



Date: _____
Series: The Ten Commandments (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 2

Have No Other Gods

Primary Scripture: Exodus 20:1-6

Key Verse: Exodus 20:3, “Never have any other god. Never make your own carved idols or statues that represent any creature in the sky, on the earth, or in the water.”

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

Kids need to form a world view where God is loved and honored above all. The Ten Commandments describe what that relationship looks like. In today's lesson, we look at the position that God demands when he requires that we worship no other gods or make any graven image and worship it. Kids need to understand that God's greatest competition is our own selfishness. It is easy for us to worship our own wants and desires above his. Kids need to discover also that they are unable to put God first by their own strength. Through the gift of Jesus and forgiveness in him, we can respond to God's love and love him above all.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus went to the cross on the hill for our forgiveness, and he is our Ruler and King.

Jesus in us: Jesus lives in us so we can know him and honor him above all else.

Jesus through us: The Holy Spirit gives us the power to place God above our own selfish desires, and the way in which we worship and honor God is a witness to others.

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.

Supplies:

- *Beanbags or large pillows*
- *Tan-colored sheet*
- *Plastic cow or snake that is spray painted gold or covered in aluminum foil and possibly even decorated in colorful jewels*

In advance, arrange a display in the center of the room with several beanbags or large pillows covered by a tan sheet. The display represents a hill. Place a silly idol on top of this hill, such as a cow or snake as described above.

Let's imagine that this is an idol, and it is set up high on this hill so people can worship it. Did you know that people have worshiped idols through history, and they still do today? What do you think God has to say about that?

Allow the children to answer.

That's true. He says, "Have no other gods. Worship only me."

When we worship today, let's make sure we take down any idols in our lives and worship God alone.

Remove the idol from the hill.

What does worship mean? When we worship God, we are telling him that he is worthy of all of our praise and thanksgiving. We want to give him credit for everything that is good in our world. Let's worship him now.

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: idol from Attention Grabber and cross or picture of a cross

Refer to the idol that was removed from the hill.

Would any of you ever worship this idol? Of course, you wouldn't do that. However, what might you worship and put on top of this hill? Any guesses?

Allow the children to guess. Then ask for a volunteer, and set him up on top of the hill.

Sometimes we put ourselves on this hill. It's called selfishness.

Have you ever played the game King of the Hill? Whoever gets on top of the hill is the king until someone pushes him off. Sometimes, that's the way we think. We want to have it our way. We want to make up the rules or tell everyone else what to do. We want to be the king. We might think, "I want you to do it my way. You should serve me. I don't have to care about you. I'm the only one that really matters."

When we place ourselves on top of the hill like this, it is called sin. All of us sin like this when we are selfish. What can we do about it? We need to get off the hill and watch God get on the hill.

Take the volunteer off the hill, and allow him to be seated.

You see, God himself climbed up to the top of the hill and made a way for us to be forgiven for all of our sinfulness and selfishness. Do you know what he did?

Allow a child to answer.

Right. Jesus died on the cross on a hill called Calvary.

Place a cross on top of the hill.

Jesus walked up the hill and he said, “I will show that I am God by giving my life for you and taking your punishment on myself for all your selfishness.”

Did Jesus stay dead? No, of course not. He came alive again so that he can live in the center of our lives and be on this hill as the true King and Ruler, instead of our own selfishness. Let’s pray to our King now.

Dear God, we admit that sometimes we are selfish. Sometimes we want things our own way. We want to be king of our own hill. Forgive us for that. We trust that Jesus went to the hill in our place and died on the cross. We don’t want to have any other gods before you. Let Jesus be King in our lives in all that we do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

God’s promise says that not only our sins are forgiven, but also Jesus will rule more and more in our lives as we put him first.

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.

Put a table cross or a picture of a cross on the hill.

Let’s place our offerings at the foot of the cross on the hill today because that is where Jesus gave his life for us so we can be forgiven for our sins. Let’s give our offerings to our King now.

The offering can be easily removed by picking up the four corners of the sheet.



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: four hula hoops, four ropes that are each at least seven feet long (Tie a rope to each hula hoop.), masking tape, duct tape or packing tape for the cross in the hula hoop, 24 shoeboxes or small boxes with removable lids, (Optional: The boxes could be wrapped in attractive paper), measuring tape

See the appendix for a diagram of the game layout design.

In advance, outline a 16' x 16' field with masking tape. Make four quadrants by placing a line from each side of the box to the other. These two perpendicular lines will be in the center from each side. Place four X's made with masking tape in front of two opposite sides of the quadrants as shown in the diagram.

Set up four hula hoops as follows: 1) Tie a string or rope to the side of the hula hoop. 2) Make the shape of a cross in the middle of the hula hoop by placing duct tape or packing tape across the hoop on the front and back so that the sticky side of the tape on the front adheres to the sticky side of the tape on the back. See the appendix for an illustration.

Make 24 labels with one of the following names on each label: Money, Cow, Snake, Rat, Sun, Mother Earth, Science, Pleasure, Power, Buddha, Baal, and Self. Use each name twice. Place a label inside each box. Place 6 boxes in each quadrant near the centerline as shown in the diagram.

Have kids form four equal lines, each line behind one of the X's that is marked in front of each quadrant. The first child in each line should hold onto the rope and toss the hula hoop into his quadrant. He can try to pull one or more of the boxes out of the quadrant. After one try, he hands the hula hoop to the next person in line and goes to the back of the line. The next person in line attempts to grab a box with the hula hoop and then hands the hula hoop to the next person and goes to the back of the line. The hula hoop continues down the line in this fashion. The team who removes all of the idols from their quadrant first wins the game.

Explain the learning point after the game.

These boxes represent some of the idols in people's lives today.

Ask the children to read aloud the labels that are inside their boxes. As time allows, explain how each item can be an idol.

There is only one way to remove idols from our lives. Does anyone know what that is?

Accept answers.

We need the power of Jesus to remove idols from our lives. In our game, the hula hoop with the cross was used to remove the idols. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we receive forgiveness when we confess that we have allowed something else in our lives to become more important than God.

With God's help, we can remove the things in our lives that get in the way of our relationship with him. Then we can worship and honor him alone.

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 20:1-6.

Application:

Show the 20-minute video called *Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #1—"The Not So GOLDEN CALF."* Order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_P Rac-0842375627.htm. The movie demonstrates how we should not have any other gods or graven images in our lives. In the Augustinian numbering system, this is commandment 1. In the Orthodox numbering system, they are commandments 1 and 2. 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.

Who can tell me one of the times in the movie when someone broke the commandment we have been talking about today? *(There are several possible answers. The cow was selfish and ate all of the food instead of sharing it. The cow wanted to be worshiped by everyone.*

Hazzaka made the idol so people would worship him. The people worshiped a golden calf.)

What do you think are the most common gods that people serve today?

Take about three answers. Then highlight that one of the most common gods we serve is our own selfishness.

It is an especially selfish act if we think that we can earn our own way to heaven just by being good enough. This, of course, is impossible. Thinking this way is selfish because it is a rejection of God's payment for our sins by sending his Son Jesus.

Point out that the only way we can fear, love, and trust God above all else is by first receiving the gift of his Son Jesus and his power.



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 way in which you have shown this week that you love and serve God above all else. For example, this week, 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:

- beanbags or large pillows
- tan-colored sheet
- plastic cow or snake that is spray painted gold or covered in aluminum foil and possibly even decorated in colorful jewels

Power of the Cross:

- cross or picture of a cross

Offering:

- cross or picture of a cross

Learning Game:

- four hula hoops
- four ropes that are each at least seven feet long (Tie a rope to each hula hoop.)
- masking tape
- duct tape or packing tape for the cross in the hula hoop
- 24 shoeboxes or small boxes with removable lids
 - *Optional:* The boxes could be wrapped in attractive paper.
- measuring tape

Application:

- video called *Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #1—"The Not So GOLDEN CALF"* by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7605-4 (order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_P Rac-0842375627.htm)
- at least seven candy rewards such as suckers or blow pops

Appendix

