

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Bible Verse

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it
with my whole heart.
(Psalm 119:34)

Bible Story Reference Exodus 20:1-17

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INTO THE BIBLE

MAIN IDEA

God made a covenant that we know as the Ten Commandments with the Israelites. Today these laws help us know how to love and worship God and help us know how to treat others with justice and kindness.

- * God's rules are as important today as they were in Old Testament times;
- * laws and rules are a part of everyday life and are intended to improve our lives and make us safe;
- * following the Ten Commandments helps us make choices about things we say and do.

OBJECTIVES

Children will learn that

- * God gave the Israelites a set of laws, or rules, called the Ten Commandments that were to help them establish a new life, a new community;

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MANUFACTURED IN
 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Children will learn that

- * God gave the Israelites a set of laws, or rules, called the Ten Commandments that were to help them establish a new life, a new community;
- * God's rules are as important today as they were in Old Testament times;
- * laws and rules are a part of everyday life and are intended to improve our lives and make us safe;

- * following the Ten Commandments helps us make choices about things we say and do.

FOR ALL YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Photocopy these sections for all your leaders:

- * Main Idea; Objectives (page 3)
- * Bible Story; Bible Background (page 4)
- * Check Your Facts (page 6)
- * About the Children; Shepherd Tips (page 7)
- * Mission Project (page 8)

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 20:1-17

For a long time God's people had been slaves in Egypt. Now, with Moses as their leader, they were free and traveling to a new land. God had provided for their needs, but what next? When would they be home? At Mount Sinai there was a place to rest, there was food, there was water, but the mountain was a place of mystery.

Moses climbed that mountain; and amidst thunder, lightning, and fiery smoke, he returned with rules for living as God's people as the Israelites formed a new life together. The rules, which we call the Ten Commandments, were for the Israelites in that day and for us today.

The first four commandments are about our relationship with God.

1. Do not worship any god except me.
2. Do not make idols.
3. Do not misuse my name.
4. Remember that the sabbath day belongs to me.

The last six commandments are about relationships with one another.

5. Respect your father and your mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Be faithful in marriage.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not tell lies about others.
10. Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.

Many verses in the Bible remind us about God's commandments. Psalm 119:34 can be a prayer as we try to follow God's rules. The words from the NRSV would provide the prayer "Dear God, give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen." The prayer using the words from the Good News Translation would be "Explain your law to me, and I will obey it; I will keep it with all my heart. Amen" (GNT).

BIBLE BACKGROUND

God gave the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20:1-17 and in Deuteronomy 5:6-21, to the newly freed Israelites as laws for their newly formed community and as a gift to strengthen their relationships with God and with one another. God gave these rules because of God's great love for the people.

The Ten Commandments set parameters for communal living and provided the concept of responsibility for one's neighbor. Responsible actions toward one's neighbor equaled obedience to God. The new laws gave shape to community life, both theological and social.

The Ten Commandments are often called the *Decalogue*, which is Greek for *ten words*. Though they were given to God's people 3,000 years ago, they remain significant and applicable to responsible living today. Jesus honored the commandments throughout his ministry.

The Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus were and are our best guidelines for living:

#1—Do not worship any god except me.

In Egypt people worshiped many gods. Our Creator God demands complete loyalty. God's people must be careful not to worship wealth or fame or power, but to worship God alone.

#2—Do not make idols.

God is an intangible being, which is difficult for literal-minded children to comprehend. We use symbols to represent our faith (ark, temple, Torah, Bible, cross), and there can seem to be only a fine line between symbol and idol. Symbols, however, remind us of God and point our worship to God; they do not replace God.

#3—Do not misuse my name.

God wants our respect. To use God's name in vain (lightly or without meaning) is insulting to God.

#4—Remember the sabbath day belongs to me.

Holy means set apart and *sabbath* means rest. The sabbath day is a time set apart for all of God's creation to rest. In addition, sabbath is a time to think about God, worship God, pray, and learn more about God.

#5—Respect your father and your mother.

God's plan is for families—for loving parents to raise loving children. Sometimes children and parents do not agree or are angry with one another, but God's commandment is for children to always respect and care for their parents.

#6—Do not murder.

God calls us to revere life. Making choices that respect all life helps us follow this commandment. Even when we cannot control our feelings, we can control our actions. One way to follow God's command is by choosing to avoid violence in games, television shows, movies, and video games.

#7—Be faithful in marriage.

God's plan is for a husband and wife to keep the promises made to each other. Explain this commandment in terms of promises made in marriage and faithfulness to each other. Keep in mind that many children have divorced parents or family members. Consider how you will respond should questions about divorce arise. It is important to affirm God's love for all God's people and to affirm parents' love for their children.

#8—Do not steal.

People are not to take anything that does not belong to them. This is also a commandment that can be enforced by law. Stealing destroys relationships. Stealing destroys trust. Stealing destroys community. Stealing can be more than taking property that belongs to another. Stealing is cheating, keeping incorrect change, damaging or not returning library books, downloading music from the Internet illegally, or stealing ideas without providing source information.

#9—Do not tell lies about others.

People are not to tell untrue things about other people. Being truthful in all things can sometimes be difficult.

#10—Do not want anything that belongs to another.

Do not want what belongs to another person to the extent that you feel jealous or wish harm toward that person. This commandment is about a feeling or attitude. Strong feelings can lead to negative actions.

Psalms 119 contains many verses that refer to God's law, God's commandments, and the desire for knowledge and wisdom to understand them. Psalms 119:34, 35, 66, 73 are particularly appropriate for children. Read each reference from several translations and compare them. Use Psalm 119:34 as a memory verse for the children.

CHECK YOUR FACTS

- The accounts of the Ten Commandments are in Exodus 20:1-17 and in Deuteronomy 5:6-21.
- God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, written on two stone tablets, on Mount Sinai.
- Commandments 1-4 are related to our relationship to God. Commandments 5-10 are related to our relationships with other people.
- Commandments 6-9 are enforced by criminal law, civil law, and social custom.
- Commandment 10 is unenforceable and often violated.
- Every day is holy, but the sabbath is set apart for rest, worship of God, prayer, and time with family and friends.
- God gave us rules because God loves us.
- Rules provide boundaries that help keep us safe, in control, and secure.
- Parents give children rules because of their love for their children.
- Some rules are enforced by laws that provide a safe world.
- Mount Sinai is a place where Moses led the Israelites after their escape from slavery in Egypt.
- The Ten Commandments are a guide to good relationships among people and between people and God.
- The Ten Commandments are rules for every aspect of life.
- Breaking rules or laws has consequences. Following rules or laws is a choice that makes life safe and happy.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN

Younger Children

Younger children are literal thinkers and will understand God's first commandment in terms that tell us to sing and pray and worship only God. They will understand the concepts of respecting God's name; honoring parents; keeping promises; and not stealing, killing, telling lies, or being jealous of others' belongings. Idols, coveting, and adultery are more difficult for young children to understand.

Older Children

Older children value knowing and following rules. They are often in groups that have rules (sports, scouts, and so forth). They are also in families, classrooms, and clubs with rules. Many children live in single-parent families or are in blended families. Think through how to best deal with these issues. Affirm God's love and affirm that parents love and want the best for their children. Advertisements in newspapers, on the radio, and on television encourage children to think that they need more things. Help children understand that *covet* means to envy what another has to the point that we are willing to do something wrong to get it. Help children think about what they already have and be grateful. Acknowledge that in our world, as in Bible times, it is not always easy to obey God's commandments.

SHEPHERD TIPS

- * Pray each week for the children under your care.
- * Model the behavior you want from the children.
- * Assist the station leader as needed.
- * Read the **Talk Tips** in each of the station plans and support the station leader in helping the children explore the ideas of the unit.
- * Make sure the children use tools and equipment in a safe manner.
- * Talk to the church school superintendent or coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about the children in your care.
- * If you do not have a Gathering Time, consider using the Gathering Time devotionals as an opening with your groups in the stations.

Greet the Children

Help with nametags.

Thank the children for remembering to bring their offerings. Have the children place their offerings in the offering basket.

Take attendance. Note any children who are absent. Make plans to send absent children a note or card. Record names, addresses, and phone numbers of any children who are attending for the first time, and plan to call them or to send a welcoming card.

MISSION PROJECT

The “Bibles for All Mission Project” (page 77) in the Storytelling Station invites the children to collect Bibles to share God’s word and laws with people who may need help securing Bibles. Perhaps they can replace Bibles that were destroyed by fire in a Sunday school or church. Maybe you can collect Bibles for a group that does not have the number they need. Check with your denominational missions office to locate a place where there is a need for Bibles.

Choose an area to place collected Bibles and designate persons to deliver or mail the Bibles to the recipients. Invite the children to write letters to accompany the Bibles.

STAFF MEETING

Prepare

Prepare a Cake Mountain (page 43) or Sharin’ Sweet Bread (page 46) and the Ten-Ingredients Traveling Trail Mix (page 45) from the Creative Cookery Station. Provide an appropriate beverage.

With the Participants

Welcome the participants as they arrive and invite them to sample the cake and trail mix. Let the participants serve themselves a beverage.

As the participants enjoy the snacks, have each person number a piece of paper from 1 to 10 and write down as many of the Ten Commandments as he or she can remember. Encourage them to work on their own without help.

Option: Have newsprint on the wall with the numbers 1–10 listed. Invite the participants to work together to make a list of the Ten Commandments—in order if possible.

Read, or ask volunteers to read, Exodus 20:1-17 and Psalm 119:34. Fill in any needed parts of the Ten Commandments on the newsprint. Suggest that Psalm 119:34 be a memory verse for the children. Suggest that memorizing the Ten Commandments might be a good challenge for older students.

Give out copies of pages 3–8. Discuss the material in the Bible Story, Bible Background, and Check Your Facts sections.

Say: For many, God’s laws have been a part of our lives from childhood. Our focus in this unit is to examine God’s purpose in giving the Israelites rules for living as a community as they adjusted to their new lives of freedom rather than their lives as slaves. We also want to help the children recognize that God’s laws still apply to our lives today. Most of the stations will deal with all ten commandments as a single entity. Some activities will deal with specific commandments and help the children think through their relevance today.

Resources

Bibles
copies of pages 3–8
copies of the station plans for station leaders
Cake Mountain (page 43) or Sharin’ Sweet Bread (page 46)
Ten-Ingredients Traveling Trail Mix (page 45)
The 11th Commandment: Wisdom from Our Children by The Children of America

Supplies

beverage
paper
pencils
newsprint and markers (or chalkboard and chalk, or markerboard and erasable markers)
paper goods for snack
optional: tape

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Moses brought the Ten Commandments down the mountain to the people. God's expectation was for the chosen people of Israel to follow God's laws and for God's people today to continue to follow God's laws. Commandments one through four give us laws for our relationship with God. Commandments five through ten give us laws for our relationships with other people.

On newsprint or a markerboard write the following words or phrases: *storytelling, photos/pictures, video/movies, books, music, acting out, field trips, movement/dance, listening, telling, asking/answering questions, and arts/crafts.*

Break the participants into two groups—one for younger children and one for older children.

Say: Rank these activity concepts in order as to how your students learn best. Is it different for each student? Based on your conclusions how do you plan for the time with your students?

Encourage the leaders in each station to make a worship center in their classrooms. Several stations provide suggestions in the Station Setup.

Look together at About the Children (page 7). Discuss ways to address the issues of divorced parents and blended families. Talk about the issues related to advertisements and our consumption-oriented society. As you formulate responses to these issues, keep in mind the concepts of God's plan for our lives, God's love and forgiveness for God's children, attitudes of gratitude for what we already have, flaws in advertising truths, and so forth. Also address the issues of cheating—in class, in games, on the playground. Is it cheating if you do not get caught?

Close your meeting by reading portions of the book *The 11th Commandment: Wisdom from Our Children* as suggested in the Storytelling Station (page 76). Ask staff members to suggest an eleventh commandment.

Close with prayer for understanding, for wisdom as leaders of children, for kindness, and for the ability to provide healthy boundaries for children. Ask God for help as all of you try to follow God's commandments.

Resources

Bible

* *The Ten*

Commandments
CD

* sheet music and lyrics for the song you will sing

The 11th

Commandment: Wisdom from Our Children by The Children of America
show-and-tell display

items games from the Games Station (pages 49-58)

video made by students in the Video Station (page 84)

Edible Fire Mountain (page 44) or Ten-Ingredients Traveling Trail Mix (page 45) from the Creative Cookery Station

Supplies

VCR

TV

CD player

paper goods for snack

REFLECTION WEEK

Prepare

Gather items made by the children in the various stations for a show-and-tell display. Play background music from *The Ten Commandments* CD. Set up centers for Games, Video, and Snack. Invite parents to join with their children for this reflection time.

With the Participants

GAMES CENTER

Prepare some games for the parents to play with the children (Games Station, pages 49–58).

VIDEO CENTER

Show the video interviews about people's choices of the most important commandment (Video Station, page 84).

SNACK CENTER

Make the Edible Fire Mountain or the Ten-Ingredients Traveling Trail Mix (Creative Cookery Station, pages 44 and 45).

DEVOTIONAL TIME

After the children and their parents have visited each of the three centers, call them together for a large-group devotional time.

- Challenge the children and parents to list the Ten Commandments. Then read, or have a child read, the Ten Commandments from the Bible (Exodus 20:1-17).
- Discuss the group's thoughts about the video that revealed church members' ideas about the most important commandment.
- Read, or have a child read, portions from the book *The 11th Commandment: Wisdom from Our Children* by The Children of America (Storytelling Station, page 76). Have the children be prepared to tell their ideas for an eleventh commandment. Ask parents to think of and share their eleventh commandments.
- Discuss the "Bibles for All" mission project (see page 77) with the children. Let them evaluate what they thought was good and not so good about the project. Let them offer ideas for what project they would like to do next.
- Sing a favorite song from *The Ten Commandments* CD.
- Close with prayers of thanksgiving for God's laws that keep us living together safely and happily.

GATHERING TIME

optional but highly recommended

If you use Gathering Time each week, plan a way for the children to form groups as they arrive. Ask the shepherds for each group to sit in the same area of the gathering place each week. Each group should have a different color flag, sign, or carpet square for identification. Ask the shepherds to visit with the children as they arrive, making them welcome and reminding them to stay with the group.

If you do not have a Gathering Time, review the activities suggested for these times as possibilities for additional activities in your stations.

SETTING THE STAGE

Prepare

Make a mountain (Mount Sinai). Use one of these methods:

- Place a sturdy wooden chair on a sturdy table that is round (48-inch diameter) or square (approximately four feet by four feet). Cover both the table and the chair with solid-color blankets.
- Cover a six-foot-tall carpenter's ladder with solid-color blankets.

Option

Make two tablets from cardboard or foamboard to represent the Ten Commandments. Write the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17, CEV) on the tablets or glue on "The Ten Commandments" (page 19) or "The Ten Commandments Paraphrased" (page 20).

Each Week

Begin the Gathering Time at the appointed hour to encourage children and leaders to be on time.

Gather with the children and make any needed announcements.

Begin by singing a song from *The Ten Commandments* CD.

Resources

Bibles in a variety of translations
 * *The Ten Commandments* CD
 * sheet music and lyrics for the song you will sing
 adult in Bible-times costume
 hymnal
 written prayer
 optional: "The Ten Commandments" (page 19), "The Ten Commandments Paraphrased" (page 20)

Supplies

different color flags, signs, or carpet squares
 small table and chair
 or a 6-foot ladder
 blankets in mountain colors (blue, green, gray, brown)
 cardboard or foamboard Ten Commandment tablets
 posterboard
 markers
 masking tape
 newsprint or markerboard and erasable markers
 candles
 CD player
 optional: glue

GATHERING ACTIVITIES

Week 1

Say: Today we will begin learning about the Ten Commandments. Does anyone know where to find the Ten Commandments in the Bible? (*Exodus or Deuteronomy*) What are some of the Ten Commandments? (*Allow time for the children to respond.*) Moses, the leader of the Israelite people, God's chosen people, climbed Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. Today we have a visitor from Bible times who will tell us God's commandments for God's people.

Have an adult dressed in biblical costume enter and read the Ten Commandments beside the mountain. If you made stone tablets, let the adult read the commandments from the tablets.

Option: Have children read each of the commandments by the mountain. The children may read from Bibles.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Moses, who was brave enough to lead your people. Thank you for the Ten Commandments, your rules for living in Bible times and today. Help us learn and think and respond to your love as we hear more about your commandments. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 2

Prepare

Write the first two commandments on posterboard and have them available to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #1—"Do not worship any god except me."
- Commandment #2—"Do not make idols."

With the Children

Say: Beginning today we will learn about each of the Ten Commandments. The first four of the commandments give us rules about our relationship with God. Today let's hear the first two commandments.

Show the two commandments you have written and read them aloud. Have the children repeat each commandment back to you. Then attach the commandments to Mount Sinai.

Hand each of these items to a different child:

- a Bible (God's Word for God's people);
- a hymnal (a book of songs and prayers about God);
- a candle (represents light that helps us think about God and Jesus in our lives);
- a written prayer (points our thoughts to God).

Ask: What item are you holding, and how does it help us think about and worship God?

Involve all of the children in recognizing other items that help us worship.

Say: Look around our church. What items represent and support our worship of God? (*stained-glass windows, cross, pulpit Bible, organ, and so forth*)

Look around the classroom worship area. What items there help us focus our thoughts on God?

Say: In Moses' day people worshiped gods other than the one, true God. Some worshiped statues—called idols—as gods. God's second commandment told the people to worship only God and to make no idols. Sometimes people today are so busy with their money and belongings, with power or being famous, that these things become like idols. This commandment reminds us to always put God first.

Provide time for meditation, prayer, and quiet time for a relationship to develop between each child and God. Help the children know that God cares for people in times of joy and happiness as well as in times of sorrow, anger, or fear.

Close With Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for being our one, true God. Help us to worship only you. We are grateful for the many good things you have given each of us. Help us to always put you first in our lives. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 3

Prepare

Write the third commandment on posterboard and have it ready to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #3—“Do not misuse my name.”

With the Children

Locate Exodus 20:7 in several translations of the Bible.

Say: Today we will learn the third of the Ten Commandments.

Read the commandment you have written and have the children repeat it back to you. Then attach the commandment to Mount Sinai.

Read or have the children read the third commandment from several Bible translations.

Ask: This commandment tells us what *not to do*. What can we *do* to follow this commandment? (*use God’s name with respect*) How can we follow this commandment? How do we fail to follow this commandment? What are some of the respectful words we use for God’s name? (*Creator, Lord, Father, and so forth*)

Have the children tell their whole names and any short stories about their origins, people or ideas they are named for, and so forth. Talk about how important our names are. We all want our names to be respected.

Close With Prayer: God, we thank you for our names. Thank you for your special name. Please help us always use it with respect. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 4

Prepare

Write the fourth commandment on posterboard and have it ready to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #4—“Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me.”

With the Children

Say: Today we will learn the fourth of the Ten Commandments.

Read the commandment you have written and have the children repeat it back to you. Then attach the commandment to Mount Sinai.

Read or have the children read the fourth commandment from several Bible translations.

Ask: How do we keep God’s commandment to remember the sabbath day? Let’s make a list of ways to keep this commandment.

Appoint a scribe and make a list of ways to remember the sabbath on newsprint or a markerboard. (*think about God and pray, worship God in church, learn about God in Sunday school, read the Bible, rest*)

Then have the children make a second list of ways people break God’s commandment about remembering the sabbath.

Ask: Does the sabbath day always have to be on Sunday?

Say: Sabbath does not always have to be on Sunday. Many churches offer alternative times for worship and learning about God. People can rest and worship in other places too. Make God a part of *all* days. Days are full of work, school, chores, activities, and so forth. People become tired or short-tempered and feel separated from each other and from God. We need time to renew our spirits and re-energize our bodies.

Close With Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for knowing that your creation needs a time for rest and a time to worship you. Help us find time each week for rest and for time to learn more about you. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 5

Prepare

Write the fifth commandment on posterboard and have it ready to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #5—“Respect your father and your mother.”

Say: Today we will learn the fifth of the Ten Commandments. Commandments 5 through 10 give us rules about our relationships with other people.

The Ten Commandments

Read the commandment you have written and have the children repeat it back to you. Attach the commandment to Mount Sinai.

Read or have the children read the fifth commandment from several Bible translations.

Say: God's plan is for loving parents to raise loving children. God reminds children, of all ages, to respect and love their parents. Sometimes children and parents may not agree, or they may even be angry with one another, but even when we disagree or feel angry we can be respectful. God's law that we respect our parents includes respecting others who care for us and those who provide us with instruction and guidance. Who are some of the people who care for us and guide us? (*grandparents and other family members, teachers, caregivers, Sunday school teachers, and so forth*)

Ask: What are some ways parents care for us? (*love us; provide our needs of food, clothes, shelter, transportation, medical care, and so forth*)

Ask: How do we show respect to our parents? (*obey, speak with kindness, care for*) How do we break the commandment to respect parents? (*disobey, whine, talk back*)

Close With Prayer: Loving God, thank you for giving us parents, grandparents, and other people who care for us and guide us each day. Help us to show respect and love at all times, even when we disagree. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 6

Prepare

Write the sixth and seventh commandments on posterboard and have them available to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #6—"Do not murder."
- Commandment #7—"Be faithful in marriage."

With the Children

Say: Today we will learn the sixth and seventh of the Ten Commandments.

Read the commandments you have written and have the children repeat them back to you. Attach the commandments to Mount Sinai.

Read or have the children read the sixth and seventh commandments from several translations of the Bible.

Say: God tells us to respect life. God tells us not to harm other people, but also to respect all living things. To follow this commandment we will be kind to animals, and we will respect the earth by taking care of it. Another way we can follow this commandment is by choosing to avoid violence in movies, television shows, video games, videos, and music.

Ask: How do we follow God's commandment to not harm others? (*show kindness to all living things, avoid violence in all things*)

Say: In the seventh commandment God tells God's people to be faithful in marriage. Families are important to God. When family members break promises made to one another, it makes family life difficult. Sometimes people who are married get divorced. Divorce hurts a family, but if there are children in the family, divorced parents can still make sure their children know they are loved and can have a good family life. Family members can always take care of one another and be loyal to one another. Some day many of you will become husbands or wives and parents. Choose to be a good and faithful husband or wife and the best parent you can be.

Close With Prayer: Creator God, thank you for all living things and your love for your world. Help us to be kind and loving to all people and to all living creatures. Help us to love and respect the earth. Guide us as we choose movies, videos, music, and television shows that avoid violence. Help us know that promises made in marriage are to be kept and that faithfulness is important in loving relationships. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 7

Prepare

Write the eighth and ninth commandments on posterboard and have them available to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #8—“Do not steal.”
- Commandment #9—“Do not tell lies about others.”

With the Children

Say: Today we will learn the eighth and ninth commandments.

Read the commandments you have written and have the children repeat them back to you. Attach the commandments to Mount Sinai.

Read or have the children read the two commandments from several Bible translations.

Say: God tells us not to take anything that does not belong to us and not to say anything untrue about other people. Stealing and lying destroy trust and relationships. God plans for us to respect each other’s property and reputations.

God’s commandment to not steal helps us know that we should not borrow anything without permission, that we should never cheat, and that we should try to help find the right owners of lost items.

Words are powerful. Saying something untruthful about another person can hurt that person’s feelings and can damage his or her reputation.

Ask: What choices can God’s people make to help them keep God’s eighth and ninth commandments? (*ask God to help us keep these commandments, be honest at all times, never take anything that does not belong to us, be a trustworthy person*)

Close With Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving us commandments that teach us how to be honest and trustworthy. Help us to be content with what we have. Remind us that words have power and that we should always be truthful. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

Week 8

Prepare

Write the tenth commandment on posterboard and have it ready to attach to your Mount Sinai.

- Commandment #10—“Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.”

With the Children

Say: Let’s learn the tenth commandment.

Read the commandment you have written and have the children repeat it back to you. Then attach the commandment to Mount Sinai.

Read or have the children read the tenth commandment from several Bible translations.

This tenth commandment is about an attitude more than about actions.

Say: Every day we hear from our radios, our televisions, and our newspapers that we need more and more stuff. The ads tell us that we absolutely must have things that we really do not need. What things do we need to live? (*love, food, clothing, shelter, health, faith*) What things do we like having but do not need? (*Allow time for answers—carefully distinguish between needs and wants.*)

God tells us to be content with what we have, to not covet, to not be envious or greedy, and to not compare ourselves to others. Are our needs today different from the needs of people in Bible times?

Ask: Is jealousy a good feeling? Does it make relationships good? bad? healthy? troubled? How can we avoid feelings of jealousy? How can we avoid wanting what others have? (*ask God for help with feelings of jealousy or envy, be thankful daily for what we do have*)

Close With Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the times when we have all the things we need. Help us know the difference between things we need and things we want but may not need. Help us to be grateful every day for what we have. (*Add your own prayer.*) Amen.

STATIONS AT A GLANCE

Station Focus: God made a covenant that we know as the Ten Commandments with the Israelites. Today these laws help us know how to love and worship God and help us know how to treat others with justice and kindness.

	Objectives	Activities	Resources
ART	<p>Station Objective Children will experience the Bible story through art experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences visual • personal logical</p>	<p>Refrigerator Magnets and Classroom Rules Pointillism Painting Ten Commandments Banners Paper-Quilt Hanging</p>	<p>Bible “The Ten Commandments” and “The Ten Commandments” sheet (page 28) “Commandment Tablets” (page 27) pictures of the Ten Commandments, Moses, Mount Sinai, and so forth</p>
COMPUTER	<p>Station Objective Children will explore the unit theme through computer experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences logical • independent visual • verbal</p>	<p>The Ten Commandments Word Search Cal and Marty Play & Learn Actual Reality Chagall and the Ten Commandments</p>	<p>Bibles <i>The Family Story Bible</i> <i>The Ten Commandments</i> CD-ROM <i>WordSearch Studio, Bible Edition</i> CD-ROM <i>Cal & Marty’s Scripture Memory Game</i> CD-ROM <i>Play & Learn Children’s Bible</i> CD-ROM <i>Kid Pix Deluxe 4</i> CD-ROM <i>Actual Reality</i> CD-ROM word-processing software</p>
COOKING	<p>Station Objective Children will recall the Bible story through experiences with food.</p> <p>Learning Preferences logical • social • verbal physical</p>	<p>Ten Commandments Cake Make a Cake Mountain Make Tablet Toast Make an Edible Fire Mountain Ten-Ingredients Traveling Trail Mix Sharin’ Sweet Bread</p>	<p>Bibles hymnal “The Ten Commandments” and “The Ten Commandments Paraphrased” (pages 19, 20) or <i>Sir Oliver’s Song: A Musical Lesson About the Ten Commandments</i></p>
GAMES	<p>Station Objective Children will play a series of games related to the theme.</p> <p>Learning Preferences physical • visual social • verbal • logical</p>	<p>Commandment Capers Rules for Living Ten Commandments Carnival Kids’ Commandments Game “Father/Mother Says” Commandment Stump Musical Commandments God’s Name Word Search</p>	<p>Bibles “The Ten Commandments” and “The Ten Commandments Paraphrased” (page 19, 20) fish pattern (page 57) Kids’ Ten Commandments Game “God’s Name” word search (page 58) optional: <i>Sir Oliver’s Song: A Musical Lesson About the Ten Commandments</i></p>
MUSIC	<p>Station Objective Children will remember the Bible story through musical experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences musical • physical social • logical</p>	<p>The Rule About Rules Ten Commandments Making Choices</p>	<p>CEV Bible optional: <i>The Bible for Children</i> and “The Ten Commandments Paraphrased” (pages 19, 20)</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Station Objective Children will explore the unit theme through science experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences logical • physical verbal • visual • social</p>	<p>Explore an Ice Mountain Magic Drawing Stone Writing A Ten Commandments Survey Make Clay Tablets Commandment Cubes</p>	<p>Bibles “The Ten Commandments” and “The Ten Commandments Paraphrased” (pages 19, 20) visiting rock collector pictures of mountains and rock formations “The Ten Commandments Survey” (page 72) youth and adult Sunday school class contacts</p>
STORY	<p>Station Objective Children will hear and tell stories related to the unit theme.</p> <p>Learning Preferences verbal • visual • social</p>	<p>Readers Theater Thank-You Notes for God The 11th Commandment “Bibles for All” Mission Project Rules, Rules, Rules Graffiti Wall</p>	<p>Bibles “The Ten Commandments Readers Theater Script” (page 80) <i>The 11th Commandment: Wisdom from Our Children</i> information for mission project extra adult help visiting person of authority</p>
VIDEO	<p>Station Objective Children will recall the theme of the unit through videos.</p> <p>Learning Preferences visual • verbal • social independent</p>	<p>Movie Marathon And Now a Word From Our Sponsor Amazing Interviews Larry-Boy! & the Fib From Outer Space The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe A Commanding Montage! Select Your Own Video</p>	<p>Bibles <i>The Children’s Bible in 365 Stories</i> <i>Kids’ Ten Commandments</i> DVD set members of youth and adult Sunday school classes <i>Veggie Tales: Larry Boy! & the Fib From Outer Space</i> <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> (animated) video of your choice</p>

Plan-Ahead Supplies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> suncatcher kits in the shapes of Christian symbols <input type="checkbox"/> paint and paintbrushes <input type="checkbox"/> smocks <input type="checkbox"/> cleanup supplies <input type="checkbox"/> mural paper <input type="checkbox"/> washable paint <input type="checkbox"/> shallow pans or bowls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils with new erasers or cotton swabs <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> cardboard <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> gray paint <input type="checkbox"/> sponge paint applicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> magnet strips <input type="checkbox"/> glue or glue sticks <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint or posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> black construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> pastel chalk <input type="checkbox"/> aerosol hair spray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pastel paper or wallpaper samples <input type="checkbox"/> dowels <input type="checkbox"/> fish line or yarn <input type="checkbox"/> stiff canvas <input type="checkbox"/> needle and thread or fabric glue or tape <input type="checkbox"/> paint pens or fabric markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> table covering <input type="checkbox"/> optional: mural paper, magazines, catalogs, Sunday school leaflets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> computers with Internet access <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint and markers or chalkboard and chalk <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> printer <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> pencils 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> supplies for bulletin board <input type="checkbox"/> sugar cookie dough <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pins <input type="checkbox"/> spatulas <input type="checkbox"/> cookie sheets <input type="checkbox"/> oven mitt <input type="checkbox"/> napkins <input type="checkbox"/> hand-washing supplies <input type="checkbox"/> ingredients (see activities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 10-inch tube pan <input type="checkbox"/> measuring cups <input type="checkbox"/> measuring spoons <input type="checkbox"/> mixing bowl <input type="checkbox"/> small bowl or 2-cup measuring cup <input type="checkbox"/> spoons <input type="checkbox"/> electric mixer <input type="checkbox"/> cooking spray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> bundt pan <input type="checkbox"/> mixing spoons <input type="checkbox"/> plastic knives <input type="checkbox"/> food coloring <input type="checkbox"/> small bowls <input type="checkbox"/> new paintbrushes or cotton swabs <input type="checkbox"/> toaster oven or oven <input type="checkbox"/> butter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> double boiler <input type="checkbox"/> deep bowls <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> resealable sandwich bags <input type="checkbox"/> large spoons, scoop, or ladle <input type="checkbox"/> paper cups <input type="checkbox"/> plate <input type="checkbox"/> cloth, candles, cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> list of Ten Commandments <input type="checkbox"/> flowers, leaves, and so forth <input type="checkbox"/> optional: photocopier that enlarges, paper, paper plates, tape, camera, cone-shaped pan, 2 round cake pans, cupcake pan and papers, cake tester
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> supplies for bulletin board <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> mural paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> bell with a rope attached <input type="checkbox"/> cardboard or foamboard <input type="checkbox"/> permanent markers <input type="checkbox"/> scissors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> beanbags <input type="checkbox"/> box or small cloth bag with drawstring <input type="checkbox"/> random group of unrelated items <input type="checkbox"/> timer <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint or markerboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 3-by-5 cards <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> 9-by-12 cardboard squares <input type="checkbox"/> carnival decorations <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> prizes <input type="checkbox"/> clean cans or plastic tumblers <input type="checkbox"/> table-tennis balls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> chair or easel <input type="checkbox"/> cutting implement (for adult use only) <input type="checkbox"/> basket <input type="checkbox"/> foam craft sheets <input type="checkbox"/> waterproof marker <input type="checkbox"/> plastic dishpan <input type="checkbox"/> large towel <input type="checkbox"/> water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> magnet tape <input type="checkbox"/> dowels <input type="checkbox"/> fish line <input type="checkbox"/> jumbo paper clips <input type="checkbox"/> optional: roll of purchased tickets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 3-by-5 cards <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> overhead projector <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint or markerboard <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> supplies for bulletin board <input type="checkbox"/> items for worship center <input type="checkbox"/> paper (white and colored) <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> basket or bowl <input type="checkbox"/> freezer <input type="checkbox"/> crushed ice or small ice cubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> bowl shaped like an inverted mountain <input type="checkbox"/> smocks <input type="checkbox"/> 9- by 12-inch cake pan or jelly roll pan <input type="checkbox"/> food coloring <input type="checkbox"/> water <input type="checkbox"/> small wax-coated paper cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> eyedroppers <input type="checkbox"/> paper towels or newsprint <input type="checkbox"/> cotton swabs <input type="checkbox"/> baking soda <input type="checkbox"/> bowl <input type="checkbox"/> mixing spoon <input type="checkbox"/> grape juice <input type="checkbox"/> stones, rocks, or slate <input type="checkbox"/> large nails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint or markerboard <input type="checkbox"/> quick-hardening clay <input type="checkbox"/> wax paper <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pins <input type="checkbox"/> paper plates <input type="checkbox"/> toothpicks <input type="checkbox"/> square tissue boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> optional: pins, baby oil, scale, hot glue gun, acrylic paint and paintbrushes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> supplies for bulletin board <input type="checkbox"/> items for worship center <input type="checkbox"/> books about Moses and the Ten Commandments <input type="checkbox"/> index cards <input type="checkbox"/> markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> Bible-times costumes <input type="checkbox"/> modern-day costumes <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> pens <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils <input type="checkbox"/> envelopes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> stickers <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> collection box <input type="checkbox"/> child's car seat <input type="checkbox"/> picture of a stop sign or other street sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle helmet <input type="checkbox"/> washable markers <input type="checkbox"/> optional: note cards, crayons, stiff paper and decorations for Bible bookmarks, newsprint, push pins 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> VCR or DVD player <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> supplies for bulletin board <input type="checkbox"/> worship center items <input type="checkbox"/> mural paper or posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> video-recording equipment, including several cameras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> dress-up clothing <input type="checkbox"/> props <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> pictures and words from discarded television magazines, movie ads, video-game catalogs <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> optional: newsprint, items needed for movie marathon 		

RESOURCES

These resources
may be ordered through
Cokesbury (800-672-1789)
and other Christian bookstores
or online through
www.cokesbury.com
(unless noted otherwise).

Computer Station

- ❑ 9780664221089 **The Family Story Bible**, by Ralph Milton. \$25.00.
- ❑ X513052 **The Ten Commandments** (CD-ROM). \$27.00.
- ❑ 9781573740241 **WordSearch Studio: Bible Edition** (CD-ROM). \$29.95.
- ❑ X513076 **Cal & Marty's Scripture Memory Game** (CD-ROM). \$25.00.
- ❑ **Play & Learn Children's Bible** (CD-ROM). \$15.00. Order from *www.sundaysoftware.com*.
- ❑ 705381321798 **Kid Pix Deluxe 4** CD-ROM. \$25.00.
- ❑ X925647 **Actual Reality** (CD-ROM). \$20.00.

Game Station

- ❑ 9780842382519 **Kids' Ten Commandments Board Game**. \$18.97.

Music Movement Station

- ❑ **The Ten Commandments** music. (Compact disc, 9780687641550, \$10.50.)
- ❑ **The Ten Commandments** sheet music.
- ❑ **The Ten Commandments** lyrics.
- ❑ 9781563710339 **Sir Oliver's Song: A Musical Lesson About the Ten Commandments** CD. \$7.98.
- ❑ 9781561483624 **The Bible for Children**, by Good Books. \$23.99.

Storytelling Station

- ❑ 9781879045460 **The 11th Commandment: Wisdom from Our Children**, by The Children of America. \$16.95.

Video Station

- ❑ 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories**, by Mary Batchelor. \$19.99.
- ❑ 9780842375627 **Kids' Ten Commandments** (DVD set) \$29.97.
- ❑ 820413100896 **Veggie Tales: Larry-Boy! & the Fib From Outer Space** DVD. \$14.99.
- ❑ 9780740310768 **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** DVD (animated version), Alpha Omega Publications. \$12.95.

Resources are constantly changing and going out of print. Websites are also constantly changing. Although all websites were checked at the time this unit was developed, we recommend that you double-check each site to verify that it is still live and that it is still appropriate for children before using it in an activity.

Go to **www.powerxpress.com** for any updated information and alternative activities.


Prices are subject to change without notice.



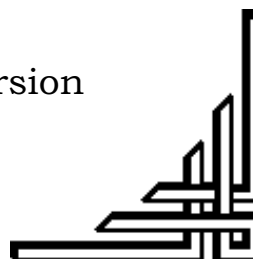
The Ten Commandments



1. Do not worship any god except me.
2. Do not make idols.
3. Do not misuse my name.
4. Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me.
5. Respect your father and your mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Be faithful in marriage.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not tell lies about others.
10. Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.



from Exodus 20:1-17, Contemporary English Version





The Ten Commandments Paraphrased



1. Worship only God.
2. Place God first in life; no idols.
3. Use God's name with respect.
4. Give one day each week to God.
5. Respect and obey your parents.
6. Respect and care for all living things. Avoid violence.
7. Be faithful to your husband or wife. Keep your promises.
8. Do not take something that does not belong to you.
9. Always tell the truth.
10. Be content with what you have.

based on Exodus 20:1-17

