



Date: _____
Series: The Ten Commandments (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 3

Keep God's Name and Day Sacred

Primary Scripture: Exodus 20:7-11

Key Verses: Exodus 20:7,8, “Never use the name of the Lord your God carelessly... Remember the day of worship by observing it as a holy day.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids often hear God's name used with disrespect. Our culture accepts “Oh, my God!” as an appropriate slang. This, however, is offensive to God. Kids need to view God as someone whom we honor and respect. Honoring his name is an important commandment. As well, kids need to honor his special day. God desires to have a relationship with us. We have the opportunity to spend time with him every day, but his commandment directs us to especially set aside time to worship him and spend time with him on the Lord's Day and to keep this day sacred.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: God loved us so much that he sacrificed his Son for us, and we in turn fear, love, and honor him.

Jesus in us: As the Holy Spirit lives in us, we are filled with awe as we come into God's presence. We have a deep desire to spend time with him, and we do this especially on the Lord's Day. We also lift him up and honor him by keeping his name Holy.

Jesus through us: Through Jesus' power, we set an example for others to follow as we honor God by keeping his name holy and setting aside time each week to worship him and spend time with him.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Note: This illustration could hurt the child volunteer's feelings if he/she is a sensitive person. Pick a boy or someone who wouldn't take this personally. A child may even be debriefed ahead of time, if necessary.

Supplies needed: blank 4" x 12" piece of poster board with double-faced tape on the back, 4" x 12" piece of poster board with double-faced tape on the back with the name God written on the front, bucket filled part way with sloppy mud that will splatter when thrown with a spoon, long-handled spoon that will be used to throw mud, large sheet that will get muddy, marker

Ask two adults to stand in the front, both holding the top corners of a sheet. Set the following items nearby: bucket of sloppy mud with a long-handled spoon in it, a marker, a blank poster board, and a poster board with *God* written on it.

Invite a child forward and ask him/her for his/her name. (*"Sharlene" is the name used here for illustration's sake.*)

Oh, Sharlene. That's a beautiful name. Sharlene, I love that name. It probably means a lot to you. Everyone's name does. I have something special that I want to do with your name because this name reminds me of you.

Write his/her name on the blank poster board. Stars or flowers can even be added to make it even more special. Then tape it to the sheet.

It looks beautiful up there, doesn't it? Oh, but wait, Sharlene. I'm not finished with your name yet.

Take the bucket with the mud slop, and using the spoon, sling it at the name until it is completely covered in mud. Make funny sneering faces at the child after each throw.

Oh, Sharlene, look at your name now. That probably doesn't feel very good, does it? Now, Sharlene, how would you like to stand up there instead of your name, and I'll do the same thing to you?

Did you know that many years ago, if you said something wrong against someone's name, it was the very same thing as doing something wrong against him? Now watch this. Sharlene, please stand to the side. I have another name that I'm going to put up here in this place that's still clean.

Attach God's name to the corner, and turn to the kids while holding another spoonful of slop.

So, do you think I should do this? No, of course not. How would God feel? But did you know that any time anyone says something like "Oh, my God this!" or "Oh, my God that," it's the same thing as throwing mud and slop against his name? It's just like insulting him as if he were standing right there.

If we use God's name as a target for slop, then it's hard to use his name to praise him and call on him in time of need. Today in our worship, we want to remember to keep God's name holy. We'll do that as we worship.

Dismiss the sheet holders, and let the sheet come down.

Sharlene, there's one other thing I'd like to do. I'd like to be your friend. Will you be my friend? Good. Then please go right outside this room and wait for me.

The child leaves the room. Aside, say to the kids:

I'm not really going to go out there to see her because I really don't want to spend time with her. She'll just have to wait there by herself.

Pause.

Now, kids, would that be a very good friend? Of course not, but that's how we treat God when we say, "I don't really want to spend

time at church worshipping you or learning about you and our friendship together.” Today we’ll learn what it means to remember the day of worship.

Call the child back in. Hopefully, (s)he has heard the dialog and understands.

Thank you for being my friend. Please join us now, and let’s remember God’s day of worship as we praise him and keep his name holy as we use it to glorify him.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Hold up the sheet with all the sloppy mud on it.

This reminds us of the ways in which we have not honored God. Maybe we haven’t kept his name holy. Maybe we haven’t spent time with him in worship, or we have ignored him during the week. Maybe we haven’t prayed to him. Or maybe we have been embarrassed to be called Christians around our friends. Those are just like these globs of slop. Jesus says that he can take those away so that we can live like new and clean people. Let’s pray.

Dear God, thank you that you gave us Jesus, and since he died for our sins, we can be free from all the globs of slop that we may have committed. Forgive us for the times when we have used your name carelessly or not used it in a holy way. Forgive us for the times when we have not worshiped you with our whole hearts at church or have wanted to stay home and watch TV. The friendship that you want to have with us is so important to you that you gave us Jesus. Thank you for that. Help us not to take your name for granted but to come to love, honor, and serve you more in all that we do. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

We have been forgiven so we can better serve and honor him.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies needed: 4" x 12" piece of poster board with God written on the front (from the Attention Grabber)

Put the name God from the earlier illustration in the offering plate.

One of the ways we can honor God's name and honor his worship is by giving him the first tenth of our allowance.

What that means is that if you get a dollar for your allowance and you go to the store to spend it, you don't say, "Okay, whatever is left over I might give to God." Instead, when you get your allowance, the first thing you say is, "I want to give at least ten cents of this dollar to God as a way of saying, 'I love you.'"

God uses your gifts to help more people come to know him. They are very important. He also blesses you because you have been faithful in putting him first.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Sacred Journey”

Supplies needed: 24 hula hoops, masking tape, string, or rope; masking tape; four signs for each day of the week except Sunday (see Appendix); one sign that says “Sacred Place;” praise music and music player; Optional: candy

In advance, make four rows of six hula hoops (or yarn circles) that are spread across floor. Label the hula hoops with the days of the week, beginning with Monday and ending with Saturday. Also make a line with masking tape or a long rope at the end of the hula hoop rows. Place the Sacred Place sign on the other side of the line. (See the diagram in the appendix.)

Note: Hula hoops are referred to in this game, but you can also use tape or string laid out to form outlines in any shape or size that you want. If possible, put four feet between the hoops for first and second graders, six feet between hoops for third graders, and eight feet between the hoops for the fourth through sixth graders.

Explain to the kids that they are on a sacred journey. Each hula hoop represents a day of the week, and the area on the other side of the line represents the Lord’s Day. Have children form lines behind the hula hoops designated as “Monday.” There will be four teams, and each team will consist of children from each grade (i.e., first grade through fourth grade). The fourth grade line could include fifth and sixth graders.

The goal is to go through each hula hoop to reach the sacred place. The children must go through every hula hoop before reaching the Sacred Place. While music is playing, the kids will run from one hula hoop to the next as they make their way toward the Sacred Place. More than one child can be in a hula hoop at a time.

Someone who is not facing the kids will turn off the background music at random. Whoever is outside of the hula hoops when the music is turned off has to go back to the beginning.

NOTE: You will need adults or the older children who can be the police for this game and make kids go back if they get caught.

Those who make it to the Sacred Place can rest with a small piece of candy. If you do give out candy, make sure every child receives some at the end.

This Sacred Place should remind kids of having a special day that they spend with God and a special way that they keep his name holy by using it for praise and worship.

Learning Point:

On the seventh day, God rested, so he made it holy. He made it special because he wants to spend time with us and have no other distractions. Also, getting caught outside the hula hoop reminds us that we want to keep his name holy throughout the week and not be caught outside his rules that say to keep his name holy.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read Exodus 20:7-11.

Application:

Supplies needed: video called Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #2—"The Rest is Yet to Come" by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7606-2 (order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_Prac-0842375627.htm), and at least two candy rewards

The movie demonstrates how we should keep God's name holy and to rest on the Lord's Day. In the Augustinian numbering system, these are commandments two and three. In the Orthodox numbering system, they are commandments three and four. For a full explanation, see the introduction to this series.

Say to the kids:

Please pay close attention to our movie today. If you can answer the questions that I ask after the movie, you will get a candy reward!

After the movie, ask the children this question:

Who can tell me one of the times in the movie when someone broke the commandment that we've been talking about today? (*Jeshanah lied in God's name several times by saying, "I swear by God..." followed by an untrue statement. Jeshanah forced Seth to work on the Sabbath. There are other subtle occurrences, as well.*)



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Think about a time when you were in church honoring God and you felt very close to him – just like he was speaking to you. Let's share those times now. For example, one time I...

Provide a personal example.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one of the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speaking their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees, and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- blank 4" x 12" piece of poster board with double-faced tape on the back
- 4" x 12" piece of poster board with double-faced tape on the back with the name God written on the front
- bucket filled partway with sloppy mud that will splatter when thrown with a spoon
- long-handled spoon that will be used to throw mud
- large sheet that will get muddy
- marker

Offering:

- 4" x 12" piece of poster board with *God* written on the front (from the *Attention Grabber*)

Learning Game:

- 24 hula hoops, masking tape, string, or rope
- masking tape
- four signs for each day of the week except Sunday (see Appendix)
- one sign that says "Sacred Place"
- praise music and music player
- Optional: candy

Application:

- video called *Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #2—"The Rest is Yet to Come"* by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7606-2 (order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_P Rac-0842375627.htm)
- at least two candy rewards

Appendix:

Label → Sacred Place

Masking Tape

