing in front that they should have complete faith in their partner, that when they fall back their partners would hold them in their arms.
- Let the stronger child position themselves to catch their partners as they fall back into their partners' arms.

(When they have finished “falling back,” ask each child who fell back the following questions.)

Ask:

Did you have the faith that the person standing behind would hold you?

Why did you have the faith?

The person standing behind was strong enough to hold them. Their partner promised that they would hold them when they fell back.

What is a promise?

A promise is when you tell someone that you will do, get something and you do it.

Has anyone ever made a promise which they did not keep?

What would you have done if you felt the person you were falling back on was not strong enough to catch you? Or worse, were mean enough to let you fall?

Explain:

The object of our faith must be strong enough and faithful enough to not let us down. It is really not our faith that is the most important thing, but the one we place our faith in. God is the only one worthy of our faith because He is the only one who keeps and fulfills His promises.

The whole Bible is a proof that God is a promise—keeping God. When we put our faith and trust in His promises, He never lets us down.

**INTRODUCTION**

The next few weeks we are going to study the first 3 books of the Old Testament. As we study these books, we'll see how God fulfilled the promises He made to one man—Abraham.

The Old Testament is a collection of 39 books about the history and religion of the people of Israel. The first 5 books of the Old Testament are called the 'Books of Moses' because they were written by Moses. They're also called the 'Books of the Law' or just 'The Law' because these books contain the laws that God gave Israel after He brought them out of Egypt.

The Books of the Law are:

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Today, we'll study the book of Genesis and the promises God made to Abraham.



TEACHING CONTENT

Introduction to the Book of Genesis

Genesis means “Beginnings.” It’s a book of ‘firsts.’ ‘Firsts’ means the first time these things ever happened on earth.

Ask:

Can you tell me a few things mentioned in the book of Genesis that happened first time on the earth? *(Let the children respond).*

1. God created the first man and woman
2. The first sin
3. The first murder
4. The first and only worldwide flood

There’s more to the list. You’ll discover the rest as you do the Take Home Crossword puzzle.

Can each of you tell me one event/story recorded in the book of Genesis? *(Let the children respond).*

- Creation of the world, man and woman
- Adam and Eve’s sin
- Noah and the Flood
- Abraham
- Birth of Isaac
- Isaac's sons Esau and Jacob

The first and second chapter of Genesis is really wonderful and exciting to read

- How God created a perfect world and how He created Adam and Eve in His image.
- The friendship God shared with Adam and Eve.
- How everyone lived in peace and perfect harmony.

When everything seemed good and perfect, it's saddening to read how Adam and Eve sinned against God. In the chapters that follow, all we read is

- Hatred and murder – Cain murders his brother Abel
- Rebellion and Disobedience – The flood
- Pride and Arrogance – The Tower of Babel

All this resulted in God's curse and punishment

- Separation – Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden.
- Pain – Adam and Eve had to work hard to eat.
- Death – The flood killed everyone except for Noah and his sons.
- Destruction – The flood destroyed the whole world.

Promises God Made to Abraham

In the midst of all these saddening events, we read of God's love and plan to redeem mankind from sin. God did this by making a covenant (an agreement) with one faithful man, Abraham.

When Abraham was 75 years, God spoke to him. God told Abraham to go to a strange, unknown land that He would show him. God made a promise to Abraham.

Let's read the promise God gave Abraham in Genesis 12:2, 3.

Read Aloud:

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

The promise must have seemed unbelievable to Abraham because his wife Sarah was childless (Gen. 11:30-31) and both of them were old and past the age of having a child. Yet, Abraham obeyed God with no hint of doubt or disbelief.

Abraham took his wife, his nephew, Lot, and his family, and went toward the land that God would show him. When Abraham reached the land of Canaan, God promised to give his offspring the land of Canaan.

Even though Canaan was occupied with war-like Canaanites, in faith Abraham believed that God would give this land to him and his descendants. Abraham and his family settled in Canaan.

God's Covenant with Abraham

In Genesis 15, the Lord reaffirmed His promise to Abraham in a vision. Abraham was anxious about the promise of a nation being formed through his descendants, when he did not have a son and was past the age (past 85 years) of having one. God assured Abraham that it would be through his own son that he would make a nation. As a sign, God asked Abraham to get out of his tent, look toward heaven and count the stars. God told him that his descendants would be innumerable and countless as the stars in the sky.

What was Abraham's response? The Bible says he believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

The Lord confirmed the promise by making a covenant with Abraham. God made a covenant the same way the ancient world used to make covenants.

God asked Abraham to bring him a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon. God asked him to cut them in two and arrange the halves opposite one another. The birds, however, he did not cut in half. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. God made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates." In this covenant, God promised Abraham much more land than he had done in the first promise.

Even though God chose to make His covenant the same way the people in Abraham's times did, yet we see one difference. In a covenant agreement, both people would walk between the cut halves of the dead animals. Here we see that by sending the smoking firepot and blazing torch through the pieces, it was God alone who walked between the pieces of the dead animals.

This shows that the covenant God was making with Abraham and his descendants was unconditional. It depended on God to fulfill the covenant. Even though Abraham's descendants might be disqualified from the benefits of the covenant because of their unfaithfulness towards God, yet the ultimate fulfillment of the covenant depended on God and not man.

Abraham had turned 99 years and still there was no sign of the promise coming true.

God again appeared to Abraham and promised:

- To make Abraham the father of many nations. So He changed his name from Abram to Abraham.
- To make him very fruitful.
- To establish His covenant as an everlasting covenant between Him and Abraham and his descendants for generations to come.
- To be their God.
- To give the whole land of Canaan as an everlasting possession to Abraham and his descendants.
- God also promised Abraham that his wife Sarah would bear a son, and to call him Isaac. God promised to establish his covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants.

God Tests Abraham

Just as God promised Abraham, his wife Sarah gave birth to a son and they named him Isaac. When Isaac was a young boy, God wanted to test Abraham to see if he loved Him more than his son and if he had the faith to trust in His unconditional covenant. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son.

Though this was the hardest thing for Abraham to do, yet he woke up the next morning and took his only son to sacrifice him on the mountain God would show him. When Abraham reached the mountain, God told him to sacrifice his son. He built an altar and laid his only son on it. When he was about to slay his son, the angel of the Lord called out to Abraham and asked him not to lay a hand on the boy.

When God saw that Abraham loved, trusted and obeyed Him to the extent that he was willing to sacrifice his **ONLY** son, God promised that He would:

- Surely bless Abraham and make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.
- His descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies.
- Through Abraham’s offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed.

After Abraham’s death, God reconfirmed the same promise to Abraham’s son, Isaac, and to Isaac’s son, Jacob. God called Jacob as Israel, which means “Overcomer with God” because he wrestled all night with God and did not let go until God blessed him.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.

Why was Abraham willing to sacrifice his only son? To find the answer, read Hebrews 11:19.

Abraham’s faith was so strong in God that he knew that after he murdered Isaac, God would bring his dead son back to life and fulfill His unconditional covenant. He believed this in a day and age when nobody had been raised to life!! At least we have testimonies today of this happening. But in Abraham’s day, this was unknown. Yet Abraham believed God!

Hebrews 11:19 declares that this amazing man totally believed God would keep His unconditional word!!!

Why did God make His Covenant and choose to carry out His plan for the entire mankind through just one man—Abraham?

The following passages will help you find the answer:

Genesis 12:1: “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you ...’”

Genesis 12:4: “So Abram left, as the Lord had told him ...”

Hebrews 11:8: “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

Genesis 26:4-5: “... all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commandments, my decrees, and my laws.”

Genesis 15:6: “Abraham believed in the Lord, and he credited to him as righteousness.”

These verses mention that God chose Abraham because he had faith, a faith that was seen by his obedient actions. During the time of Abraham, people had different ideas of who God was. That’s because they did not know God’s name, they did not have a Bible or have a personal relationship with God.

In spite of these factors, when God spoke to Abraham, he trusted and obeyed God. Even though Abraham had not seen or learnt about God earlier, he obeyed God. Even though he did not know where God was asking him to go, he just obeyed God and made that journey in faith. In spite of being old and not physically fit to have a child, yet Abraham believed when God told him that he and his wife would have a son.

He obeyed God and kept His commandments, decrees and laws. That’s why God was pleased with His faith and obedience.

God made the promises to Abraham and his descendants thousands of years ago. Today, how does it help us to know the promises God made to him?

The following passages will help you find the answer:

Genesis 12:1-3: “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”

Genesis 22:17-18: “...Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**, because you have obeyed me.”

Galatians 3:26-29: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”

According, to these verses God told Abraham that through him and his offspring all the peoples of the earth will be blessed. So through Abraham we too will be blessed. Though we are not Israelites, yet we will be blessed when we believe by faith that Jesus is God, believe He died for our sins, ask Him forgiveness for our sins and accept Him into our lives. Once we do this, we belong to Christ and are children of Abraham, and heirs of the promise God gave Abraham and all the promises in the Bible.

The promises of God were to Abraham's descendants—the Israelites? By making and fulfilling these promises only to the Israelites do you think God was being partial? To find the answer, read Galatians 3:28 and 2 Timothy 2:3–4.

In the promise that God made to Abraham, we see that God promised to bless all the nations and people of the earth as well.

God is not a partial God because we read in:

Galatians 3:28 – that we are all one in Jesus

2 Timothy 2:3-4 – God wants all men to be saved and come to the truth

He chose to make the promises to Abraham because of his faith and obedience. He chose to reveal Himself, and His plan of salvation, through Israel and Jesus to the rest of the world. The whole world can be part of the blessing and promises God made to Abraham through faith in Jesus.



APPLICATION

How wonderful to know that in God's plan of salvation and in the promises He gave to Abraham, God thought of each and every one of us.

Just as God made promises to Abraham, the Bible contains more than 3000 promises which God has made for all who believe in Him. These promises will be fulfilled for all those who put their faith and trust in

Him. God's promises cover every area of our lives:

- Our studies
- Health
- Safety
- For strength, etc.
- Healing
- To overcome fear
- To be the best in what we do
- Protection

What do we need to do for God's promises to come true in our lives?

First, read the Bible: When you read the Bible and you come across a promise underline it. It would be also good for you to memorise the promise.

Second, obey God's commands: Secondly, just like Abraham did we need to obey God's commands.

In most of the promises mentioned in the Bible, there is a command. We need to obey the command for the promise to come true in our lives. Let me give you an example. *(Ask two children to read aloud Matthew 21:22 and John 15:7. Ask them to mention the command and the promise).*

Matthew 21:22: "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Command: We need to believe.

Promise: We will receive whatever we ask in prayer.

John 15:7: If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Command: We need to remain in Him and His Words should remain in us. Which means we need to be in a close relationship with God by reading and obeying His Word and praying to Him.

Promise: Ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you.

Thirdly, have faith: Abraham's faith led him to obey God.

Even though the circumstances were very hard for Abraham, yet he obeyed God because he had the faith in God.

He had faith that it was God who spoke to him.

He had the faith that God will show him the land where he needs to stay.

He had the faith that even though his wife and he were old, they would have a son.

He had faith that even though God asked him to sacrifice his only son of promise that God was able to raise him up to fulfill His unconditional covenant made with Abraham.

Romans chapter 4 tells us that Abraham was not saved because he obeyed God; rather, his obedience to God was a result of his faith. The Bible tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. That is why God was pleased with Abraham's faith and made all those wonderful promises to him.

Similarly, it will be easy for us to obey God when we have the faith that the promises God made in His Word will come true in our lives. Don't doubt—always have faith to obey Him and see His promise come true in your lives.

Fourthly, speak the promise in faith over your life: God has not only given us His precious and great promises but He has also promised to fulfill every promise recorded in His Word. Knowing this truth will not automatically cause the promise to come true in our lives. We need to speak the promises in faith in the areas we need help. (*Give the children a few examples*). We can also speak the promises over the lives of family or friends who are in need.

You can say, Lord Jesus I thank you for this promise in Your Word (say the promise). I speak this in faith over _____ (mention the person's name) / my life. I believe it is done.



FOLLOW UP

Given in your work books are a few promises from the Bible. Tick at least five promises that you can claim over your lives in prayer, or over the lives of your family members or friends. Read the promise, if there is a command, obey it, and in faith claim the promise. Next week, share with the class how in faith you obeyed God's command and how God fulfilled those promises.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



Old Testament

The Laws



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To summarise the second and third books of the Old Testament.
- To help children understand why God gave us laws.
- To help them know they can obey the Laws with the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit living in them.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 20



MEMORY VERSE

Ezekiel 36:26, 27: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Material Needed:

A few A4 sheets.

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading “Read Aloud.”

**ATTENTION GETTER****Material Needed:**

A few A4 sheets.

Presentation:

Have the children count off, or in some other way divide them into two or more teams. Give each team two A4 sheets. *(If the children are few, you can give each child two sheets).*

Tell them that on the word ‘GO’ the game will begin.

Count to 3 and say ‘GO.’

The children will be clueless as to what to do, how to begin, not even knowing which game to play. They will not hesitate to tell you that you have forgotten a very important part of playing a game—THE RULES!

If they don’t, wait till they tell you.

Say:

Instructions and rules are very important in a game. In fact, rules are important in every area of our lives. If we didn’t have rules we would be confused and not know what to do. *(Give a few examples).* That’s why God gave the Israelite rules/laws to follow. We’ll study about them in our lesson today. Before we do that, let’s play the game. *(Play the game quickly without wasting time).*

Rules for playing the game:

- Have each team form a queue for a game of relay.
- Hand over two A4 sheets to the first child in each row.
- When you say GO, the child must place the paper on the floor, and place one foot on it.

- They have to balance themselves on one leg on the paper, while putting the second paper on the floor for the other leg.
- The child must make it to the finish line, placing only one foot on each sheet, alternately using the two sheets to keep moving forward.
- If they lose balance and put their feet on the ground, they need to start from the beginning.
- On reaching the finish line, the child will run back and hand over the sheets to the next person in line.
- The team that finishes first is the winner.

After the children finish have them sit down in their places.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we very briefly studied the book of Genesis. Today, we'll study the second and third book of the Old Testament.

Ask:

Which is the second and third book of the Old Testament?

Exodus and Leviticus

How does the book of Genesis end?

It ends with Jacob, his 11 sons and their families moving to live in Egypt with Joseph.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Introduction to the Book of Exodus

The word Exodus means 'exit' or 'departure.' Why is it called 'exit' or 'departure?'

400 years after Joseph's death, the Israelites lived among the Egyptians. They prospered and grew until the next Pharaoh came to the throne. He saw them as a security risk and enslaved them (Exodus 1:8–11). The Israelites cried out to God in their suffering and pain. God remembered the promise He made to Abraham. He delivered them out of Egypt. This

book narrates the Israelites' departure or exit from Egypt and slavery to Canaan, the Promised Land.

In Exodus, God reveals for the first time His name, nature, plans, laws, and how He is to be worshiped by the nation of Israel and the nations living around them.

God reveals:

I. His Plan to Redeem the Israelites

God heard the cry of the Israelites who were suffering in Egypt and chose Moses to deliver His people from Egypt. God met and spoke to Moses at the burning bush, and God told him to go to Egypt and set His people free. Moses was hesitant to go, but God promised to be with him and help him.

II. His Name

Moses told God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God revealed His name as 'I AM WHO I AM.' 'I Am' means God is self-existent—He always was and He always will be. He has no beginning and He will have no end. It also means He is self-sufficient—He does not depend on anything for His existences or survival.

III. His Characteristics

A. As the Only Living, Powerful and Mighty God

Pharaoh was stubborn and unwilling to listen to God and Moses. He did not send the Israelites out of Egypt. God displayed His power and might to the Egyptians by sending the ten plagues. The Egyptian magicians were able to perform the first two plagues, but were not able to either start or stop the other plagues. Hence, they realized that the God of the Israelites was a powerful and living God.

B. Faithful and Promise Keeping God

After God sent the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave Egypt. By delivering the Israelites from Egypt, God showed Himself as a merciful and faithful God—faithful in remembering, keeping and fulfilling the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

C. His Providence

God led and provided for the Israelites as they journeyed through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. Even though the Israelites were constantly

grumbling, yet God provided for them by dividing the Red Sea, providing water from the rock, and daily raining down manna and quail (bread and meat) from heaven. In spite of all this, the Israelites failed to put their faith and trust in God.

IV. How He is to Be Worshipped

God gave Moses instructions on how to build the Tabernacle and what to place inside it. The Tabernacle was a special tent where the people would come to make their sacrifice, worship and meet with God. When the Israelites moved from place to place, the Tabernacle was set up as the center of worship.

V. His Law

When the Israelites camped at Mt. Sinai, God made a covenant—an agreement—with the Israelites. It's called the Mosaic Covenant. The Mosaic Covenant is a conditional covenant made between God (The King) and the nation of Israel (His people) at Mount Sinai.

At the time of making the covenant, God reminded the people of their responsibility to be obedient to His law, and the people agreed to the covenant when they said, "... we will do everything the Lord has said" (Exodus 19:8). If the Israelites obeyed God fully and kept His covenant, God promised them that, out of all the nations, they'd be His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-8).

God called Moses to meet Him on top of a mountain, and there He gave him the Ten Commandments and other laws. Scholars say that there are totally **613 laws** that God gave Moses. The Ten Commandments were the heart of this covenant.

II. Introduction to the Book of Leviticus

The book of Leviticus mentions the details of the 613 laws. Leviticus is the third book of the Old Testament and is a guidebook of rules and laws. Leviticus means 'relating to the Levites.' The Levites were the tribe from which the priests and others who serve in the tabernacle were chosen.

The Laws that God gave the Israelites were:

- Laws concerning Sacrifice—exact ways in which the five offerings were to be made.

- Laws of purification from ceremonial uncleanness (sins)—these laws gave instructions on the sacrifices people had to make for the removal of their uncleanness and sins.
- Laws dealing with the religious and moral behavior of the Israelites.
- Laws concerning the holiness of the priests.

Leviticus also has details of holy days and feasts that God wanted the Israelites to observe and celebrate.

Why did God give the Israelites so many laws?

The Hebrew word for “law” is “Torah” which means: instruction, guidance, or direction to people. As you can see the English translation of ‘Torah’ is not quite accurate. In the Bible, the Torah—the Law—was given by God out of a deep love for the Israelites. It was God’s guidance and direction for His people, to make life easier—not harder.

The Torah instructed on all aspects of Israel's life—from birth to death. The Torah covered such areas as; community structure, medicine, diet, health, clothing, housing, morality, ceremonies, holy days, worship, relationships between family and neighbors etc. God's Torah taught people how to live a holy life.

We should never think that God gave the Israelites 613 laws to make their life difficult, or to enslave them to these laws. Before God gave the Israelites the Law through Moses, God said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” After bringing them out of slavery, He didn’t want to enslave them again by imposing unnecessary laws on them.

Was the game we played, easier and more fun, before I gave the instructions or after I gave them? (*Let the children respond*).

Yes! It was only after I gave the rules that we could play the game properly. Likewise, God gave the Israelites rules to make life easier for them. We’ll see how:

1. When God delivered His children from Egypt, a new nation was created. Every nation must have laws for leading the people. Laws protect people by imposing punishments when a law is broken. Without this, there would be disorder,

confusion and rebellion. If there were no laws, a nation would be divided. Since God was the King of Israel, He gave them laws to make life easier for them.

2. God gave the Laws to make the Israelites spiritually free under His guidance. Without God's guidance, no one can truly be free. When we are not under God's guidance, we are under the devil's guidance. When we are under the devil's guidance, he makes us his slaves. God gave us the Law so we would not be enslaved by the devil and his evil plans.
3. God gave the Laws because He wanted the Israelites to be Holy as He is holy. Holiness is being separated from sin and being set apart fully to the Lord, for His purposes and glory. By following these rules, Israel would be different from the other nations that were worshipping idols. The unique laws given to Israel were meant to attract the other nations to the God of Israel.
4. The Law helps a person know what is right and wrong.
5. The Law helps a person stay obedient to God. When people disobey, the Law helps them realise they've sinned and failed God. It will show them their need to be saved from punishment, by a loving God.
6. The Law promotes good health, good morals and good relationships. The food requirements within the Law have been proven by modern science to be healthy practices. The moral requirements produced love and kindness towards, fellow men. The Israelites were supposed to treat the poor and outsiders in the same way God treated them—with love, compassion and justice.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

What are your opinions and attitudes to the rules you have to follow in school and at home?

(Encourage the children to share their opinions and attitudes to the rules they have to follow at home and school.)

How did God want the Israelites to obey His laws?

God wanted the Israelites to demonstrate their love and faith in Him, by obeying the laws.

How is love connected to the Law? The verses given below will help you find the answer.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6: “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.”

Deuteronomy 11:1: “Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.”

Deuteronomy 30:16: “For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.”

God, out of His love for the Israelites, gave them the Law—to protect, guide and help them have peaceful relationships and a healthy and good life.

God wanted the Israelites to keep God’s commands, worship and serve Him, out of love. The verses mentioned above, stress the importance of obeying, serving, walking and keeping His commandments out of love. When we obey the laws out of love we will do it not as a compulsion, duty or responsibility but because we desire to do it out of our love for God.

Obeying the Law also helps us love our neighbors. Many of the commands in the Law deal with relationships with family members, with fellow Israelites and with foreigners.

So we see that Love and Law are inseparable.

In Jeremiah 31:33 God says that He would put His law in our minds and write it on our hearts. Why did God say He would write the laws on our hearts?

God saw that the Israelites followed the laws out of compulsion, fear, duty, responsibility and not out of love for Him. The Law had become more of a burden for them. So God promised that in the new covenant He would write the laws on

the hearts of His people.

God knew that if the Law is not written on our hearts, then the Law will be only an obligation, a set of rules that one must live by. And obeying it will be more of a burden for us. But once the Torah is written on our hearts, we will keep the Torah with love, joy and gladness. We will be able to obey God's laws out of our love for Him. It will be the desire of our hearts to obey God.

We learnt today that the book of Leviticus has Laws for Sacrifice, Laws of purification from ceremonial uncleanness (sins). Why don't we follow these laws in church today?

We don't have to make any more sacrifices for our sins because Jesus became the full, sufficient and perfect sacrifice for our sins when He died on the cross. We don't have to perform any outward ceremonies to cleanse ourselves from the sins we have done because, when we ask Jesus to forgive us, His blood purifies and cleanses us from all our sins and we are presented clean in God's sight.



APPLICATION

The church today is under the new covenant because of Jesus' love-sacrifice for our sins. Since we are under the New Covenant:

- ❖ We no longer have to make the animal sacrifices.
- ❖ Follow ritual cleansing for our sins.
- ❖ And we don't have to try obeying the laws in our strength. In the New Covenant God promises:
 - In Jeremiah 31:33 that He would put His law in our minds and write it on our hearts.
 - In our memory verse for today which is taken from Ezekiel 36:26, God promises:
 - A renewed heart and renewed spirit.
 - God Himself will put the law in people's hearts and minds.
 - The Holy Spirit will help us and cause us to follow and keep the laws.

What is your response and attitude to:

- ❖ The laws that God gave out of His love and for your well-being.
- ❖ The New Covenant in which the Holy Spirit Himself will help you and cause you to follow and keep His laws.

Similarly, the rules your schools and parents have laid down are for your well-being and protection.

Having understood this, what is your response and attitude to the rules that your parents and school have set to protect, guide and help you.

Do you want to give your rebellious, stubborn, hardened heart to God, and ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart, so you can love God and obey Him?

My response:

Areas in my life where I need to obey the rules set by your school and parents and laws set by God. My attitude to obeying rules and laws in God's Word:

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

The Laws and rules I obeyed during this week.

The change in my attitude to obeying laws and rules I had to follow during this week.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



Old Testament



First and Second Commandments



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the true meaning of the first and second commandments.
- Children will understand the relevance of these commandments to their everyday lives.
- To help children obey these two commandments.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 20



MEMORY VERSE

Mark 12:29-30: "... the Lord our God, the Lord is one and love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Materials Needed:

- On a chart paper write 'GOD' in the center—write it big across the chart paper.

- Take a few A4 sheets and cut them into good sizeable squares. Make sure that each child receives at least 5 squares.
- A photo frame with the picture of a friend.
- Assorted pictures of a TV, computer/laptop, mobile, iPod, football star, cricket bat, latest sports/movie stars, all stuck separately on pieces of hard cardboard, so that they can stand vertical.
- Pile of books.
- A photo of Jesus or a Bible.

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading "Read Aloud."



ATTENTION GETTER

Materials Needed:

On a chart paper write GOD in the center—write it big across the chart paper.

Take a few A4 sheets and cut them into good sizeable squares. Make sure that each child receives at least 5 squares.

Preparation:

Give each child five square pieces of paper. On each piece ask them to draw/write things that they love dearly, spend lots of time on, or consider really important to them. Children will probably draw or mention sports, money, heroes, electronics, pop singers, clothes, etc.

Let them hold on to the five pieces.



INTRODUCTION

In the last class, we learnt why God gave the Israelites so many laws. Can you tell me why He did so? *(Let the children respond).*

The heart of all the Laws that God gave the Israelites was the Ten Commandments. The order in which God gave the Ten Commandments is important. The first four of the Ten Commandments have to do with our relationship with God. The last six have to do with our relationship with others.

Many people today think that the Ten Commandments were given to the Israelite nation alone to follow. They think the Church today does not need to obey them because we live under grace and not under the law. They say we receive the blessings and promises of God by faith, and not by obeying the old laws.

However, though the Ten Commandments are old, they are not outdated. They apply to our lives even today. Following them will help and benefit us, rather than make life difficult or hard. Today, we'll learn what the first two commandments mean, and how they apply to our lives.



TEACHING CONTENT

Turn to Exodus 20, and let's read the first two commandments.

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:2-6: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an Idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Ask:**What are the first and second commandments?**

You shall have no other Gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

What do these two commandments mean and why did God give these two commandments?**Say:**

Through these two commandments, God wanted the Israelites to know:

- He is the One and Only God; the Creator of heaven and earth who deserves our love, worship, and obedience, far above anything or anyone else.
- They were forbidden from worshipping the other so called gods that the other nations around them—the Egyptians and Canaanites were worshipping.
- He did not want them to make an image of Him and worship it, or worship the idols that the Egyptians and Canaanites were worshipping.

Why did God ask us not to worship an idol of Him?

Firstly, because God is Spirit and He has no form or shape. In John 4:24 Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth.

Secondly, God knew that people would get too caught up in the image/idol itself, forgetting to honor God. 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.

For example, if a person were to receive answers to prayer after kneeling before an image of Jesus, he'd begin to think that the image in that church has power. But the fact is that the image has no power; it's God alone who has the power to do miracles. And God can answer our prayers even at home or out on the street—we don't need to kneel before an image.

Do we worship any other "gods" or "idols?" (*Let the children respond*).

Yes. Sometimes, we worship other "gods" and idols. Let me show you how.

(Let the children share the pictures they drew, with the rest of the group. After they finish sharing, place the chart paper with “God” written on it, on the table.)

As you talk about each picture, lay it on top of the “God” wording on the chart, until the word is completely covered. Point out to children that sometimes we become so focused on these other things, giving greater importance to them, that it becomes easy to forget God. These things take the place of God and become idols in our lives.

(You could practically illustrate the point you’re trying to make. You could place different objects one behind the other, in a single straight line—including the framed photo of a friend, pictures of the TV, computer/laptop, mobile, iPod, football or cricket bat, latest sports/movie stars, etc. Finally, behind all of these, place a photo of Jesus or the Bible.

Have the children stand in front of these pictures, as you lead them through the images one by one. Finally, you can demonstrate how Jesus could get hidden behind other things if we give them first place in our lives.)

Ask:

What are some things that the world, and even believers, love more than Jesus?

Friends, food, pleasure, possessions, internet, Facebook, money, power, prestige, popularity, fame, our bodies, comfort, freedom, fashion, beauty, games, sports, movie stars, music, TV, movies, and even studies and homework.

When do these things become ‘gods’ or ‘idols?’

When they take priority, preference and importance in our lives.

No one sets out with the intention of making these things ‘gods’ or worshiping them. We “worship” other gods when we:

- Love and value someone or something too much.
- Devote or sacrifice our time, health, energy to them (e.g., studies, TV, video games, listening to music, mobile phones).
- Find fulfillment and identity in them (e.g., clothes, exam marks, our school, etc.).

To help you understand this, let’s look at one example—King Solomon.

Ask:

What was King Solomon known for?

His wisdom and his 1000 wives

Why did he have 1000 wives? To find the answer read 1 Kings 11:1

He married women from other nations to form profitable political and trade alliances with them. He loved them, and the benefits they brought him.

Did Solomon do a right thing by marrying so many women?

No

Why? To find the answer read 1 Kings 11:2.

The verse we read in 1 Kings 11:1 mentions that God had told the Israelites not to marry women of other nations, because they would surely turn the hearts of the Israelites to their so-called 'gods.'

That's exactly what happened.

Read Aloud:

1 Kings 11:4: "As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been."

God gave this commandment because He knew that the devil would cause us to love and desire things other than God. The devil loves to be worshiped as God and to take God's place in our lives. It was for this very reason that he was thrown out of heaven.

He slowly leads us into desiring other things. Once we start valuing them too much, giving them greater priority than God, they turn into another 'god' over our lives. We become their slaves, and they ultimately control our time, thoughts and energies (*reiterate the example of King Solomon*). These others "gods" become stumbling blocks in our lives, preventing us from loving the One True God with all our hearts.

When these take the place of God, we end up giving place to the devil in our lives. In a way we become worshippers of the devil and his dark nature fills us. The end result is punishment, pain, separation from God, and death. Letting God hold the central place in our lives keeps other things from turning into 'gods.'



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Why is an idol an insignificant thing? To find the answer read, Psalms 115:3-8.

Idols may be made with precious metals like gold and silver; but they're lifeless and have no power. They are merely things shaped by human hands. How can something made by an imperfect man be greater than God? Idols have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk, and throats but cannot make a sound. And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

What are some of the idols in your school?

Good Looks

Grades

Sports Stars

TV Serials

Money/Riches

Fame

Popularity

According to Jesus, which is the first and most important commandment?

To find the answer, read Mark 12:29-30.

The Lord our God is one; and love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

What would it mean to love the things of the world? To find the answer, read 1 John 2:15-16.

If we love the things of the world (other gods) it means that we don't love God, and His love is not in us. Loving and desiring the things of the world is not from God but from the devil.

What would it mean if we were to choose friendship with the things of this world? To find the answer, read James 4:4.

Friendship with the world (other gods) is hatred and enmity towards God.

Why can't we love both the things of the world and God at the same time? To find the answer, read Matthew 6:24?

Jesus said we cannot serve two masters (God and money), because if we love one, we'll hate the other. If we're devoted to one, we'd despise the other. So we can't please both God and the world at the same time.

How do we keep God first in our lives?

Adoration – praising Him for the fact that He is God, Creator, Savior and Master
Prayer – we cannot love God with all our being if we do not speak with Him.

Commit – to give God our time, talents, the things we have, our emotions, will, desires, thoughts, and intellect.

This means in everything we do, say, think, watch and choose, we ask God to help us do what He would want us to.

Allow God's presence to become second nature in your everyday activities, by putting God first.



APPLICATION

Based on what we have learnt today, it's very clear that we cannot please both God and the things of the world at the same time. God wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

This does not mean that He does not want us to enjoy hanging out with our friends, listen to music, watch TV, read books, study, excel in sports and other activities etc. All He wants is for us to keep Him at the center of our lives. This means we involve Him in everything we do.

You can begin by committing your day, time and talents to God. Ask God to help, guide and give you the wisdom to choose, do, say, read, watch things that would honor Him. If you do this, God will help you balance things right. He'll surely help you get everything done that needs to be done that day.

Secondly, throughout the day, keep talking to God.

E.g. When choosing friends, ask God to help you choose right.

When you sit down to study, ask God to help you understand and remember what you're studying.

If you love reading, ask God to help you choose a book that would increase your knowledge.

If you are going shopping, ask God to give you the wisdom to choose the best.

This way, you can involve God in your life, and show Him that He is the most important Person to you.

Are there things in your life that have become gods—idols that have taken the place of God in your life? If so write them down. (Talents, TV, music, story books, sports, friends, video games, internet, Facebook, mobile, studies etc.)

Would you like to make a commitment, to love God and keep Him first in your life? If so, let's pray.

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment.

This week keep God at the center of your life by involving Him in everything you think, say and do.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



Old Testament



Third and Fourth Commandments



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the meaning of the third and fourth commandments.
- Children will understand the relevance of the second and third commandments in their lives today.
- To help children obey the third and fourth Commandments.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 20



MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 20:11: "... In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."



RECAP

In small sheets of paper, have the children write down the first and second commandments. *(This will help them learn all the Ten Commandments by the end of this series. If a child has forgotten the commandments, encourage them to learn the same).*

Materials Required:

- Sheets of paper one for each child to write the Ten Commandments.
- One double, thick (not easily see through) bed sheet.
- Plastic glass, one for each child. On the outside of each glass (either with a marker or stick paper) mark 7 lines equally spaced, designating the days of the week starting with "Sunday" $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top of the glass, to "Saturday" $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the bottom of the glass.
- A tray to place the glasses.
- Water or juice to fill in the glasses.

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading "Read aloud."

After you explain each commandment please do the discussion questions and application.

**ATTENTION GETTER**

Ask each child the meaning of their names. *(If they don't know, they can find out when they get back home).*

If there are more than 6 children in your class you can play this game.

Instructions:

- Divide the class in two groups. Hold a thick bed sheet as a wall between the two groups. Let the two groups squat on the floor on either side of the sheet.
- Each group should send one person in front close to the bed sheet. The groups on either side should not know who is sitting in front on either side of the sheet.
- At the count of three drop the bed sheet. As soon as the sheet falls the child in front should call out the name of the other child in front of them.

- Whoever calls out the name first is the winner. If the group helps the person in front or out of excitement if someone in the group calls out the name then the other group gets the point.
- Continue the game till all get a chance to be in front and to call out each other's names.

Ask:

Is your name important to you?

How many of you have been called by the wrong name?

How does that feel?

Say:

Just as our names are important to us, God's name is important to Him. That is why He tells us in the 3rd commandment not to misuse His name.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Third Commandment: You Shall Not Misuse the Name of the Lord Your God

Turn to Exodus 20:7 and let's read the third commandment.

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:7: "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name."

A few versions say that we should not take the name of the Lord our God in vain. "Vain" means empty, useless, false, unreal, and worthless.

What is the third commandment? *(Let the children respond).*

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. *(Let the children repeat).*

Ask:**When do we misuse the name of God?**

Many people think that taking the Lord's Name in vain simply means to use God's Name as a swear word, slang word or carelessly use the name of God when we speak every day. E.g. "Oh Jesus what are you doing," "Oh Jeez I forgot to get my book." These are true, but taking God's name in vain is far more serious than just that.

A. God's Name Represents His Authority

The Lord's Name represents God's Person—His divine nature and characteristic, His Authority and Glory. To take His Name in 'vain,' or as 'nothing,' then, is to take God Himself as nothing!

God's name represents His authority, this is very clear when we pray in the Name of Jesus. We come to God in prayer, not by our own authority, but by the authority of God's Son. So when a person takes God's Name in vain, they are proclaiming that God's authority and power are empty and weak.

Read the verses in your workbook and write down what kind of authority/power the name of God has?

Acts 4:12: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
God's name has the authority to save lives.

John 14:13: "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."
God's name has the authority to give us anything we ask.

Romans 10:13: "... for, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"
God's name has the authority to save people from sin, curse, bondage and the strongholds of satan.

Mark 16:17: "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons ..."
God's name has authority over all the authority and power of the devil.

B. God's Name is Honored in Our Actions and Lifestyle

When we fail in our actions to live according to God's laws and commands, we take God's Name in vain. Let me give you an example. Let's turn to Malachi 1:6-8 and read what God had to say to the Israelite priests:

Read Aloud:

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?' says the Lord Almighty. It is you priests who show contempt for my name. But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' You place defiled food on my altar. But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' By saying that the Lord's Table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you? says the Lord Almighty."

The priests were not following the laws of sacrifice which God had given them. They were dishonoring God by offering sacrifices of animals that were sick and lame. God accused the Israelite priests of using His name in vain through their actions. Their actions were dishonoring His name.

Let me give you another example. Let's read what Paul said to the religious Jews who believed in God's Word.

Read Aloud:

Romans 2:22-24: "You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? As it is written, "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

(Explain to the children the meaning of the following words:

Adultery—looking lustfully or wrongly at a woman or having a love relationship with another woman when one is already married.

Abhor – hate, detest

Rob temples – not giving God (tithes and offerings) what is due to Him and not making the right sacrifices. Offering sick and lame animals as sacrifice.)

Explain:

Paul spoke these words to the religious Jews who not only boasted of knowing God and the law but who taught and instructed others to keep the law. These very same Jews broke God’s law. By doing this, they were causing God’s name to be disrespected among the Gentile–unbelievers.

When our actions, attitudes and behavior are not in line with God’s laws, and are not according to God’s Word, we cause unbelievers to speak evil of the God we serve. Hence we dishonor God and His name.

II. Fourth Commandment: Keep the Sabbath Day Holy

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:8-11: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Ask:

(Wait for the children to respond.)

What is the fourth commandment?

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

(After the children read the verse, ask each one the following questions:)

What are we to remember? (v. 8)

The Sabbath day

How we should keep it? (v. 8)

Holy

How many days are we to labor? (v. 9)

Six days

For whom is it a Sabbath? (v. 10)

To the Lord your God

What shall not be done on the Sabbath? (v. 10)

Any work

What did God do on the seventh day? (v. 11)

Rested

What did God do with the seventh day? (v. 11)

Blessed it and made it holy.

Read Aloud:

Leviticus 23:3 (KJV): “Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, and holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.”

Ask:

(Wait for the children to respond.)

What is the seventh day? (v 3)

The Sabbath

What sacred thing is the Sabbath defined as?

Day of complete rest, a holy convocation. A Convocation is a meeting called for a sacred purpose.

For whom is the Sabbath?

It's to the Lord

Explain:

The word ‘Sabbath’ in Hebrew means ‘to rest; to cease; to cause to cease.’ God was commanding the Israelites to work for six days and rest on the seventh day like He did—God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day.

Third and Fourth Commandments

It is not enough to ‘remember’ the Sabbath; we must also ‘keep it holy.’ The word ‘holy’ means to set aside for God. It’s to be a day when we can focus on God—so that we can receive the strength, encouragement and wisdom we need to live out the remaining six days.

The Israelites observed the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week—on Saturday. Since Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, His followers began to set aside Sunday as their special day of Sabbath and worship.

Why did God include resting on the Sabbath as one of the commandments? Let me explain this with Steve’s story.

Activity I

Preparation:

You will need plastic glass, one for each child. On the outside of each glass (either with a marker or stick paper) mark 7 lines equally spaced, designating the days of the week starting with “Sunday” $\frac{1}{2}$ ” from the top of the glass, to “Saturday” $\frac{1}{2}$ ” above the bottom of the glass. You will need to bring enough water, or if you like some juice, to fill each child’s glass to the top line (Sunday mark). Also bring a tray large enough to fit all the glasses on, to prevent any accidental spillage of water/juice.

Place all the glasses you have prepared for the children on a tray. Have the water/juice nearby too.

Say:

Listen to this story about a boy named Steve. It was Sunday and Steve loved Sundays. Sunday was the day his family slept a little later than during the week. They also ate breakfast together as a family before going to church.

Steve loved going to church. He had lots of friends there. He liked being with all of them because they were all friendly to him. He knew they really cared about him. He especially liked it when people shared their faith stories. The stories of how God was working in people’s lives were so cool! He knew that God was real, that He loved Steve very much, and that God wanted to work in his life too. He also knew that God went with him everywhere He went ever since he had asked Him into his life. When he

thought about how much Jesus loved Him, and that He died on the cross for his sins, he got really excited. It was like having his tank filled up on Sundays. *(Fill up all the children's glasses with water/juice to the top line marked "Sunday").*

Steve was ready to zoom through the week ahead. *(Have the children now sip the water/juice in their glasses up to the "Monday" line).*

On Monday, Steve went off to school in a great mood. Then he heard Mohan whispering to Ajit, "Steve is such a loser". Ajit laughed and said, "He sure is!" Steve's feelings were hurt and he walked away. *(Have children go to the glasses and sip the water/juice down to the "Tuesday" line).*

On Tuesday, Steve got half the sums in his Math test wrong. He had really studied for his test. Steve was very sad. That night instead of reading His Bible and praying, he spent an extra hour studying Math. *(Have children sip the water/juice down to the "Wednesday" line).*

On Wednesday night, Steve got sick. He had a stomach upset. He didn't even make it to the bathroom before he threw up. It was not a good night! *(Have children sip the water/juice down to the "Thursday" line).*

On Thursday morning, Steve felt well enough to go to school. It was a good day there, and he did much better in his test this time. But Steve forgot to take one of his notebooks to school. "I wish everything would go right, just for once" he thought. He said to himself, "I am really dumb." And the teacher punished him for not bringing his notebook. *(Have children sip the water/juice down to the "Friday" line).*

"I'm glad it's Friday," Steve thought to himself. At break time, the other kids that Steve hung out with, were using swear words. Steve knew that using that kind of language wasn't pleasing to God. But when Steve wouldn't swear, Vinay called him "pussy cat" and "goody girl". Everyone had a good laugh. Steve felt like he was being bombarded by the world. *(Have children sip the water/juice down to the "Saturday" line).*

"I'll get a break on Saturday," Steve thought. But no chance! His mom wanted him to dust and clean his room. It took him 3 hours to finish all the work she gave him. When he had finished, he flopped down on his bed and said, "I'm tired!" *(Have the children drink the rest of their water/juice).*

Ask them if they ever felt like Steve. On Sunday morning, the last thing Steve wanted to do was drag himself out of bed and go to church. It had been such a bad week that he just wanted to sleep in. But then he remembered the fourth commandment “Set apart a special day for God.”

So he got up, had breakfast with his family, and went off to church. When he got there, his friends were excited to meet him, and two of them asked him to sit next to them. A new man, who recently received Jesus, shared his faith story that day. He said that before meeting Jesus, he had thought no one loved him, and had felt very lonely. But now he knew he was loved, and wanted to share that love with others. They also sang Steve’s favorite worship songs that day. Steve remembered how much Jesus loved him, and was glad to be with all these people who loved Jesus too. “I’m glad I came today” Steve said to himself. “I think God really is awesome.” And Steve’s heart was filled with love and joy once again. *(Fill up the children’s glasses once again).*

Like Steve, during the week we too spend much time on daily activities such as work, school, sports, music lessons and household chores. We also face so many problems that make us feel sad, disappointed, lonely and unloved. God loves us so much that He even planned a day for rest, a day when we could spend time in His presence, being refreshed and renewed for one more week. When we make time for God on a Sunday, we are re-fueled by Him. It is good for us to meet together to worship God and build each other up.

Through this commandment God is also saying that, if we can’t complete our work in six days, then we’re too busy; we’re busier than God Himself! If we choose to obey His command and place Him first in our lives, He will help us get rid of unnecessary things, and give us the strength and help to do our daily work.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Do you call your mum, dad, teacher or principal by their name?

No

How do you call them?**Why don't you call them by their name?**

You want to show your respect, affection and appreciation for the relationship they share with you.

Why is God concerned the way His people speak and use His name?

God wants His people to represent Him (His nature, characteristics and authority) accurately, sincerely and respectfully in front of others who do not know Him.

When we don't use God's name as swear or slang word, what are we doing or showing?

We show God our respect by holding His name as holy. We also show Him the love and affection we have for Him. It also shows others that we value and hold in high regard the name of the God we worship and the relationship we share with Him.

What happens if you take God's name in vain? To find the answer, read Exodus 20:7.

If we take the God's name in vain, God will hold us guilty. This is the only commandment with a warning of immediate punishment.

What did Jesus say about swearing? To find the answer, read Matthew 5:34-37.

Jesus instructs us not to swear either by heaven or by earth. Let our 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and our 'No' be 'No.' Anything beyond that comes from the devil.

What is the first thing that God made holy? To find the answer, read Genesis 2:2-3.

God blessed the seventh day, which is the Sabbath day, and made it holy.

**APPLICATION****Third Commandment**

I'm sure you have heard the saying, "Actions speak louder than words." Do your friends know you're a Christian because you go to church on

Sundays, or because of your Christian name, or because of your actions?

Have they ever told you, “Hey you’re different from the rest of the class/school? I’m sure you’re a Christian.” Are your actions honoring God so much so that your friends want to follow your example? Or are your actions disrespecting the God you worship?

Have you dishonored God’s name through your actions at home, school, or among friends?

(For e.g., by reacting in anger, or constantly quarreling with friends and siblings, or by back answering parents, or by laughing at or mocking others, or by not sharing with or helping others or using God’s name as a swear, slang word or using it carelessly. etc.)

Write down ways in which you are dishonoring the God you worship?

Write down ways in which you will honor God in your life.

Fourth Commandment

We learnt that God Himself rested on the seventh day. God who is infinite, limitless in power and strength didn’t need to rest. He rested because He saw that it was worth doing so. God who instituted work also instituted time for rest. The time of rest was given to man to stay away from work and focus on God.

With the rest day, there would be the obvious outcomes of refreshing and renewal. The “rest day” was set aside as a way of honoring God.

Rest honors God. It is an act of worship toward God.

The idea of Sabbath is not that of relaxation or refreshment, but putting a stop or pause from our busy activity. Many people think that they can use the Sabbath to do things they couldn’t do during the week because of their jobs or attending school or college. So they use this day of rest to go for picnics, shop, party, watch movies or sleep as a way of relaxing and refreshing themselves. Many also use the Sabbath

to attend classes to learn musical instruments or coaching classes for some exams or sports (cricket, football) etc.

We don't break this commandment if we study, complete our homework or project work, shop, sleep or go out with our friends on Sunday. We break this commandment when we frequently and consistently put others things in place of attending church and spending time with God.

That's why God said keep the Sabbath day 'Holy.' 'Holy" means to set apart unto God to worship Him, pray, read the Bible and gather together for worship. This alone will provide us with much needed rest for our minds and, encouragement and strength to face another week—just as it did for Steve.

The Sabbath is a great gift and blessing that God has given to mankind.

Write the down the things you mostly do on Sundays, and the amount of time you spend doing each of them.

Based on the list given above, are you obeying God and keeping the Sabbath holy?

What can you begin to do from today, to honor God by keeping the Sabbath holy?

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

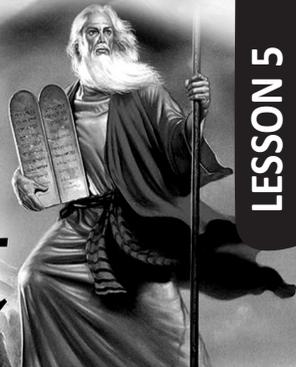
Share how you have been able to follow / obey the commandments you learnt last week.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



Old Testament



Fifth and Sixth Commandments



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the meaning of the fifth and sixth commandments.
- Children will understand the relevance of the fifth and sixth commandments to their lives today.
- To help children obey the fifth and sixth commandments.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 20, Genesis 4:3-12



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."



RECAP

In small sheets of paper, have the children write down the first four commandments. *(This will help them learn all the Ten Commandments by the end of this series. If a child has forgotten any, encourage them to learn them).*

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Material Needed:

One old, colorful story book which you don't need.

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading "Read Aloud."

Do the Discussion Questions and Application after you teach each commandment.



ATTENTION GETTER

I have here one of my books *(Some old book which you don't need)*. Now, it is my book; so you cannot have a look at it *(Hug it to your chest)*. I can do with it as I wish; I can fold it so that it fits into my pocket *(Fold the book in half and stuff it into your pocket or handbag)*. You want to see what's in my book? OK, you can have a page! *(Tear out a page and give it to someone)*.

You want one too? Here, take this! *(Tear out several pages and give them to some of the kids)*. In fact I think this book is rubbish! *(Tear the book into several pieces)*. There, now it's fit for the rubbish bin and I don't want it anymore! *(Throw the pieces into the air and wipe your hands as if you are pleased to have got rid of it)*.

Ask:

What do you think I just did to my book?

I was showing it disrespect. There's no way I'd do this in a library or book store. If I did, I'd get into big trouble. We need to treat both our belongings and those of others with respect. We also need to show respect to our parents, friends, teachers, the authorities and above all, to God. The two commandments we would be looking at today, teach us to respect our parents and the life of others. Let's read the fifth and sixth commandments.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Fifth Commandment: Honor Your Father and Mother

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:12: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

Did you notice that there are no qualifications attached to this command, such as "Honor your parents if they are worthy of it—if they are good and don't punish you."

This commandment is to be obeyed no matter how 'good' or 'bad' our parents are. Why?

God in His great wisdom established the family and gave parents the authority to lead the family. To dishonor our parents, then, is to dishonor God, defy His authority and reject His sovereign plan.

What does it mean to 'honor' our parents?

A. Honoring our Parents Means Respecting Them

Read Aloud:

Leviticus 19:3 (NKJV): "Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God."

The word 'reverence' means to 'fear or respect.' To honor our parents is to have great respect for their God-given place of authority in the family.

One good example we see in the Bible is Isaac.

Ask:

When Isaac was a young boy (13 or 14 years) what did God ask Abraham to do? *(Let the children respond).*

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son on the mountain that God would show him.

Explain:

Abraham took his only son Isaac and journeyed three days to the mountain. Isaac followed his father up the rocky difficult path of the mountain, carrying the wood on his back. Isaac asked his father, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God Himself will provide the lamb."

Once they reached the top, the two of them gathered stones for an altar. As soon as they finished making the altar, Abraham silently took the ropes from the bundle of firewood and wrapped them around Isaac hands and feet. Abraham did not say a word. Isaac did not know what was going on. Suddenly he realised that he was the lamb; and he was about to be sacrificed.

Ask:

If you were Isaac what would you have done? *(Let the children respond).*

Say:

Maybe you would have said:

Dad what are you doing?

Are you sure it was God who asked you to sacrifice me?

You would have reminded him that you are his son—only son of promise.

Or you would have broken free and run for your life thinking something is wrong with your father.

Isaac could have done one or all of the above but the Bible does not say so. Isaac would have been confused or afraid, but he did not question or fight against what his Father was doing. He just trusted and honored/respected his father's decision.

When Isaac was old enough to get married he did not set out in search of the perfect woman. Instead, he married the woman whom his father wanted for him.

Abraham asked his chief servant to get a wife for Isaac, not from the land that they were living in—Canaan—but to get a wife from his relatives. The servant went back to Abraham's hometown, Haran, and found Rebekah. When she was brought to Isaac, he immediately married her and the Bible says he loved her.

Through these two instances we see that Isaac respected and honored his father.

B. Honoring Our Parents Means Obeying Them

For God, it is very important that children obey their parents.

Read Aloud:

Proverbs 1:8: "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching."

Why should we listen / obey our parents? (*Let the children respond*).

Because they know what's best. They have more experience than you, and know which actions would lead to which consequences. So they wish to protect you from making mistakes. This can save you from a lot of serious tragedies. It is a wise child who knows this and is willing to learn and apply what his parents and elders tell him.

Jesus, who gave us this commandment, followed it Himself, and set us an example to follow.

Read Aloud:

Luke 2:51: "Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart."

Jesus, at the age of twelve, spent three days after the Passover in Jerusalem, discussing the Scriptures with the teachers in the Temple. He then returned with His father and mother to Nazareth.

Not only did Jesus obey His earthly parents but also His heavenly Father. Even in a difficult situation, He was willing to obey His Heavenly Father. We read in Luke 22:42 that, just before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." If Jesus, who is God and who became man, lived in subjection and obedience to His earthly parents and heavenly Father, how much more should we!

We have all been disrespectful to our parents at one time or the other. Following God's commandment to honor our parents can be hard sometimes. There will be many times when we won't want to respect or obey them. Ask God and He will help you honor them, even when you don't feel like it.

II. Sixth Commandment: You Shall Not Murder

Apart from respecting God and our parents, God also wants us to respect those around us. Hence God gave us the sixth commandment.

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:13: "You shall not murder."

God created Adam in His image and breathed life into him. Life is a gift from God, and each one of us is precious to Him.

Killing another person is banned, no matter the circumstances or reasons. Often people who end up murdering others may not have originally intended to do so.

❖ Sometimes people kill if they haven't learnt to control their anger.

Let us look at a Biblical example:

All of you quietly read the story in Genesis 4:3-12.

(After they finished reading ask them the below questions.)

Ask:

Which was the first murder recorded in the Bible?

Cain killing his brother Abel.

Why did Cain kill his brother?

He was angry with him.

Did God warn him to control his anger?

God did warn him.

Did he listen to God and take control of His anger?

No!

What was the consequence?

His anger took control of him and he killed his brother.

- ❖ Sometimes people kill if they have grown up in a violent environment, and are used to seeing violent movies or playing violent video games. For example:

Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris opened fire in their Colorado high school in 1999, shooting 20 people and killing 13. The media revealed that Harris and Klebold played a lot of violent video games. The shooters had apparently watched a video in which a character uses a shotgun to kill students at his high school. And they ended up doing the same.

You may say, “Oh I love violent movies and video games. But I'd never get violent, beat up or kill someone.” However studies reveal that children who play violent video games, experience an increase in aggressive behavior and actions.

Most people may never break this commandment literally. But Jesus mentions another aspect of murder in Matthew 5:21-22. *(Note: I've quoted the verse from the New American Standard Bible, since it is gets the point across better).*

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”

What Jesus is reminding us here is that not only those who murder are in danger of judgement, but God will also judge our anger toward others, and even our opinions of them. We may not literally murder someone with our hands, but we may do it in our hearts, or with our words. When we do, we would still be guilty of breaking the sixth commandment “in spirit.”

Under some circumstances, expressing anger or calling someone a fool is appropriate. So Jesus is not prohibiting all anger and insult, but this verse implies only those who:

- Continue in a state of wrath (very angry temper or rage) towards their brother. Here 'brother' would mean anyone we know or are associated with.
- Anyone who calls his brother 'you good-for-nothing' (an expression of abuse). Anyone who used abusive language made himself guilty of an offense comparable to a crime that was serious enough for the Supreme Court to judge.

- Anyone who called his brother a “fool,” deserves the severest punishment—fiery hell. Calling someone a fool means to condemn that person as a morally worthless person. Instead of loving his brother, this person would be showing extreme hatred for him, regarding him as a person unfit to continue living. Therefore, the judgment such a hateful person wishes would befall his brother would actually be expressed against his own self. One who experienced the judgment of fiery hell or Gehenna would come to be like a carcass—body tossed on a garbage heap and would remain in a state of condemnation, forever deprived of the eternal life of fellowship with God and Jesus.

Gehenna is evidently to be linked to the Valley of Hinnom, where the Israelites were involved in worshipping idols and sacrificing to the idols. Godly king Josiah totally destroyed idolatry and so this valley came to be used as a refuse dump. It appears that this is the reason fire and worms or maggots are associated with Gehenna, and the judgment of Gehenna denotes the severest punishment possible.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Fifth Commandment

Does the fifth commandment have a promise attached to it? What is the promise?

Yes, the fifth commandment offers a promise that all things will go well for us and we will have a long life, if we obey our parents.

Who set us an example to follow in obeying our parents?

Jesus lived in subjection and obedience to His earthly parents and His heavenly Father.

Why do our parents tell us what to do and what not to do?

They know what is best. They have already made mistakes and are only trying to protect us from making the same mistakes.

Does the New Testament command Christians to “honor your father and mother?” To find the answer, read Ephesians 6:1-3. Does the apostle Paul

say that this is the right thing to do?

Yes! Paul says that children should obey their parents, for this is the right thing to do. He attaches a promise that if we do this, it will go well with us and we will enjoy long life on the earth.

Did Jesus teach and command the people and His disciples to honor their father and mother? To find the answer, read Matthew 19:18-19, Luke 18:20.

Yes! Jesus taught and commanded His disciples and the people to honor their father and mother.

Write down ways that you can honor your parents from today.

List on how we can honor our parents:

Obey and show respect, even when parents make mistakes.

Listen carefully to what they say.

Answer parents respectfully and acknowledge that you have heard them.

Look at parents when conversing with them.

Speak politely about them.

Speak politely to them.

Think God-honoring thoughts about them.

Show common courtesies such as saying sorry, please, thank you etc.

At times, be willing to give up your own desires and comforts in order to serve and help parents.

Listen to them and heed their counsel.

Thank parents for the different things they do for you and buy you.

See, admire and imitate their strengths.

Pray for your parents.

Willingly obey their godly commands.

Do what your parents would want, even when they are not around.

Keep the promises you make to your parents.

Complete the tasks that parents give you to do.

Get your parents' permission before you do anything.

Spend time with your parents.

Respect and honor your parents through your words and actions.

Honor their wishes regarding dress, music, hairstyle, etc.

Respond humbly to correction.
 Take care of the things your parents have provided you.

Sixth Commandment

We disobey the sixth commandment when we watch movies and play videos that negatively influence our behavior and actions. Are you willing to make a commitment today, to give up these negative influences?

Write down the names of people you have hurt with your words or actions?

How can you show them God’s love through your words and actions?



APPLICATION

Does your attitude and behavior show disrespect for others?

True respect and good manners begin when we respect ourselves (self-respect), and learn to put the needs and interests of others before our own.

1 Peter 2:17 says, “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers ...”

Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

Are you kind and loving, and do you respect family, friends, teachers, strangers and older people?

It is difficult to respect people who constantly put us down, don’t love us or are rude to us. God knows that we are not perfect. Remember that when we give God our hearts, our relationships and our lives, the Holy Spirit will help us keep this commandment, by showing Christ-like love in our attitudes and actions.

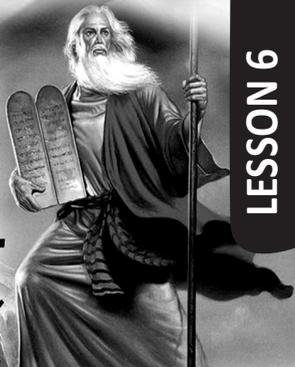
Commit your relationships to God, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you love and respect people, so that God may be honoured in your life.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



Old Testament



Seventh and Eighth Commandments



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the meaning of the seventh and eighth commandments.
- Children will understand the relevance of the seventh and eighth commandments to their lives today.
- To help children obey the seventh and eighth Commandments.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 20, Genesis 2:7-14



MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 6:9: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the ... thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading “Read Aloud.”

Please do the Discussion after you finish teaching each commandment.

Materials Required:

Small bowl of water

A peppershaker

Cotton swabs (the double-ended stick swabs)

Liquid dish detergent

Plain cards, chart paper, or handmade paper, for children to draw the members of their family.



RECAP

In small sheets of paper, have the children write down the first six commandments. *(This will help them learn all the Ten Commandments by the end of this series. If a child has forgotten any, encourage them to learn them).*

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and mother.

You shall not murder.



ATTENTION GETTER

Materials Required:

Small bowl of water

A peppershaker

Cotton swabs (the double-ended stick swabs)

Liquid dish detergent

Prior to beginning the experiment, coat one end of the cotton swab with dish detergent. Leave the other end free of soap. Mark the soapy end in a way that only you will know which end it is. Shake a generous amount of pepper onto the surface of the water in the bowl.

Say:

The pepper represents people and the cotton swab represents God. The people in the bowl have not been living a life of honesty. Ask them to list some ways people could be telling lies. Place the soapy end of the cotton swab in the bowl and watch the pepper flee! Explain that when we have been lying, God knows it and He dislikes it; sin separates us from God. When we confess our sins, it brings us back to God.



INTRODUCTION

Today, we'll learn the seventh and eighth commandments. We'll learn from these two commandments how God expects us to be honest.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Seventh Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:13: "You shall not commit adultery."

I. Adultery with Another Man or Woman

Adultery is when a married person doesn't stay faithful to their partner, but has a relationship with another man or woman. The person who commits adultery in a marriage relationship breaks or goes against the covenant of marriage.

Why did God give this commandment?

To protect the honor and purity of marriage. God created marriage and it is very important to Him. It is through marriage and the family that we

learn how to conduct proper relationships, both with other people and with God. Since it is such an important institution to character development, God does not tolerate its defilement.

When did God introduce marriage?

At the very beginning, when He created Adam and Eve.

Read Aloud:

Genesis 2:7, 15, 18, 20-22, 24.

Who were the first man and woman?

Adam and Eve

Who was created first?

Adam.

Did Adam like living by himself?

No.

Did God think it was good for Adam to live by himself?

No! That is why He created Eve as a helpmate or partner for him.

God says in Genesis 2:18:

KJV: The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a fit helper for him."

CEV: The LORD God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him."

How do we know that it was God who created marriage?

God says in Genesis 2:24(CEV): That's why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person.

We see that God ordained marriage from the beginning. Marriage is an agreement or covenant between man and woman that is authorized by God Himself. We should never take marriage lightly. God warned the Israelites that those who are unfaithful in their marriage shall receive the severest punishment—death.

God not only commands His people not to commit adultery but the Bible says God hates divorce.

Read Aloud:**Malachi 2:16:** “I hate divorce,” says the Lord God of Israel ...

God wants husbands and wives to stay true to each other. This is God’s perfect plan for families. So while you are still young, begin praying that, at the right time, God will bring you the life partner He has planned for you.

B. Adultery with Our Eyes

Jesus in Matthew 5:28 expands this commandment to include adultery both before and after marriage. Anyone who looks at a girl/woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. According to Jesus, we can also commit adultery with our eyes and in our hearts when we look at the bodies of girls or women in the wrong way.

We live in a world, where dirty and unclean images are in front of our faces every day. They are so easily available to us in magazines, newspapers and on the web. We can't go anywhere without seeing something that can lead to a dirty thought in our mind. Before we know it can become a habit. If we choose to honor God with our eyes and keep this commandment He will surely help us.

How can we avoid committing adultery with our eyes?

Turn it off: Television, movies and internet are full of dirty scenes and images. These images can lead us to think dirty thoughts. If we find that the thoughts are getting out of control, we have to learn to turn it off... no matter how tempting or good it seems.

Talk to someone: If you are struggling with dirty thoughts or actions, turn to someone you can trust to help you. Friends, leaders, pastors, or even your parents can help you.

Prayer is powerful: God is number one in our lives when we face temptations. He knows our limits, and He knows when it's getting too much. Prayer is our time with God when we can tell Him our most intimate thoughts (since He knows them anyway). It's our time to allow Him to work in us to avoid committing adultery.

II. Eighth Commandment: You Shall Not Steal

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:15: You shall not steal.

What is stealing?

(Note: Children will most likely focus on the physical aspect of taking an object from someone.)

Stealing is taking or keeping something that is not your own. Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the only ways to steal. What if we find something and don't return it? Is that stealing? If the shopkeeper gives you extra money and you don't return it, is that stealing? Yes it is!

Can you think of other ways people steal things?

- Copying answers from someone else's answer sheet is stealing.
- Cheating in a game is stealing another's chance to win.
- Talking bad about someone else is stealing someone's character and happiness.

Can we steal from God?

Yes!

We steal from God when:

A. We Rob God of the Things that Belongs to Him

Let me give you an example of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 4:32 - 5:11) who stole from what belonged to God. *(Ask each child to read one verse of the passage mentioned above. If not you can narrate the story given below).*

Ananias and Sapphira were part of the early church. All the believers in the church were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. People would give whatever they could to help others who were in need. One member of the church named Barnabas sold his land and brought all the money he made to the apostles and set it at their feet as a sign that he was giving it to be used by God for whatever it was needed for.

Now Ananias and his wife Sapphira decided to do the same thing. So they sold their land. But Ananias and Sapphira decided that they didn't want to give the

whole amount, they wanted to keep some of it for themselves. They talked about it and decided it was their money and they could do whatever they wanted with it. Besides they thought no one would know how much they sold their land for. No one would know that they kept part of the money for themselves.

Ananias brought part of the money to Peter and laid it before them. Peter, through God's power, knew what was in Ananias's heart. He said to Ananias, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it belonged to you, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not your own to use? Why have you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. Some men who were there carried him out, and buried him.

About three hours later Sapphira came in, not knowing what had happened to her husband. Peter asked her, "Is this the price you and Ananias got for your land?" She said, "Yes, that's the price." Peter said, "How can you lie to the Lord?" and at that moment she fell down at his feet and died.

The land belonged to Ananias and Sapphira and they could do what they wanted with it. When they decided to give the land to God, the whole money they got after selling it belonged to God. So when they took part of the money, they actually stole what belonged to God.

B. We Rob God of the Tithes and Offerings Due to Him:

Read Aloud:

Malachi 3:7-12: "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation of you—because you are robbing me."

God told the Israelites that they were robbing Him of His tithes and offerings.

What are tithes?

A tenth (10%) of a person's salary.

God commanded the Israelites to set aside a tenth of everything from the land, because it belongs to the Lord and it is holy to the Lord. So when you begin earning, you must give 10% of your earnings as tithe to God. Some grownups find it difficult

to give away their money because they never practiced tithing as children. Why don't you start practicing by giving one-tenth of your pocket money to the Lord? This will honor God greatly, and you'll discover that the Lord is capable of taking care of all your needs.

C. We Steal God of the Time and Worship Due to Him

When we don't dedicate the Sabbath to God, we steal God of the time and worship due Him. God created us for His glory. Isaiah 43:7 says: "... everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory ..." One way we glorify God is by dedicating time for worship and prayer to Him.

As we just learnt, stealing is not only about taking things that belong to others. Stealing can include robbing God. When we don't spend enough time in worship, prayer, reading the Bible and giving Him our tithes and offerings, we rob God of what is due to Him.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.

How does this commandment apply to you today, when you're not yet married?

The relationships you develop today, will affect your marriage relationship in the future. How good are you at relating to people today? If you tend to hurt people and push people away, you'll see yourself facing the same struggles tomorrow in your marriage as well. But today, with God's help, if you choose to cultivate strong stable relationships with family and friends, these same relationship skills will prove useful to you when you get married in the future.

According to the law which God gave the Israelites what was the punishment for adultery? To find the answer, read Leviticus 20:10.

Leviticus 20:10 - "If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."

The punishment for adultery is death.

Why did God give such a severe punishment for the person who commits adultery? To find the answer, read Hosea 4:1-3.

Firstly, it is breaking of the sacred covenant of marriage between God and man. Secondly, according to this verse adultery not only defiles (corrupts, ruins) the person but the land and its inhabitants as well.

Will a thief and an adulterer inherit the kingdom of God? To find the answer, read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

No!

Will God forgive an adulterer?

God will forgive an adulterer if he genuinely repents, and He will give him eternal life. However, the consequences of sin still have their harmful effects.

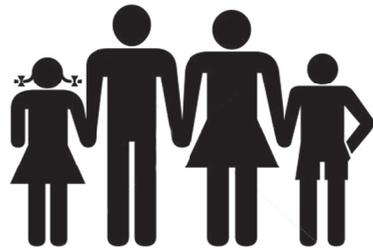
What does God say we should do if we find something that is not ours? To find the answer, read Deuteronomy 22:1-4.

Deuteronomy 22:1-3 (CEV): If you see a cow or sheep wandering around lost, take the animal back to its owner. If the owner lives too far away, or if you don't know who the owner is, take the animal home with you and take care of it. The owner will come looking for the animal, and then you can give it back. That's what you should do if you find anything that belongs to someone else. Do whatever you can to help, whether you find a cow or sheep or donkey or some clothing.

According to this verse if we find something that does not belong to us we should give it to its owner. If we don't know whose it is we need to keep it with us till the owner claims it back.

Write down areas where you have been unfaithful, dishonest to your parents, siblings and friends.

Draw the stick images of the family given on a card/chart paper/ handmade paper. On the picture of each family member, write down the qualities that you like most about them,



and why you are grateful to have them in your family. Hang these up in your room. Whenever you're tempted to be unfaithful to any of them, remind yourself of their love and faithfulness towards you.

What are some ways you have stolen from God?



APPLICATION

The Lord wants us to be faithful and honest in all our relationships and the things we do. The prosperity and wellbeing of the land you live in—Bangalore/India—and the quality (blessings and prosperity) of your life, depends on your relationship with God, and your faithfulness and honesty towards others.

It is important to study in a good school, score good marks, study in the best university in the world, and be the best doctor, teacher, engineer, pilot, etc. But we will be able to enjoy these achievements and live in peace only when we obey and keep God's commandments and laws.

Ask God to forgive you if you have:

Been unfaithful and dishonest in your relationships with others.

Taken and kept things that are not yours.

Robbed God of the time you need to spend reading the Bible and praying.

Not giving God what He is due.

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



Old Testament



Ninth and Tenth Commandments



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the meaning of the ninth and tenth commandments.
- Children will understand the relevance of the ninth and tenth commandments in their lives today.
- To help children obey the ninth and tenth commandments.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 20, 1 Kings 21:1-16



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Materials Needed:

Magazines of interest to children

Scissors

Chart paper

Glue sticks

Chalk piece

Small rectangular cards on which are written spiritual things to covet. Some examples: Nine spiritual gifts, nine Fruit of the Spirit, power to preach and teach, power to do greater things that what Jesus has done, healing, protection and provision, wisdom and knowledge etc. ...

Place these cards in the several boxes and wrap them in attractive wrapping paper.

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask the children to read the Scripture portions given under the heading "Read Aloud".



RECAP

In small sheets of paper, have the children write down the first eight commandments. *(This will help them learn all the Ten Commandments by the end of this series. If a child has forgotten any encourage them to learn them).*

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.



INTRODUCTION

Ask:

(Wait for the children to answer.)

How many commandments have you learnt so far?

Eight commandments.

How many more commandments do you have to learn?

Two!

Today we'll look at the last two commandments.

What are the last two commandments? (If the children are unable to answer ask them to read Exodus 20:16, 17).

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.



TEACHING CONTENT

Read Aloud:

Exodus 20:16, 17: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

What is the meaning of 'covet?'

Say:

You know, it is okay to want things and ask God for them. God wants us to have many things. We must make sure that we are thankful for what we already have. Philippians 4:6 says, "... in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God."

God wants to give us good things. The problem comes when we want something so badly that we cannot be happy until we get it. It might be all we can think or talk about. Then we are coveting.

Covet goes way beyond simply admiring something that someone else has. It's more than just thinking, "I'd like to have pair of Nike shoes like he does" or "I like to come first in class like she does."

The SIN of Coveting involves three things:

First, it's 'coveting' only if you desire something that is wrong/sinful/illegal for you to desire.

- E.g., desiring to steal your friends phone, bag, books, clothes, jewelry (instead of legally buying a similar piece).
- E.g., desiring to fall in love or marry someone who doesn't believe in Jesus. Or falling in love with someone who is already married.

Sam is a spirit-filled Christian; he attends church and reads his Bible regularly. He knows what Gods Word says about marrying someone who does not believe in Jesus. He loves an unbeliever very much and wants to marry her. Sam has coveted because he desires the thing that is wrong.

- E.g., desiring to take your class leader's position—which is legally not yours to desire. Julie had a desire to be the class leader but Sara became the class leader. Julie does not want to come under Sara's leadership so she constantly gives Sara a hard time by attitude and behavior. Julie coveted Sara's position which is legally not her's.
- E.g., you so desire to be your teachers favorite that you're willing to tell tales about other children even though you know it's wrong. You do this so that you can gain favor with your teacher.

John is always good and his teacher is always praising his behavior. Peter makes up a story about John to get him in trouble so the teacher does not think he is so special and a well behaved child. Peter did this because he was coveting the teacher's high opinion of John.

Second, its 'coveting' only if you desire something so much that you're willing to harm/neglect your relationship with God/and people to get it.

- E.g., willing to neglect time with God so that you don't miss even a microsecond of the cartoon network, movie, T-20 on TV, playing your favorite video game or reading your favorite book.
- Telling tales about brothers/sisters just because you want them to get into trouble so your parents love them less and the taleteller more. In this case it's the parent's love that is being coveted. You are willing to do anything to gain it.
- Willing to take over the leadership position in class, or any sport team by overthrowing the existing leader by talking bad about them and turning the whole class/team against them.
- Willing to drag down the smarter and talented person in your school/class/neighborhood by spreading false rumors that will smear their name and character.

From these examples we can see that when our desires are fueled by greed and jealousy. We covet!

Thirdly, if our longings are sparked by comparison with other people, it is often evidence of covetousness.

- E.g., you desire to live a high lifestyle similar to your rich friends in class or school. So you force your parents to buy you designer or branded clothes, shoes, watch, school bag, mobile, playstation, etc. You're willing to drain the family finances to get what you see your friends having.
- Your friend lives in a big house and you too want your parents to move into a big house.

When our entire focus is our wants, we can sometimes become ruthless in trying to get them. We forget about people we care about and we forget about God.

ACTIVITY I

Materials Needed:

Magazines of interest to children

Scissors

Chart paper

Glue sticks

(Distribute the magazines.)

Say:

Let's look through these magazines and find pictures of things that people might want to have. *(Give them some examples)*. E.g., Clothes, shoes, jewelry, house, money, games, gadgets (laptop, iPhone, iPad etc.) bikes, cars, fame, beauty etc.

(Distribute scissors.)

Say:

Please cut out pictures of these kinds of things and let's stick them on the chart paper.

(As children cut out pictures, help them to stick the pictures on the chart paper.)

Say:

These things are not bad things. It is fine to have these things. God even said this in Luke 12:32 that it is His good pleasure to give to us. However, these things cannot

be more important to us than God is to us. They should not make us totally unhappy just because we don't have them or because we don't have them and someone else does! We must be thankful for what God has given us.

1 Kings 21 has a story that can help us understand the last two commandments. Let's all turn to 1 Kings 21, and each of you can quietly read through verses 1-16.

(After the children finish reading ask them the below questions.)

Ask:

What did King Ahab covet?

He desired and wanted to have Naboth's vineyard. Being a king, Ahab owned the best land and had everything he wanted. In spite of this, he felt very dissatisfied after looking at Naboth's vineyard.

What did his covetousness (greed, desire) lead to?

It led to anger, frustration, sulking and murder.

What did the Queen do to get King Ahab the vineyard?

Queen Jezebel wrote a letter to the elders in Naboth's city, giving them the command to kill Naboth. She wrote the letter in Ahab's name, sealing it with the king's seal. Then the elders and nobles carried out her command.

They held a fasting prayer and set Naboth up in front of all the people. Two worthless, wicked men were made to sit near Naboth, and they lied that Naboth spoke curses against God and the king. So Naboth was dragged out of the city, stoned, and killed.

They sent word to Queen Jezebel that Naboth was dead. Jezebel then asked Ahab to go and take the vineyard of Naboth, as Naboth was now dead.

Which commandments did Queen Jezebel break?

You shall not murder – 6th Commandment
 You shall not covet – 10th Commandment
 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor – 9th Commandment

How did Queen Jezebel break the 9th Commandment?

She commanded the elders to have two men lie and accuse Naboth of something he had not done. The ninth commandment includes everything from gossip to false

statements about others. Any and every time we say something that testifies falsely, even slightly, about another person, or put another person down, we break this commandment.

What is a lie?

It is anything that misleads or tricks someone into believing something that is not true.

Can you think of different types of lies that can be used to bear false witness?

(Get the children to answer. After they do ask them to read the different lies mentioned in their workbook.)

- Hateful, wicked, or disgraceful lies — these are wilfully spoken to destroy another person's good name.
- Normal lies — saying something that isn't true. Misleading others to make us look more important. Done to avoid embarrassment or punishment.
- Lies at the request of others — when someone close to us instructs us to lie or make false claims.
- So-called "white" lies — when you plan to tell a lie, to avoid social embarrassment or keep out of trouble.
- Lies to avoid responsibility — when we say "I didn't do it" even though we did.
- Exaggerated statements — when we pretend to be someone that we're not.
- Jokes and gossip — lies told for the purpose of fun, at someone else's expense.
- False assumptions — to assume someone did something when they did not.
- Unintentional lies — passing on false information believing it's true.
- Making promises you know you cannot keep is another way of lying.

Say:

So far today I have told you that the Bible says do not covet things of your neighbors. That is the wrong way. Would you believe it if I told you that the Bible also says to covet things in a right way? In 1 Corinthians 12:31 the Bible tell us when it is right to covet.

ACTIVITY II

Children will learn to covet the things of God.

Materials Needed:

Chalk piece

Poster made by the children at the beginning of this lesson.

Small rectangular cards. On these cards write spiritual things to covet. Few examples: Nine spiritual gifts, nine Fruit of the Spirit, power to preach and teach, power to do greater things that what Jesus has done, healing, protection and provision, wisdom and knowledge etc ...

Place these cards in the several boxes and wrap them in attractive wrapping paper.

On the floor of the classroom, draw two 3' x 3' squares with a chalk piece. Place the poster in one square that will be called a "yard." Place the wrapped boxes in the other yard. Have the children seated around the yards.

Say:

Let's pretend that this is your neighbor's yard. Point to yard with the poster in it.

Ask:

Say your neighbor has a lot of nice things in their yard (point out to all the nice things), don't they?

Is it okay to like what they have?

Yes

Is it okay to want what they have?

Yes

When would it be wrong and what would cause us to break a commandment by wanting what they had?

To covet it, to be unhappy without it, to want it more than we want God, to want it so badly we might sin to get it.

Say:

This is God's yard (*point out to the boxes*). Let's see what He has. He wants to give us everything He has. He wants us to covet His things. What kinds of things does

God have that we would be happy if we had them? Let's find out. Give children a chance to open the packages and find out what God has for us to covet. Discuss the meaning of each gift.

Why did God give us these two commandments?

Coveting rises from being dissatisfied with what we have in life, and from our failure to seek our happiness in the Lord, trusting Him as the source for **security, significance, and satisfaction**. God wants us to trust Him to provide our needs, and to be satisfied with what He has given us. He does not want us to find security and satisfaction in 'things', but rather in Him.

God says that coveting leads to other sins—hate, envy, and jealousy. And these can lead to talking bad about a person or even to planning murder. When we want something that we can't afford to buy, we could end up stealing.

God does not want us to bear false witness against our neighbor or lie, because when we do so, we belong to the 'Father of Lies'—Satan. Jesus says in John 8:44: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

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 wrong or hurtful to get it.

According to James 4:1-3 what do our evil desires, greed and covetousness cause us to do?

We quarrel and fight till we get what we want from others.

Scheming and killing.

Jealous of what others have.

According to James 4:1-3 why don't we get what we covet or greedily desire?

We don't have what we want because we don't ask God for it. And even when we ask we don't get it because our motives are all wrong. What we want is not for the happiness of all, but only for the satisfaction of our own greed and pleasures.

Is covetousness idolatry?

Yes covetousness is idolatry. Coveting anything above God is making that thing our god. It is assigning to that thing our love ultimate value and worth. That which has ultimate value and worth in our eyes is our god, it is our idol. Thus, covetousness (which assigns highest value to things, rather than to God) is idolatry.

It is also placing our security, significance and satisfaction on things that we have and want than on God.

Covetousness is not trusting in God. How can we overcome this?

- We must believe God's promise that He will not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly.
- We must be patient and thank God while we wait for those things we have asked for.
- Trust Him to provide what we asked for.
- Believe that your day will come and that others will rejoice with you. In the same way you must rejoice with other people when it is their day to receive blessings.
- God said He will never leave us or forsake us. Turn to God when you feel feelings of covetousness trying to get in your life.
- Bible says Godliness with contentment is great gain. Be content with what you have and trust God to give you what you need at the right time.

Covetousness can make people ungrateful how can we overcome this?

Avoid constantly looking at other people's blessings. When you do, you will become ungrateful for the things you have.

Be thankful; use your mouths to keep thanking God and not to complain.

If you have a complaining, ungrateful spirit, you will remain unhappy even when you do get the thing you wanted.

Read Hebrews 6:18 to find out what's impossible for God to do? What do we learn from this?

It's impossible for God to lie. As God's children, He would help us not to lie.

For the two references given below, write down what we should ask God for in prayer?

(A) Psalm 120:2 – Ask God to deliver us from lying lips.

(B) Proverbs 30:7-8 – Put falsehood and lying far from us.

God doesn't hate anyone, but Proverbs 6:16-19 mentions 6 "things" God hates. What are they? What do we learn from this?

Haughty eyes

A lying tongue

Hands that shed innocent blood

A heart that devises wicked plans

Feet that are quick to rush to evil

A false witness who pours out lies

We learn that God hates it when his children lie and are a false witness.

What delights God? To find the answer read Proverbs 12:22.

Those who are truthful are His delight. God delights in those who speak the truth.



APPLICATION

Today, you learnt the numerous sins that greed, covetousness, lying and gossip can lead to. When we do not let God control our wants, our coveting will lead us to break other commandments too.

One way we can overcome greed and covetousness is by being thankful and content with what God has given us and to covet the spiritual things. God has promised us that when we seek His Kingdom and righteousness first, all the things we need will be given to us. When we desire/covet the spiritual things, we will automatically desire less of the worldly things.

Secondly, remember that God has promised to meet all our needs. Hebrews 13:5 asks us to be satisfied with what we have and free from the love of money because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Thirdly, trust God to meet all your needs.

Have you broken the ninth commandment by:

- ❖ Gossiping about others.
- ❖ Speaking curse or bad words.
- ❖ Falsely testifying against others.
- ❖ Making fun of others by calling them names and putting them down.

We read in James 4:29: Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

How can we do this? A few questions we can ask ourselves before speaking negatively about another person:

1. Does it really need to be said or is it better left unsaid?
 - Will it be helpful or hurtful if I tell someone this?
 - If it’s said, will it break my relationship with that person?
 - Is it fair to everyone involved?
2. If I really must inform someone about these negative things, do I have evidence for what I want to say? Is it completely true?

Having said this, there is absolutely no need for us to discuss anybody’s negatives.

Would you like to make a commitment to God, to speak only what is helpful for building others up? If you have been greedy and discontented with what you have, ask God to help you have a thankful heart. Ask God to covet/desire the spiritual things.

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

