

The Ten Commandments

ELEMENTARY LESSON



Theme: Obeying God's Commandments

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

Memory Verse: "And God spoke all these words: '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.'"

Exodus 20:1-3

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- [The 10 Commandments Coloring Page](#) - two copies
- Crayons

Get Ready: Color one picture carefully, staying in the lines. Color outside the lines on the other picture, making a colorful mess.

Do This:

SAY: Do you remember when you first started to learn how to color? If you were like most children, you probably colored all over the page without staying in the lines. I imagine that some of your pictures looked a lot like this. (Show kids the messy picture.)

As you got older, your pictures probably looked more like this. (Show kids the neat picture.) **You began to stay in the lines and your color choices were much better too.**

These pictures remind me of the way some people live their lives. God gave us the Ten Commandments to tell us the things that we should and should not do. (Show the neat picture.) **Some people don't pay any attention to these guidelines that God has drawn for them.** (Hold up the messy picture.) **They just do whatever they want to do; that's called sin. Often their choices are not very good. They color outside the lines. They think their life is beautiful, but when God looks at it, He sees that it's just a big mess.**

(Hold up the neat picture.) **There are other people who read the Bible and follow God's rules. They try to stay within the guidelines that God has set. Oh, they may still get outside the lines at times; getting outside the lines is called sin. That is why we all need Jesus. None of us stay inside the lines 100% of the time.**

Do you want your life to be like this one? (Hold up the neat picture.) **Or do you want it to look like this one?** (Hold up the messy picture so you're holding up both.)

God wants us to obey His Ten Commandments. The great news is we have a Savior in Jesus who loves us even when our lives are messy. When we trust Him as Savior He is our help and gives us strength to obey His laws. Let's ask God to help us obey Him.

PRAY: Dear Lord, help us to remember that You set boundaries for us. Help us to stay within those boundaries so that our lives will be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Memory Verse

“And God spoke all these words: ‘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.’ ” Exodus 20:1-3 (NIV)

You'll Need:

- Masking tape
- Markers
- Bibles (one per team)

Get Ready: Make two sets of masking tape strips with words/phrases from the Bible memory verse. Place each set on an opposite side of the room.

Do This:

Say: **God calls us to obey His commandments. Why? Because He is the Lord. That means He's the boss and we are not. Our Bible memory verse today reminds us why God is Lord and how He should be first in our lives.**

Follow these steps:

- Form two teams.
- Invite each team to look up Exodus 20:1-3.

- Explain that they each have a set of masking tape strips with words/phrases from today's Bible memory verse.
- The team that wins is the team that lines up their tape in a straight line, in the right order, first in the right order of today's Bible memory verse.

After each team makes their straight lines, invite the class to read the Bible memory verse aloud together.

SAY: There is only one God! He is Lord and He loves us so much. We are called to obey His commandments and make Him first.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Interactive Scripture Experience: Exodus 20:1-17

Commandment of Not

You'll Need:

- Bibles (one per child)
- Construction Paper
- Marker

Get Ready: Before class, write the word “Commandment” on one sheet of construction paper and hang it on one side of the room. Write “Not” on the other sheet and hang it on the wall on the opposite side of the room.

Do This:

Invite each child to open their Bibles to Exodus 20:1-17.

- Explain that you are going to read through a list of commandments.
- They will have their Bibles as their source of truth. If what you read is truly one of the 10 commandments, they are to go to the “Commandment” side of the room. If what you read cannot be found in Exodus 20, then they should go to the “Not” side of the room.
- After each commandment, talk about how they know it is true or false.

List of true and false commandments:

- You shall have no other gods before me. (Commandment)
- Do your best. (Not)
- You shall not make idols. (Commandment)
- Honor yourself. (Not)
- Lie only when you have to. (Not)
- Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. (Commandment)
- Coveting is cool. (Not)
- You shall not steal. (Commandment)
- You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain. (Commandment)
- Obey when you feel like it. (Not)

ASK:

- Was it easy or hard for you to tell the real commandments from the fake ones?
- Why is the Bible the best source to find the real commandments?

SAY: It's important for us to know that God's Word is the source for our truth. God's Word helps us stay within the lines and obey His commandments. Sometimes things sound like they may be from God, but we have to make sure to check in God's Word to make sure they're true.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

"Staying Within the Lines" Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- ["Staying Within the Lines"](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Tell kids to be prepared to move a bit as they follow instructions in the video.

Show them the video.

ASK:

- Was it easy or hard to follow all the rules?

SAY: God's rules are important for us to live our lives how He has planned. God's ways are best. But we can't be perfect all the time. Aren't you glad God forgives us when we go outside His lines and He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins once and for all?

Commandment Snacks

You'll Need:

- Unfrosted Pop Tarts (2 per child)
- Gel Icing
- Paper plates
- Napkins

Do This:

SAY: In today's Bible lesson, we learn about obeying God's commands. How many commandments did God give Moses? (Allow kids to answer.) The first four commandments are about our relationship with God. The last six commandments are about our relationships with others. Today you get to make your own edible commandment tablets. Let's get started.

- Give each child a paper plate, a napkin, and two unfrosted Pop Tarts.
- Explain to the kids that they will use the gel icing to write “God” at the top of one Pop Tart and number down 1-4 in the center of the Pop Tart.
- On the other Pop Tart, they will write “Others” at the top and number 5-10 down the center.
- After they finish, let them enjoy the snack.

SAY: God gave us these rules to obey and live by, but remember not one of us is perfect and can stay within the lines all the time. That’s why we need Jesus. He came to pay the price for our sins because we are not perfect.

Commandment Memory

You’ll Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers

Get Ready:

Using 20 pieces per set, make the memory cards. On the back of 10 sheets of construction paper number 1-10 on the sheets. Then on the other 10 sheets write a different commandment on the back of each piece of construction paper. Mix them up and place them on the floor face down. (For larger groups make several sets to place in smaller groups.)

Do This:

SAY: Let's see if you can match the commandment to its number. Your guide will be God's Word. Turn to Exodus 20:1-17.

Lay all the memory cards face down. Kids will play this memory game by turning over two pieces of construction paper. If the number matches the right commandment, they get to keep the pair. If it doesn't match, have them place the memory cards face down and someone else gets to go. Play until all the memory cards have been matched.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Commandment Book Craft

You'll Need:

- ["Commandment Book"](#) handout - one per child
- ["Ten Commandments How-to Video"](#)
- Markers

Do This:

To make the Commandment Books, have kids follow these steps:

- Color your "Commandment Book."

- After finished coloring, trim the borders.
- Fold in half lengthwise and on folded lines.
- Cut the dotted line.
- Pull apart the cut slot and fold on the solid lines.
- Close to make the booklet.
- Explain to kids that they can keep their mini booklets in their Bibles as a reminder to obey God's commands.

Line Prayers

You'll Need:

- **Masking tape**

Do This:

Place a masking tape line down the middle of the classroom. Invite the kids to line up on the right side of the line.

SAY: Today we're going to pray and ask God to help us to live our lives within the lines He has given. We will start on the right side of the line.

PRAY: God, thank You that You love us enough to give us rules. You know these rules are for our best and You know all. You are Lord and we are not.

Invite kids to step over the line to the left side.

PRAY: God, we confess that we don't always stay inside the lines. We choose to go our way and that is sin.

SAY: Bow your heads and silently confess to God times you have sinned and strayed outside the lines.

Give the kids plenty of quiet time to silently confess their sins and then invite them to step back to the right side of the line.

PRAY: God thank You for loving us and forgiving us when we sin. Give us eyes to see when we do stray outside the lines. Thank You for sending us Jesus to pay the price for our sins. We want to live inside Your lines, so we ask for Your help. In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual Lesson Tip

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Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- **Song: "Brethren, We Have Come to Worship"**
[Words and Music](#)
[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#) (right click to save to your computer)
- **Song: "God Is So Good"**

[Words and Music](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#) (right click to save to your computer)

SAY: We have a great big God who provides for us. That is something to celebrate! Let's worship God now through song and tell Him how good He is.

Lead children in singing "Brethren, We Have Come to Worship" and "God Is So Good."

Complete Supply List:

- [Crayons](#)
- [Masking tape](#)
- [Markers](#)
- [Construction Paper](#)
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- [Gel Icing](#)

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AT-HOME LESSON

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Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

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