



God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1)

Exodus 19:16–20:21

Most third- and fourth-graders recognize the difference between right and wrong. They can make deliberate choices about their actions. This means kids this age should be able to understand right ways to honor God. They also know certain actions and attitudes do not honor God. Use this lesson to help your kids understand that honoring God is a choice they can make each day.



► Bible Point


Honor God by obeying him.

Key Verse

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will honor God by obeying his commands.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What Rules? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Form 2 groups, and make up something for the other group members to do with mixed-up directions.	index cards, pencils	
2 Bible Exploration	God's Commandments <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Listen to the CD, and examine each of the first 4 commandments.	Bibles, CD player, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, paper, markers, tape, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Honoring God <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse through an active game.	Bibles	
	Upon My Heart <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create hearts, and write on them a personal connection to each of the four commandments they've learned.	red construction paper, markers, scissors (several pairs), Bible Truth Sleuth	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Gives the Ten Commandments

(Part 1) Exodus 19:16–20:21

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



This week’s Bible Background concentrates on the events surrounding the giving of the Ten Commandments, while next week’s concentrates on the commandments themselves. You may want to read both Bible Backgrounds before beginning this lesson.

The Israelites Battle the Amalekites

.....

The Amalekites attacked the Israelites where they were camped. God had prepared the Israelites’ faith for this test through his provision for them in so many ways. So the Israelites put together an army under the leadership of Joshua and went on the attack. Moses held high in the air the staff that had struck the rock to get water—“the staff of God.” As long as Moses held the staff in the air, the Israelites continued to win—so Aaron and Hur helped hold Moses’ hands up, and the Israelites defeated the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16).

Jethro Advises Moses to Focus on God

.....

Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit after the battle with the Amalekites. Seeing Moses burdened with judging disagreements among the 2 million Israelites, Jethro gave Moses some good advice. He suggested that Moses appoint judges to serve the people so that Moses could concentrate on what was most important—being the people’s representative before God. Moses took the advice and then led the Israelites on to Mount Sinai, where Moses had previously met God in the burning bush. They arrived at Mount Sinai three months to the day from when they left Egypt (Exodus 18:5–19:2).

Moses Receives the Commandments From God

.....

A significant event is recorded in the next few verses (Exodus 19:3-9): God spoke to Moses and promised

him that Israel would be his treasured possession, his holy people—if they would obey him. After Moses told the people what God had said, they responded gratefully: “We will do everything the Lord has said.” God responded by telling Moses that God himself would come down and speak with the Israelites from a cloud.

The law God gave spelled out how the Israelites were to honor him through their obedience. In the thousands of years that have passed since this event, one thing hasn’t changed: The best way we can honor God is by obeying him.

The Jesus Connection

.....

Following Jesus is not about obeying rules; it’s about knowing him. However, our obedience in honoring and glorifying God in our everyday lives allows our relationship with Jesus to grow.

In the space below, write a prayer that the ministry you are involved in today helps your group experience God’s blessing. May you see the fruit of God’s work through your obedience.





What Rules? Supplies

index cards
pencils

1 GETTING STARTED

What Rules?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids form two groups. Distribute pencils and index cards to each group. Say: **Each group will think of something for the other group to do and specific ways for the group to do that thing. As a group, write out the goal for the other group as well as the procedures for the task. Make the task as complicated as you want. Write each step on a separate index card; then shuffle the cards before you give them to the other group.**

For example, one group may decide it wants the other group to stack three chairs on top of one another by having members carry each chair around the room once, stop, set the chair down, all spin around three times, and then start stacking the chairs. However, when their cards are shuffled, the order of directions will become confusing.

Give groups three minutes to write their tasks and procedures for each other. When both groups have written their instructions, say: **Give your instructions to the other group. As a group, it's your job to figure out how to do what the other group wrote down. You can refer only to the written instructions.** Allow time.

See how far kids get. After three minutes, bring kids together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to do a task that was so complicated?
- What might've been different if you could've spoken to the rule-makers?

Say: **In our game, rules were a bit confusing and we weren't able to get more information. It's similar to how God asks us to follow his rules. The big difference is that God gives us lots of ways to know how to follow his rules well. Today we'll learn about some rules God gave his people. He wants us to have rules that will help us, not keep us from enjoying life. We ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

God's Commandments

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out the "God Gives the Ten Commandments" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **This week and next week, we'll learn about rules God gave the Israelites. They're called commandments, and God gave them to the Israelites so they would know how to live in a way that honored God.**

Just over two months after the Israelites had left Egypt, they came to Mount Sinai. This is where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

God wanted to let the Israelites and us know what to do to live our lives in a way that honors him. Let's read our Bible passage and find out what God says. Distribute Bibles, and ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 19:16-18. Encourage the other kids to act out what's happening in the passage as the child reads. Play "Rumbling Mountain" (track 9 on the CD) when the mountain begins to rumble.

Then ask another child to read aloud Exodus 19:19-25. Encourage kids to act out the passage again this time, too.

Say: **Moses told the people about God's Ten Commandments. The first commandment God gives us is "You shall have no other gods before me."**

Ask:

- **What's one way you can put God first in your life?**

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Honor God" activity. Have them find the "Have No Other Gods Before Me" heading, and ask them to list other religions that people might follow. Then have them place "Jesus" at the top of the list in big, bold letters and cross out the other religions.

Say: **In the second commandment, God tells us not to create or worship idols.**

Ask:

- **What are some of the things we idolize and worship instead of God?**

Say: **God wants us to make him our number-one priority.** Under "Don't Worship Idols," have kids draw a picture of something in their lives that sometimes seems more important than God. When they've finished their drawings, say: **Write "God Is First" across your picture.**

Say: **The third commandment tells us not to misuse God's name.**



God's Commandments Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- pens
- paper
- markers
- tape
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Rumbling Mountain" (track 9), "Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 3)
- Bible Timeline

God's Commandments Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Ask:

- What do you think it means to misuse God's name?
- What are some ways you can use God's name in a good way?

Say: **Let's sing a song that will praise God's name and honor him.** Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 3 on the CD). Then lead kids in singing along with the CD.



Give thanks to the Lord;

Call on his name.

Make known among the nations what he has done.

Give thanks to the Lord;

Call on his name.

Make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him!

Sing praise to him.

Tell of his wonderful works.

Sing to him.

Sing praise to him.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Give thanks to the Lord;

Call on his name.

Give thanks to the Lord;

Call on his name.

Give thanks to the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord!

"Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have kids find a partner and share something they praise God for. Then have kids write what they and their partners shared in the "Don't Misuse God's Name" area on their pages.

Say: **The fourth commandment says, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."**

Ask:

- How does keeping the Sabbath day holy honor God?

Set out paper, markers, and tape, and have kids create a banner depicting ways they can keep the Sabbath holy. Have them each work on a separate piece of paper. They'll put together the pages at the end to make a complete banner. Encourage kids to work together where possible to make this a collaborative project.



Say: **Choose one thing on your banner, and write it under the last heading of your Bible Truth Sleuth page.** Give kids a minute to decide and write.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of these commandments do you think you'd like to make a bigger part of your life?
- What do you think of God giving these rules to you?
- What can you do to respect God's rules?

Say: **We can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.** We want to honor God to show him our love. Giving the Ten Commandments was God's way of helping the Israelites know what to do for their part of a covenant, or very special promise, with God. God gave them these rules to help them. We can follow these rules because they're good for us, too.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Honoring God

What You'll Do

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is Deuteronomy 6:5.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Have kids form four groups (a group can be just one person). Give each group one section of the verse as listed below, and have groups make up some actions that would help them remember their part of the verse.

Group 1: "Love the Lord your God"

Group 2: "with all your heart"

Group 3: "and with all your soul"

Group 4: "and with all your strength."

When kids have finished making up actions, have them teach their section of the verse to the rest of the group. Then when everyone has learned the other groups' actions, repeat the Key Verse aloud together a couple of times. Encourage kids all to act out the pieces of the verse together.



Honoring God Supplies

Bibles





Upon My Heart Supplies

red construction paper
markers
scissors (several pairs)
Bible Truth Sleuth

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways we can love God with our whole heart?
- What are some ways we can love God with our whole mind?
- What are some ways we can love God with our lives?

Say: **If you're stuck trying to figure out how to love God in any situation this week, you can remember these actions. We can honor and love God in every moment of our lives. We can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM and obeying his commandments. Let's make something to help us remember to obey God.**

Upon My Heart

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out markers and scissors, and give kids each a piece of red construction paper. Show them how to cut a heart out of it. After everyone has a heart shape, say: **On your heart, write the commandments we learned.**

Have kids write the following abbreviated commandments across their hearts:

- Have no other gods before me.
- Don't worship idols.
- Don't misuse God's name.
- Keep the Sabbath holy.

Encourage kids to refer to their Bible Truth Sleuth pages if they need help remembering the abbreviated commands. Have kids form pairs. Say: **Take turns talking about one way you can follow one of these rules.** Allow time, and then encourage kids to pray for each other.

After about three minutes, say: **Now that you've each written these commandments on a paper heart, take your heart home with you to help remind you to write them on your real heart and to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What difference do you think it might make in your life to follow the rule you told your partner about?
- How did you react the last time someone told you to obey a rule?
- How can God help you obey him?

Say: **In all situations, we can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. We don't have to figure out how to obey God all on our own; we can let God help us. He's already helped us by giving us the Ten Commandments. Let's ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM this week.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's consider this week how we can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Get your family together and worship God. Praise his name, and talk about how you can follow the third commandment together.**
- **Choose a day to be your Sabbath. Spend time with God, and don't let yourself be distracted.**
- **Consider some things you sometimes spend too much time doing: playing video games? watching movies? playing sports? Choose one activity you won't do this week, and instead spend that time with God.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **The Israelites learned some of the rules that God wanted them to follow. Let's ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about honoring God by obeying him. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Say: **Today let's close by sharing with one another the ways we will honor God with our lives. As we bow our heads, each person will say, "I will honor God by..." and offer one way you will honor God with your whole heart.**

Ask kids to pray. If kids want to pass, allow them to do so.



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





Lyrics

Give Thanks (1 Chronicles 16:8)

Give thanks to the Lord;
 Call on his name.
 Make known among the nations what he has done.
 Give thanks to the Lord;
 Call on his name.
 Make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him!
 Sing praise to him.
 Tell of his wonderful works.
 Sing to him.
 Sing praise to him.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Give thanks to the Lord;
 Call on his name.
 Give thanks to the Lord;
 Call on his name.
 Give thanks to the Lord!
 Give thanks to the Lord!
 Give thanks to the Lord!
 Give thanks to the Lord!

"Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

OK
TO COPY