



Date: _____

Series: God's Rules are Cool!
Summer Year 1, Lesson 12

God Gives the Ten Commandments

Bible Event: Exodus 19:20 – 20:20

Take Home Point: *GOD'S RULES ARE COOL – *Obey them.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus kept God's laws perfectly—then died for our sins.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which are rules that all of God's people are supposed to follow. The commandments all have to do with loving God and loving others, which is how God wants all of us to live our lives. Kids will take home the point: *GOD'S RULES ARE COOL – *Obey them.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Mystery Box

The Mystery Box contains objects that will help the presenter tell the Bible event in creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

Either the large group presenter acts as Moses or another adult costumed as Moses tells today's Bible event.

I am Moses here to tell you a Bible event. A very long time ago, I was one of God's people. He had me lead some people called the Israelites out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. God was leading us to a special place called the Promised Land. While we were on our journey, God gave me some special rules called the Ten Commandments that he wanted all of his people to follow. Here's what happened...

All of the Israelites were camping at the bottom of a mountain called Mount Sinai. God called me up to the top of the mountain and I was the only one allowed to go up there. When I got to the top, God told me ten very special rules that he wanted all of his people to follow. Here's what they were:

Two listings follow. Choose the numbering system that correlates to your church.

Orthodox numbering:

1. **The first commandment is “Make God #1.”** (Show a large foam hand with one finger pointing or just show the number one with your finger. God should be first in our hearts.)
2. **The second commandment is “Make no idols.”** (Show a plastic animal wrapped in foil. We should not honor or worship anything but God.)
3. **The third commandment is “Honor God’s name.”** (Show a nametag. Remind children that it is not okay to say “Oh, my God.”)
4. **Commandment number four says “Honor God’s worship.”** (Show a cross and remind kids to keep God’s holy day special.)
5. **The fifth commandment says to “Honor your parents.”** (Show a picture of someone’s parents. Children should listen to what their parents tell them.)
6. **The sixth commandment says “Never hurt others.”** (Show a Band-Aid. Instead of hurting others, we should help others.)
7. **The seventh commandment says “Husbands and wives love each other.”** (Show a wedding picture.)
8. **The eighth commandment says “Never steal.”** (Show a small toy or candy and place it in your pocket. Take it back out and explain that it is wrong to take anything that isn’t yours.)
9. **The ninth commandments says “Never lie.”** (Pretend to whisper into someone’s ear. It is never okay to say bad things about others.)
10. **The last commandment is number ten. It says “Never be jealous of someone else’s family or stuff.”** (Show two toys that are similar. For instance, show two balls, one larger and nicer than the other. Explain that we should be happy with what we have and not be jealous of our friends.)

Augustine numbering:

The first commandment is “Make God #1.” (Show a large foam hand with one finger pointing or just show the number one with your finger. God should be first in our hearts.)

The second commandment is “Honor God’s name.” (Show a nametag. Remind children that it is not okay to say “Oh, my God.”)

Commandment number three says “Honor God’s worship.” (Show a cross and remind kids to keep God’s holy day special.)

The fourth commandment says to “Honor your parents.” (Show a picture of someone’s parents. Children should listen to what their parents tell them.)

The fifth commandment says “Never hurt others.” (Show a Band-Aid. Instead of hurting others, we should help others.)

The sixth commandment says “Husbands and wives love each other.” (Show a wedding picture.)

The seventh commandment says “Never steal.” (Show a small toy or candy and place it in your pocket. Take it back out and explain that it is wrong to take anything that isn’t yours.)

The eighth commandments says “Never lie.” (Pretend to whisper into someone’s ear. It is never okay to say bad things about others.)

The ninth commandment says “Never be jealous of someone else’s house and family.” (Show a picture of a house or show a small dollhouse.)

10.) The last commandment is number ten. It says “Never be jealous of someone else’s stuff.” (Show two toys that are similar. For instance, show two balls, one larger and nicer than the other. Explain that we should be happy with what we have and not be jealous of our friends.)

Those were the Ten Commandments! God spoke each of those words to me and he carved the words on two large stones for me to show to the Israelites. God wants all of his people to follow these rules to show him how much we love him and to show how we can share his love with others. Even today, God still wants us to follow these special rules. Remember: *GOD’S RULES ARE COOL – Obey them.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child two oval shaped crackers (like Townhouse) to represent the stone tablets. Have children butter the crackers and sprinkle cinnamon and sugar to create “stone” texture or use squeeze cheese.

Drama Zone: Provide robes and staffs for Moses costumes. Use the props from the Bible event and have the children try to remember which commandment each prop represents.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to name ways they can show love to God and show love to others.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of the Ten Commandments from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #36, “God’s Ten Rules,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide each child with a sheet of cardstock which is blank except for the title “GOD’S RULES ARE COOL – *Obey them.*” Have the children trace their hands mitten-style, side-by-side to create two rounded tablets. Provide gray paint and sponges for children to paint the tablets to look like stone. Attach two labels, one to each tablet: “Love God” and “Love others.”

Play Zone: Provide two dice (preferably large in size) for children to take turns rolling. Use the following action list for all children to do when a specific number is rolled:

Orthodox:

If **two** is rolled: show two fingers, touch the floor and jump into the air twice, shout, “don’t bow to idols.”

If **three** is rolled: hold three fingers to chin, say “I love you God” three times.

If **four** is rolled: show four fingers, jump four times, shout “Hooray for God.”

If **five** is rolled: show five fingers, stomp five times for dad, clap five times for mom, say "Thank God for parents."

If **six** is rolled: show six fingers, hug a neighbor, count to six.

If **seven** is rolled: show seven fingers, lock elbows with someone and spin around once.

If **eight** is rolled: show eight fingers, run and touch wall and come back.

If **nine** is rolled: show nine fingers, count to nine together, all place hands over ears.

If **ten** is rolled: show ten fingers, count to ten, kick legs up high.

If **eleven** is rolled: (this counts as number 1) point to sky and shout "God is number one."

If **twelve** is rolled: roll again.

Augustine:

If **two** is rolled: hold two fingers to chin, say "I love you God" two times.

If **three** is rolled: show three fingers, jump three times, shout "Hooray for God."

If **four** is rolled: show four fingers, stomp four times for dad, clap four times for mom, say "Thank God for parents."

If **five** is rolled: show five fingers, hug a neighbor, count to five.

If **six** is rolled: show six fingers, lock elbows with someone and spin around once.

If **seven** is rolled: show seven fingers, run and touch wall and come back.

If **eight** is rolled: show eight fingers, count to eight together, all place hands over ears.

If **nine** is rolled: show nine fingers, count to nine, kick legs up high.

If **ten** is rolled: show ten fingers, count to ten, do ten jumping jacks.

If **eleven** is rolled: (this counts as number 1) point to sky and shout "God is number one."

If **twelve** is rolled: roll again.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the Ten Commandments.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “God Gives the Ten Commandments” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

The presenter pulls out two large paper hearts and shows them to Judy onstage. She asks what the hearts are for. The presenter explains that the first heart reminds us to love God. (Place heart on the floor on the right side of the stage.) The second heart reminds us to love others. (Place on floor on the left.) Loving God and loving others is a way to remember what all Ten Commandments mean.

Judy isn't sure. She wants to know the difference between loving God and loving others. The presenter tells Judy that he thinks the kids will be able to help him explain this. He will ask the kids some questions, and they will have to decide if what he says is an example of loving God or loving others. Judy should pay attention to the kids' answers to see if she can figure out the difference, too.

As the presenter reads the statements, the kids direct him to which heart he should stand on – "loving God" or "loving others." Examples:

- Going to church and singing a song to God. (*God.*)
- I obey my parents when it's time to go to bed. (*Others.*)
- When I find my friend's toy in the backyard, I don't keep it – I give it back. (*Others.*)
- I pray to Jesus at night, not to any idols. (*God.*)
- I'm glad my friend got a new scooter and I'm not jealous. (*Others.*)
- When I am scared, I ask God to be with me. (*God.*)
- When my brother hurt my feelings, I didn't hit him. (*Others.*)
- I know that I'm not supposed to say "Oh, my God." (*God.*)
- Some bullies were teasing a new kid at school, but I made friends with him. (*Others.*)
- My teacher scolded me today, but I still told her I loved her when I left. (*Others.*)

Judy is impressed with how much the kids knew about the Ten Commandments and loving God and loving others. She thinks she understands now, too.

Remember: ***GOD'S RULES ARE COOL – Obey them.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

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:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: *Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.*

Supplies:

Quantity (4)

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- foam #1 hand
- foil wrapped animal
- nametag
- cross
- picture of parents
- Band-Aid
- wedding picture
- small toy or candy
- two balls (or other toys), one bigger and better than the other
- picture of a house or small dollhouse

Action Zones:

Snack:

- oval shaped crackers like Townhouse
- cinnamon-sugar and butter or squeeze cheese

Drama:

- robes and staffs for Moses
- props from Bible event

Craft:

- attached template copied on cardstock
- pencils or crayons
- gray paint
- sponges
- pre-printed labels “Love God” and “Love Others”

Play:

- two large dice

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #36, “God’s Ten Rules,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- two large paper hearts

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

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GOD'S RULES ARE COOL – *Obey them!*