

God Tells Us How to Live

Lesson 17a — How to Honor God

Lesson 17b — Be Careful Little Tongue

Lesson 17c — Is It Yours?

Lesson 17d — Honor Those Who Have the Rule Over You

OVERVIEW

The focus of our study for this unit is the Ten Commandments. Your students need to begin by learning that God told Moses how the people of Israel should live, and Moses recorded these instructions in the first five books of the Old Testament. These laws teach us a great deal about the Old Testament society; but they also help us understand how we should live. God still expects His people to honor Him in their dealings with one another. The laws of the Old Testament teach us to obey God and respect the rights of our neighbors. Jesus and the Apostles reinforced these doctrines in the New Testament, and they form the foundation of modern Christian ethics.

Teachers will find it interesting to note that the principles that stood behind the laws recorded in the Bible are in

marked contrast to those behind other Near East laws. The laws of God are based upon the revealed character and purpose of God himself, rather than being the political whim of a human king or the mere traditions of a state. The Bible's laws point toward a goal — God's redemption of mankind.

You will notice that we have grouped selected commandments into four lessons at the learning level of the primary student. The four topics to be addressed are: honoring God, being careful what we say, being happy with what we have, and learning to respect and obey our parents and others in authority. These are important instructions for the children to understand, and it is vital that they understand these are teachings of the Bible and must not be regarded lightly.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Purchase a number of white ping-pong balls. On each one write a word describing the way God wants us to live; for example, we must be honest, truthful, obedient, prayerful, and kind, and we must not steal, covet, lie, or speak evil of others. Mix up the balls in a see-through bowl. For your review have the children take turns choosing a ball and reading the words to everyone. They must then explain or give an example of the same. They may then choose a treat from a basket in which you have placed small prizes such as pieces of candy, stickers, or small toys.

Cut from construction paper two sets of "blocks," numbered from one to ten (see Patterns). Divide your students into two teams and ask them questions about the Ten Commandments. For each correct answer given, add a block to form a pyramid for the answering team (put it together as shown in pattern). The first team to get their pyramid completed with the number one on top is the winner.

Make the theme for your review, "How to Bee-have." Prepare as many little honeybee markers as you will need (see Patterns). On a large sheet of posterboard make a

list of words illustrating what God wants us to be (or not be).

Sample list:

kind	disobedient	loving
selfish	ugly	a thief
good	polite	lazy
obedient	honest	respectful
unkind	angry	rude
humble	cheerful	gracious
patient	covetous	helpful

Run a strip of double-stick tape down the left side of each column of words so the bees can be attached. Let students take turns placing a bee in front of the good words. As a competition game, prepare two identical lists and divide the group into two teams. Put the bees in a dish and let the students, in relay fashion, choose a bee, place it in front of a word, and then let the next person do the same until all have had an opportunity. The team that finishes first (and correctly) wins the game.

Quote Luke 11:28 to your class: "Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Tell the children that this promise was given by Jesus himself. Help them play a game where the object is to receive a blessing (see Patterns). Have different colors of buttons that the chil-

dren can use as playing markers. All players begin in the middle space. The first player spins the direction spinner and moves his button one space in the direction shown on the spinner. Have the children take turns spinning and moving until, at last, one player arrives at the edge of the board and is "blessed."

CONTEST IDEAS

Give memory verse keys as rewards for good actions on each Sunday (see Patterns). Purchase a small chain for each child, or use yarn to represent a key chain. Copy the key patterns onto heavy paper (use a different color for each Sunday or a different color for each action). Cut out the keys and punch a hole where indicated. Each Sunday give out the appropriate keys for such things as attendance, bringing Bible, knowing memory verse, and doing missionary work.

Prepare a Ten-Commandments file folder for each child (see Patterns). On the tab of the folder write the title, GOD TELLS US HOW TO LIVE. Copy the picture of Moses and also the four tables of stone with the memory verses. Open the file folder and put the picture of Moses on the right-hand side. Place the four tables of stone on the left-hand side. Be careful to glue only around the edges so that you will have four pockets in which the children can place the strips of paper they earn for different actions during the month. Cut these strips (1" x 3") from different colors of paper. Each color will represent an action: red — attendance, blue — Bible, yellow — memory verse, green — missionary, etc.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Title your board BE A BUSY BEE AND LEARN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (see Patterns). Make a blue sky background and green grass. Put ten large flowers, in your choice of colors, across the grass. In the center of each flower, write one of the Commandments. Put a bee in the sky hovering over the flowers.

Place a large red heart in the top center of your board (see Patterns). Cut a hinged flap in the heart and place a picture of Jesus underneath. On the lower center part of your board place the words, THE RIGHT WAY TO LIVE. Make large arrows coming from the heart to point to each corner of the board. In these corners place four pictures: one of a child praying, one showing two children talking, one of a child looking at something another child is holding, and one of a child and a parent. Under each picture put in small type the appropriate words: I will honor God, I will be careful what I say, I will not covet or steal, I will obey.

Prepare a rainbow of commandments for your board (see Patterns). Write the title, GOD TELLS US HOW TO LIVE, on a tree in the outdoor scene which includes grass and

a river or lake and children. Across a blue sky put a rainbow of ten colors or shades. On each strip write one of the Commandments.

CHART IDEAS

For each of your students make a copy of "Understanding God's Commandments" (see Patterns). Each Sunday read through the Commandments you are studying at that time. Have the students compare the Bible version and its meaning. When the students feel they really understand a Commandment let them use a highlight pen to mark that Commandment.

Make a lesson wheel for each child (see Patterns). Attach the top section to the illustrated circle with a paper fastener. By the end of this unit each student should be able to turn his lesson wheel to any of the four illustrations and tell you which of God's Commandments it represents.

Accordion-fold a sheet of paper. Write the Commandments in succession on separate folds. Place a dove at each of the top corners (see Patterns). This can be unfolded as the class learns each of the Commandments. If you make one for each student in the class, they may be taken home after all are learned.

Make small cone people, one to represent each child in your class (see Patterns). On the front of each, paste a photo of one of your students for the face. Also prepare a couple of extra figures using faces cut from catalogs or photos of people not familiar to your students. Use this set of dolls throughout the unit to represent present-day examples of behavior. Be sure to use your students as the positive characters in each situation, and the unfamiliar figures as the negative characters.

UNIT SONGS

"Open My Eyes That I May See"
"Take My Life and Let It Be"
"Be Careful, Little Tongue, What You Say"
"My Hands Belong to You"
"Oh, Be Thankful for the Good Things That You've Got"
"Mansion Over the Hilltop"
"On Monday I Am Happy, On Tuesday Full of Joy"

UNIT SUPPORT MATERIAL

Jesus and the Ten Commandments — Pict-o-graph, Standard Publishing
The Ten Commandments: Learning About God's Law — by Gloria Truit, Concordia
The Ten Commandments — Giant Coloring Strip Poster (eight 17" x 21" panels), Concordia
Andy Churchmouse Classroom Pictures to Color — Christian Concepts, Gospel Publishing