



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

God Protects Lives

Primary Scripture: Exodus 20:12 – 13

Key Verses: Exodus 20:12-13, “Honor your father and your mother... Never murder.”

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

Kids need to understand that God protects them by giving us his commandments. His commandments are also the covenant of the law. The covenant is an agreement between two different parties. God wants to make an agreement with us that he will be our God, and we will be his people. Kids need to know that because of that relationship, God wants to protect us. Commandments help in doing that. When kids learn to honor their parents and others in authority, their lives are protected. Also, God protects life by commanding us not to murder or even hurt or harm another person. Kids need to discover that by their own strength, they will not be able to keep God's commandments perfectly. However, their relationship with him is not based on their ability to live up to the letter of the law. Rather, it is dependent on the gift of Jesus and his forgiveness for them. Through Jesus and his forgiveness, they have the power to better honor their parents and honor the lives of others.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, he made it clear that it was worth giving his life for us so that we would have his forgiveness and the power to honor and protect the lives of others.

Jesus in us: Through faith in Jesus, he lives in us so that we have the same desire to honor our parents and also protect lives.

Jesus through us: Our reason for honoring our parents is not just because they always deserve our honor and respect, it is because we are first obedient to God. Christ works through us to help us honor our parents and protect lives.

Lesson 4 - 1

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.

Needed: a dog that can "sit," "stay," and "come" on command

In advance, arrange to have a dog for this illustration that can do such things as sit, stay, and come.

Say to the children:

How many of you have a dog or have had one at one time? Did you ever give rules to the dog like not to run in the street or to come to you when you call him? Raise your hand if you ever had a dog that disobeyed and was in danger.

Go to a child with his hand raised.

What happened? Were you scared? Accept answers.

We give our dogs rules to protect them, don't we?

Let's demonstrate how a dog can obey commands.

Demonstrate the dog's obedience to sit, stay, come, etc.

Do you think this dog thinks those rules are unfair?

Have you ever thought that the rules your parents established were unfair?

God gives us rules to help protect our lives just like we would give rules to our pets. One of the rules is that we would honor our parents because they know better and have our best interests in mind when they give us rules that protect us.

God's commandments say, "Honor your father and mother." God's commandments also say that you should protect the lives of others. It says, "Never murder."

What would happen if I let my dog go so he could get into a dog fight with other dogs? Do you think that would be a good idea? Of course not. He would get hurt, and so would others. That's just what God was thinking when he gave us rules.

Let's worship God today. He's more than just our owner. He is the God who loves us and wants what is best for us. He wants us to honor our parents today and to never murder. He wants us to keep his commandments so we can be protected.

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.

Supplies needed: the letters D, O, and G each written on a sheet of paper

Post the letters up front or tape on the edge of a table to spell the word DOG. Say:

Have you ever heard it said that a dog is man's best friend? What do you think about that? Dogs are loving and loyal and give us companionship, but there is a big difference between dogs and people. The difference is that people have souls. People are designed by God to live forever with him, even after we die and leave this world.

Man's best friend is even better than a dog because a dog cannot live with us forever. The truth is, man's best friend is...

Reverse the sheets of paper with G and the D on them so it spells GOD.

...God. He created us and loves us more than a parent, but because of sin, we are separated from this Holy God. However, God made a way for us to be his best friend when he gave his own Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for the punishment of our sins. John 15:13-14 says, *“The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends. You are my friends if you obey my commandments.”*

Sometimes we don't always keep God's commandments. Maybe during the past week you have not obeyed your parents when they asked you to do something. Or maybe you did something they told you not to do. Or maybe you hit someone or did something cruel to someone. Let's confess those times to God and ask for his help in honoring our parents and other people's lives.

Dear heavenly Father, sometimes we don't obey our parents or we don't show honor and respect to them. Sometimes we don't treat others the way we should either. Please forgive us for those times and help us to learn how to honor our parents and others' lives the way that you commanded us. Thank you for showing us that Jesus is a true friend by giving his life up for us. And thank you for Jesus' forgiveness and his power to follow your commandments so we can be protected. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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.

Needed: Rules for Giving book (see supply list)

Hold up the book and say:

In Jesus' day, religious people had something like this. It is called *Rules for Giving*. These were rules people made up as requirements for how much they should give to God's work and how much they could keep for themselves. Soon, they became so interested in the rules that they forgot why they were giving in the first place.

One of their silly rules with which Jesus really became irritated was the rule of *Corban*. People could take some of their money and say it

was *Corban*. This means it was a special gift set aside and devoted to God. (*Mark 7:11*) The problem was that some people took their money and said it was *Corban*, or devoted to God, and then they claimed they did not have enough money to take care of their parents when old and in need of help. Jesus said this was wrong.

Jesus said we should give money because we love God – not just to follow rules. It is our responsibility to use our money to help people in need. That is another important way we honor God.

When we give our money today, let's do it because we love God. If you did not bring an offering, come forward anyway and show God your love for him as you pretend to put your heart into the offering like this.

Demonstrate this by cupping your hands over your heart and then pretending to place your heart into the offering plate.



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.

Supplies needed: A pair of tube socks for each group of eight children and a rubber band for each pair of socks.

“Flying Sock”

In advance, stuff one sock into the toe of the other sock. Wrap a rubber band tightly around the neck so there is a ball in the bottom of the sock with a long “tail” formed from the rest of the tube sock.

It is recommended that this game be played outside.

Gather the kids into groups of eight. Each group of eight will form a circle with every member facing the inside of the circle. The object of the game is to see how many times the group can throw the flying sock up into the air and have someone catch it by the tail alone. The sock must not touch the ground. To toss the sock, a team member must hold the tail and swing it so that it flies up into the air. As it is coming down, another team member tries to grab the sock. This can be quite difficult. The team with the most consecutive numbers of catching the flying sock, wins the game.

Learning point:

God gives us some very important things to honor in our world. We don't want to drop them. In other words, we don't want to disrespect them. One of the most precious things he gives us to honor is our parents. When we honor them by listening and cooperating with what they tell us, it's just like catching this sock that God has thrown to us. When we dishonor him, it's like letting the sock hit the ground.

The same thing is true for honoring people's lives. If we hurt other people, we are dishonoring them. However, if we help protect them and their lives, we are honoring them. It is just like catching the flying sock. We'll discover more about that today in our Bible event.

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.

These are God's words for honoring our parents and others: Exodus 20:12 –13 says, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live for a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Never murder."

The following video will demonstrate how important it is to obey these commands from God.

Application:

Supply needed: video called Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #3—"A Life and Seth Situation" by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7607-0; optional: candy rewards (order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_P Rac-0842375627.htm)

The movie demonstrates how we should honor our fathers and mothers and never kill. In the Augustinian numbering system, these are commandments four and five. In the Orthodox numbering system, they are commandments five and six. For a full explanation, see the introduction to this series.

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.

Option: Offer a candy reward to those who answer questions correctly.

Who can tell me one of the times in the movie when someone broke one of the commandments that we've been talking about today?
(Ephraim took his father's sword without permission. Seth left the camp without his mother's permission as she had instructed. Seth wasn't careful, as his mother had instructed. The bandits murdered the sentry. The bandits were getting ready to kill Seth and Ephraim.)



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 obeyed your parents and were glad you did afterwards. 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.

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:

- a dog that can sit, stay, and come on command

Power of the Cross:

- three 8.5" x 11" sheets of paper—each sheet will have one large letter written on it: the letters are D, O, and G

Offering:

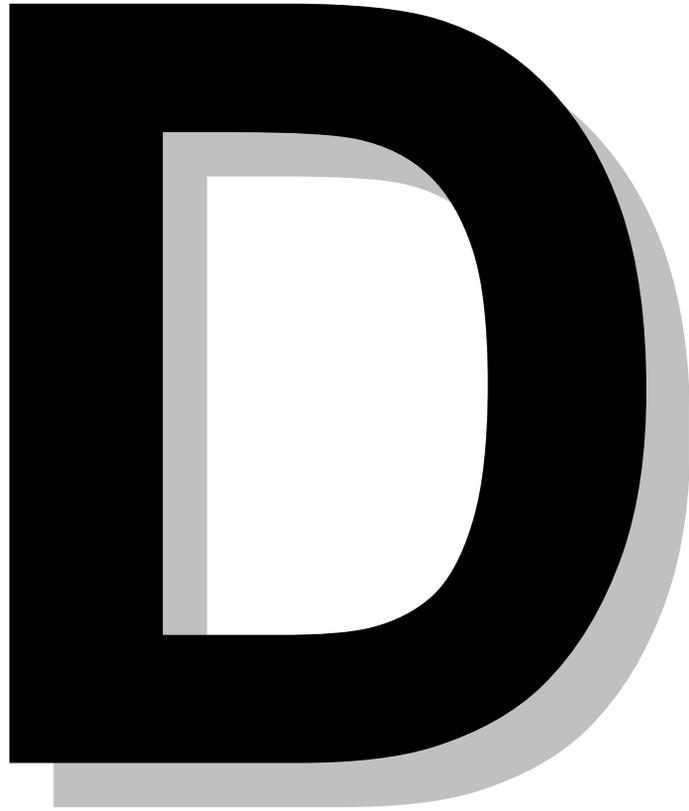
- make a sign that reads “Rules for Giving” and attach it to the cover of a book so that it looks like the title of the book

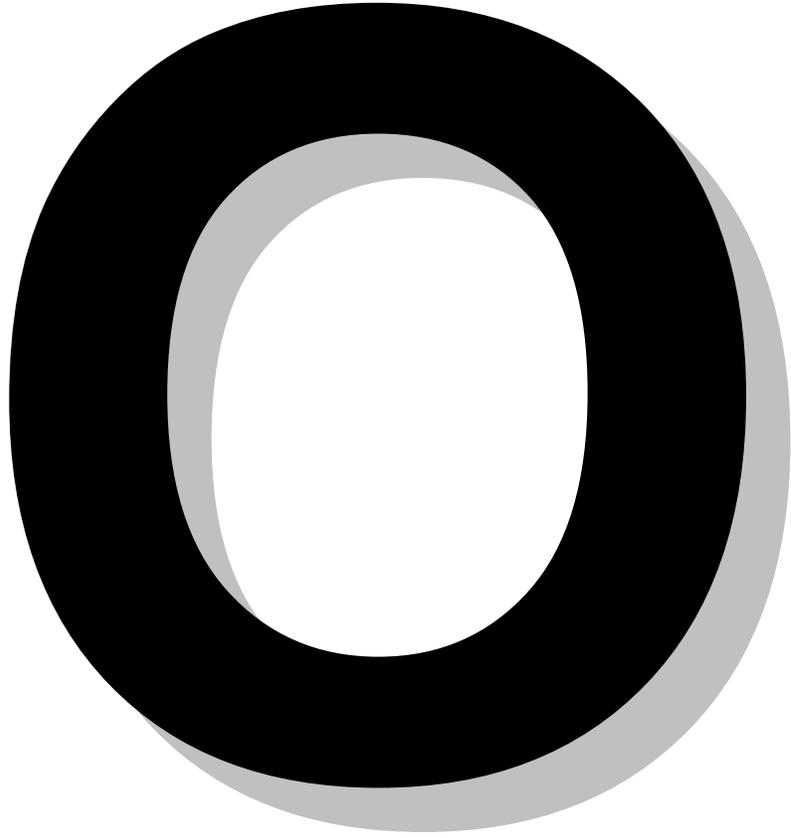
Learning Game:

- a pair of tube socks for each group of eight children
- a rubber band for each pair of socks

Application:

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- at least five candy rewards







Rules for Giving