



Date: _____
Series: The Ten Commandments (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 6

Watch Out for Gossip and Envy

Primary Scripture: Exodus 20:16-17

Key Verses: Exodus 20:16-17, “Never lie when you testify about your neighbor. Never desire to take your neighbor’s household away from him...”

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

Kids need to know that what they say about others behind their backs can truly hurt. This is called gossip. Rather than even listen to gossip, kids should take the opportunity to speak well of others. Gossip can hurt others and cause bitterness within the kids who are spreading gossip.

Envy can also hurt kids. They need to learn that envy can rob them of joy and contentment. When God tells us not to envy or covet in his commandments, he is protecting our desires. Kids need to know that the way they manage their thoughts and their minds is very important. When they allow themselves to desire what others have to the point of discontentment, it hurts them and can potentially lead to further sin.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the price for our sins of gossip and coveting so we can be freed from its power.

Jesus in us: Through Jesus’ power, we can watch out for gossip and envy.

Jesus through us: Through Jesus’ presence in our lives, we can encourage and build up others rather than hurt them with gossip. We can also be content with the things that God has given us.

Lesson 6 - 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: an additional adult, a chair, and a book

Say to kids:

Boys and girls, today we will talk about the last two commandments God gave us. See if you can guess the key word for each of these. We will do an action to demonstrate the one word that God doesn't want us to do. Are you ready for the first word?

Bring an adult actor up front and begin to whisper in his/her ear and point to someone else. Occasionally say aloud something like "No! You're kidding! Well did you hear...?" Then whisper the rest of the phrase in your partner's ear. The other person whispers back with delight, pointing and glancing at one of the kids in the audience.

Okay. What one word describes what we were doing?

Allow the children to guess. The adult actor can take a seat.

Right. Gossip. God's commandment says, "Never lie when you testify about your neighbor." And we call this gossip.

Go to center stage and begin describing with delight the "new" clothes that you are wearing. Pretend to speak your thoughts as you describe the color, the tailoring, and the length of the sleeves, your pants, your shoes, your jewelry, or any other articles. Be brief, but be full of contentment and happiness over your "new clothes."

Then an adult actor enters center stage and sits in a chair to read a book near you. The actor should appear not to notice you as you speak your thoughts aloud. Change the tone of your dialog. Look at the other person and say, "Oh, I think I like that color better." Comment on each item such as tailoring, the length of the sleeves, the shoes, the pants, the jewelry, or any other articles. With each point, visually glance at your own clothes and reflect your continued disappointment in your tone of voice.

Kids, what do you think we have just demonstrated? (Let the children guess.) **Yes, it is envy or covetousness. God's commandment says, "Never desire to take your neighbor's household away from him."**

Today in our worship, we will think about those two commandments. Let's prepare to worship now and give God our praise and thanks. When we do this, it helps adjust our hearts so we can better live for him in all that we do.

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.

We want the power of Jesus in our lives so he can help us live the way that God wants. To do that, Jesus always starts at the point of our own forgiveness. He gives us a chance to admit the times when we have done wrong and the things that we need to change. We should not try to change by our power, but by God's. So we tell him about our sin. We ask for his forgiveness, claiming what Jesus has done on the cross. He died for our sins and gives us his power when we let him live in our lives.

So let's think now. What are the things that we need to change? Can you think of a time during the last few weeks when you said something bad about another person? Was it behind his/her back? If so, you are actually hurting his/her name and reputation. In a minute, you can tell God about that. You can ask for his forgiveness because of what Jesus has done.

During these last weeks, did you listen to someone else tell you bad things someone else? Anytime you listen to gossip without speaking up for that person, you are going along with it, and that needs to be changed also. We need to protect others' reputations.

Now, let's think about envy. Envy is when you want something that someone else has, and you wish that it would be taken away from

him or her and given to you. Think about this last week. Was there someone else who looked a certain way or could do a certain thing that you wished you could? God created each of us unique and wants us to be satisfied with how he made us.

Now think about things that someone owns and you wish that you had them, enough that you might want to take them from that person. Those are thoughts that can be very dangerous because they not only lead to sin, but they keep us from being happy and content with what we have.

Let's tell God we are sorry about those sins in a silent prayer and tell him that we need his forgiveness.

Pause. Conclude with prayer.

Dear God, thank you that you gave us Jesus who gave his life for us. Thank you that we can be forgiven and freed from the traps of sin. When these temptations happen around us, please help us to turn away from them and not gossip about others and not be envious. But, instead, help us respect others, protect their reputations and their things. In Jesus' name. 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.

Have one or two adults stand up front with their hands open. Invite the children to come forward and set their offerings in these hands and then be seated.

When you placed these offerings in our hands, imagine that it was just like placing your offering in God's hands. He takes your offering as your way of saying, "I love you." He uses it for his purposes.

Set the money on the altar.

Then with his hands, God gives you all that you need for your life.

As this is said, move your hands forward as in giving gifts to others.

Because God's hands give you what you need, he wants you to be content and thankful and not always want more. So let's be grateful to God for all that he has given us.



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.

“The Gossip Game”

The children will sit on the floor for this game. The same phrase will be given to the first child in each row and it will be whispered from one kid to the next until it is passed to the last child in the row. It will be interesting to see how different the phrases come out from the original and how different they are from one another.

Have kids sit in at least two rows, perhaps more, depending on your overall numbers. A row can have anywhere from 6 to 20 children.

Have one child come forward and help him/her make up a phrase. Ask the child to think of a friend in the room and something special about that person. Tell him/her to begin his/her sentence with something like: “Last year in school, I saw...” Ask her to complete the sentence. Give her the following example: “I saw Lisa run faster than anyone else on the playground.”

When he/she is ready, ask him/her to whisper the phrase to you first and then to the person at the head of every line. After the message reaches the end of every line, have the last kids of each line take turns standing up and saying aloud the phrase they heard. The message could have an interesting twist.

Learning Point:

Explain how gossip can lead to additional lies about another person as it is retold from one person to another.

Gossip is always harmful to a person’s reputation, but it can become more and more damaging as others retell it. We must stop gossip when it is told to us, stand up for that person to protect his reputation, and not spread gossip to others.

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 20:16-17.

Application:

Supplies needed: video called Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #5—"Toying With The Truth" by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7621-6 (order from: http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_PRAc-0842375627.htm), and green apple sour pops for all of the children

The video demonstrates how we should not gossip or covet. In the Augustinian numbering system, these are commandments 8-10. In the Orthodox numbering system, they are commandments 9 and 10. For a full explanation, see the introduction to this series.

Our movie today is about the commandments we just read in God's word. Please pay close attention to the times in the movie when these commandments are broken. Watch for gossip and envy.

When we want something that someone else has, we sometimes refer to that as being "green with envy." And when we are envious, it also makes us sour. So, while we watch the movie today, you can enjoy green apple sour pops!

Pass the candy out to the kids. After the movie, ask the children this question:

Who can tell me one of the times in the movie when someone broke a commandment that we talked about today? *(Seth wanted to have everything that Ephraim had—toys, fun, fewer responsibilities, beautiful clothes for his mother, etc. Hannah, the goat, was envious of Rachel because she built the tabernacle. Hannah accused Jacob of eating the food. Seth allowed people to believe that Ephraim broke his new toy.)*

When we break one of God's commandments, what do we need to do?

Interview a child.

First of all, you should say that you are sorry to God. Then you tell the person you have hurt that you are sorry, too. That helps you change so that you don't do it again. Also, you ask for God's power, that Jesus would live in your life, and that you would be more like him.



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.

Today let's share about something that you did recently to protect someone else's name. Or you can tell us about something that you are happy with, even if other people have something that might seem better. For example, I'm happy with my old car, even though there are a lot of cars that are nicer. I'm just thankful for it.

Provide your own 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 from the options below)

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

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to 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

- another adult
- a chair
- a book

Application:

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