

Elementary 1

Year 3 Book 1



The Ten Commandments

Teacher's Guide & Student Worksheets

*This Teacher's Guide is dedicated to those  
who serve God in the children's ministry.*

*May God continue to grant you wisdom  
and strength to impact the future generations.*



*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in  
that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

*(Romans 5:8)*

# The Ten Commandments

## Contents

<b>Lesson Index</b>	i
<b>Unit Introduction</b>	ii
<b>How to Use This Teacher's Guide</b>	iii-iv
<b>Your Teaching Procedures &amp; Teaching with Music/Bible Dramatics</b>	v
<b>Understanding Your Students</b>	vi
<b>Memory Verses</b>	vii

## Lesson Index

Lesson 1	One True God	1-10
Lesson 2	Do Not Worship Idols	11-21
Lesson 3	God's Name Is Holy	22-31
Lesson 4	The Holy Sabbath	32-44
Lesson 5	Filial Piety	45-57
Lesson 6	Do Not Murder	58-67
Lesson 7	Do Not Commit Adultery	68-78
Lesson 8	Do Not Steal	79-88
Lesson 9	Do Not Give False Testimony	89-98
Lesson 10	Do Not Covet	99-108
Lesson 11	The Life of Job	109-121
Lesson 12	The Fruit of the Holy Spirit	122-135
Lesson 13	Review	136-142

All Scripture is quoted in NKJV unless otherwise indicated.

Revised November 2014.

*Always pray for your students and pray for the wisdom to teach!*

## UNIT INTRODUCTION

---

Welcome to another exciting opportunity to share with your students the wonderful news of God's love. This quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments. They are the laws of love: love for God and love for others. Every lesson underlines the importance of obeying God and shows the consequences of breaking God's commandments. The life of Job also demonstrates how one person remained faithful to God even when the suffering was unbearable.

As you teach this unit, let the theme of each lesson shine through. Make the stories come alive so that the children can fully understand and appreciate the teaching. They depend on us, the teacher, to interpret the stories for them. Invite them to learn about God, to share God's love with others, and to grow ever stronger in their faith.

We hope that you will enjoy growing with the elementary class as you teach them more about the word of God. Enjoy this new quarter and experience the good news with all the wonder and awe of six to eight-year-olds.

### The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.

Why were the Ten Commandments necessary for the Israelites? They had just come out of Egypt, a land of many gods and idols. It was common for the people there to worship as many gods as possible to gain the maximum amount of blessings. But God is the only true God. The awesome display of light and sound at Mount Sinai showed the Israelites God's power and authority.

In the first four commandments, God emphasized the importance of obeying and following Him. To do anything else would be a sin. The remaining six commandments dealt with the law of love. Yet, even after witnessing God's love for them, many Israelites still chose to disobey Him and as a result, they were punished.

Today, these commandments are still applicable to our lives. God gave the Ten Commandments to help us obey Him. They are not just laws of the Old Testament. Jesus personally came to earth to show people what it meant to truly keep God's laws, that is, doing things that draw people closer to God. God promises to bless those who follow Him—this is an everlasting covenant. Today, we can all feel God's love and protection. The only thing we need to do is to draw near to Him every day of our lives. God keeps all of His promises, and He will bless us when we choose to follow in His ways. Instead of letting the laws become a burden, let them be a way to feel God's presence in our lives. They can lift our hearts and bring blessings to all who fulfill them.

### Unit Objectives

- To learn how to fear God
- To understand that the commandments help us to obey God
- To learn how to act like a true Christian

**Welcome to the world of six to eight-year-olds!**

**This is a wonderful age range to be teaching, as students are beginning to mature and understand more about the world around them. However, they haven't all grown up yet and still need your gentle nurturing to guide them.**

Although your students are beginning to read, they still learn in a variety of ways, including visually, kinesthetically, and aurally. This means that it will be very important to use pictures and hands-on experiences as you tell the story in order to meet the needs of all the students in the classroom. Visuals are always good reminders at any level because they help the students make connections to the story and retain information. Hands-on activities will help the students to internalize the lessons and make them more meaningful. For example, the students can be involved in making the scenes for the days of creation. This will help them remember what happened much better than just through a telling of the story. It is also vital to ask students to share what they have learned at the end of each lesson. By letting your students retell the information they have heard, you will be able to see what they really understood, and what might need to be revisited before you move on. Knowledge and learning need to be built upon what they have already grasped. Only then can the students build on their experiences and make the proper connections in future lessons. Furthermore, since they are learning to read, it is vital to ask students to read at least one verse from the Bible each week during class time. You can assist them if they are having difficulty with **vocabulary** words, but this is the time to help them practice turning to the right section of the Bible they are studying. This is a great habit to build up now.

This book is designed to be teacher-and-student friendly, and each lesson follows the same structure. As in all of the textbooks, there are sections before the start of the lesson that give relevant Bible background information. Take the time to review the **Before You Teach** and **Understanding Your Students** sections to familiarize yourself with the teachings since your students are more sophisticated and require more than just an overview of the Bible story. Occasionally, there will be some teaching ideas included. These are simply suggestions you may want to consider as you prepare your lesson. Of course, you can adapt them as you need for your class and students. The story section is a retelling of what is recorded in the Bible.

*“Him we preach,  
warning  
every man  
and teaching  
every man  
in all wisdom,  
that we may  
present every  
man perfect in  
Christ Jesus.”*

*—Colossians 1:28*

Vocabulary

Before You Teach

Understanding  
Your Students

You are encouraged to read it through, but remember to be ready to share the words of God, not to literally read from the pages of this guide. Please also review the story by using the questions provided in the **Check for Understanding** section. This will give you a good idea of how much the students understand. You can ask each question directly or use other creative ways to have students share their answers.

Check for Understanding

A key indicator to a successful lesson is what the lesson means to each student. What have they walked away with and how can they apply what they have learned? The lesson is not complete until you have shared the discussion questions found in the **Spiritual Teaching and Life Application** section. You want your students to leave the class with the feeling that they want to draw even closer to God through specific actions they can take. Help them make goals and be sure to encourage them in their efforts.

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

The last thing you will need to consider for class time is which **activities** will be best for your group of students. Each lesson contains several from which to choose. Again, depending on the time and the abilities of your class, you may choose to do one or two to reinforce the teachings of the lesson.

Activity

Since your students are learning to read and write, this guide has included a **Homework Assignment** section. This serves to remind the students of God's word at home during the week. There is **no** separate student workbook so you are encouraged to photocopy the homework sheets. The students can store their work in a binder or file folder. You can provide homework each week for them to insert in their folder or reproduce all twelve lessons at the beginning of each new quarter. Review the homework before they leave class so that the students are aware of what to complete and how to do it. You may need to brainstorm ideas for the life application questions so that the students have something to build on when they return home. All teachers need to consistently check homework to make this a useful tool and a good extension of the teachings. The students are also encouraged, via the homework assignment, to develop a daily Bible reading and prayer devotional time. Be sure the parents are aware of this expectation. A partnership between the teachers and parents will greatly facilitate the growing faith of the students.

Homework Assignment

Remember that your students are still growing. There are so many things they can do independently, but there are areas where they need extra support. Take time to get to know each of your students so that you can meet their needs. Most importantly, remember to allow time for yourself to grow closer to God as you help your students develop their relationship with Him!

You can't do **MORE** for your students until you have knelt down and **PRAYED** for each of them daily.

*“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.”*  
—Zechariah 4:6

## YOUR TEACHING PROCEDURES

1

### Hymnal Worship (10-15 minutes)

**Purpose:** To help the students praise God through hymnal worship.

**Procedure:** Always start a session in the name of our Lord Jesus. The teacher or assistants will then lead the students in simple hymns or action rhymes.

Be Prepared

Be Organized

Be Flexible

2

### In-Class Worship (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** To let the students hear a Bible story and respond to its teachings.

**Procedure:** Say a short prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus. There are 3 steps in the In-Class Worship procedure. They are:

- 1) Bible Story
- 2) Check for Understanding
- 3) Spiritual Teaching and Life Application

Do not forget to explain the key vocabulary words and practice the memory verse, which are listed in each lesson.

3

### Bible Learning Activity (10-15 minutes)

**Purpose:** To help your students become familiar with the word of God is part of a teacher's mission, but an equally important part of the job is to help the students put the word of God to work in their own lives. The activities have been planned to encourage your students to act upon what they have learned.

**Procedure:** Let the students work on the activities. If the activities require group involvement or cutting and pasting, be sure to have assistant teachers. We have come up with a variety of activities, as well as optional ones. Please see what suits your students' needs. End the activity with a concluding prayer.

### Teaching with Music

Do your students seem to enjoy music more than the lesson itself? Music can be an effective teaching technique within a lesson.

- Hymns that tell stories can enhance your lessons.
- Many students learn more easily if they can “feel” the material you are teaching. Choose hymns with motions and physical movement.
- Students who do not show emotion easily may find it easier to express themselves through hymns.

#### Keep these in mind when using music with your students:

- Learn the hymns before you teach them.
- Sing the new hymn to the students before you have them sing it.
- Sing the hymn in a variety of ways—assign parts, use rhythmic instruments, move around, and so on.

### Teaching with Bible Dramatics

- Playacting can make Bible stories come alive for the students.
- Let the students volunteer for the roles they want.
- Encourage students to think about the mood, the setting, the characters, and their expressions and motives. They all contribute to making the story come alive.
- Encourage creativity. Acting out Bible stories can help students see the story and characters in a new way.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

### Elementary 1 (Ages 6-8)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
<p><b>Body</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Still developing/growing, though the pace is slowing</li> <li>2. Still get tired easily</li> <li>3. No longer play alone; can adapt to group games or activities</li> </ol>	<p>Increase levels of difficulty in activities as the students become more able physically Do not stretch one activity for too long; find a balance between times of quietness and action Encourage student involvement with more cooperative group games; show respect to everyone</p>
<p><b>Mind</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have strong sense of imagination</li> <li>2. Still think according to words on paper; cannot accept abstract ideas</li> <li>3. Concept of space and time is still limited</li> <li>4. Reading ability is gradually strengthening</li> <li>5. Have excellent memory</li> <li>6. Deductive thinking is still limited</li> </ol>	<p>Encourage the use of imagination, but help students to discern fact from fiction Use familiar similes and parallels to which students can relate, just like how Jesus used the familiar to teach the unfamiliar Be careful when describing time and space Encourage the reading of books that promote spirituality Encourage the memorization of Bible verses Repeat content regarding abstract terms and truths</p>
<p><b>Mood</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very sensitive; can have outbursts of emotion</li> <li>2. At the adorable stage: like to please teachers and receive praise</li> <li>3. Full of compassion and care for others</li> <li>4. Still tend to fear and withdraw</li> </ol>	<p>Get excited or saddened easily Easy to discipline, but pay special attention to giving praise and encouragement Nurture students to help, serve, and treat others fairly Provide a sense of security</p>
<p><b>Social Skills</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make friends easily</li> <li>2. Like to please adults</li> <li>3. Like to cooperate and do not like to compete</li> <li>4. Have good social skills; desire acceptance from others</li> <li>5. Still like to quarrel with friends; always change their best friends</li> </ol>	<p>Help them to establish friendships Establish a student-teacher relationship Promote cooperation by offering group projects/activities Be careful not to promote hypocrisy when teaching Place emphasis on teaching students to love one another; encourage a giving spirit instead of a selfish one</p>
<p><b>Spirituality</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have a simple faith, are interested in a life of faith; will initiate prayer</li> <li>2. Curious about death and heaven</li> <li>3. Like to attend RE classes</li> <li>4. Are learning to differentiate between real biblical stories and fictional fairy tales or legends</li> <li>5. Are learning the moral teachings of good and evil</li> <li>6. All spiritual experiences come from imitating adults</li> </ol>	<p>Use a systematic way of teaching faith and the truth; encourage prayer Simply explain the truth of salvation Nurture their interest in Bible reading and church activities Emphasize that the Bible contains the words of God and is not a common book, but one inspired and written by God Emphasize the moral aspects of the Bible Set a good example; share more spiritual experiences with students</p>

## MEMORY VERSES

---

**E1 Year 3 Book 1**

**September, October, November**

1. "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God." (Isaiah 44:6b)
2. "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him." (1 Corinthians 8:6a)
3. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt." (Colossians 4:6a)
4. "And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.'" (Mark 2:27)
5. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)
6. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." (Luke 6:27b)
7. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)
8. "Let him who stole steal no longer." (Ephesians 4:28a)
9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)
10. "You shall not covet." (Exodus 20:17a)
11. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God." (Romans 8:28a)
12. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

# LESSON 1

## ONE TRUE GOD

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Laws

Many Old Testament laws were similar to laws in other ancient societies, which were concerned with the everyday happenings of life. These laws were outlined as case laws—guidance was given for specific situations with regards to how the dispute should be solved. These laws set a precedent for similar cases. The Old Testament also contains absolute laws. The Ten Commandments fall into this second category of laws. Specific things were prohibited without any further qualification or explanation.

#### The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments (also called the Decalogue) were given to Moses, the great leader of the Hebrews, over 3,000 years ago after the Hebrews were delivered from slavery in Egypt. While the Law of Moses is made up of over 600 rules, the Ten Commandments is a succinct list of rules from which the others were developed. The commandments are recorded in two chapters of the Scriptures: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Jewish tradition views the Law as a gift from God, not an option or curse.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

In this day and age, students are taught to be more open-minded and accepting of other races, cultures, and beliefs. While this attitude should be encouraged, faith is one thing that can never be compromised. There is only one true God and He is Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can offer salvation and eternal life.

It may be confusing for your students when they are exposed to the many different religious beliefs in school. The friends that they have may worship different gods, yet seem to be perfectly nice people. Essentially, they appear to be pursuing after God, perhaps in various and misleading ways. Why shouldn't your students accept their beliefs like they accept their cultures?

It is important to let your students understand that they are not being narrow-minded when it comes to their faith in God. While they should not argue or pick a fight with their friends over religious beliefs, it is crucial that they not be swayed by their friends. As Joshua said when he spoke to the Israelites, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." People are free to make their own choices and the choice for your students should be clear at all times.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 19; 20:3; 32-33:6

### BIBLE TRUTH

There is only one true God—the Lord Jesus Christ.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand the difference between false gods and the one true God.

### MEMORY VERSE

"I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God."

(Isaiah 44:6b)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, we are about to begin a new quarter. In this quarter, we are going to learn about Your commandments. We know that You have given us the commandments to help us do the right things. We know that if we follow Your commandments in spirit and in truth, You will reward us and take us back to the heavenly kingdom one day. Thank You, Lord, for Your grace and mercy. Hallelujah! Amen.

## REVIEW

### Elementary 1 Year 2 Book 4: Who Is Jesus?

Lesson 1: Who Is Jesus?  
 Lesson 2: Jesus Walks on Water  
 Lesson 3: Jesus Heals the Demon-Possessed Man  
 Lesson 4: The Paralyzed Man Is Healed  
 Lesson 5: Zacchaeus Is Sorry  
 Lesson 6: Four Good Friends  
 Lesson 7: Mary and Martha Seek Help  
 Lesson 8: Who Is My Neighbor?  
 Lesson 9: The Wise and Foolish Builders  
 Lesson 10: The Honored Guest  
 Lesson 11: The Two Sons  
 Lesson 12: The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin  
 Lesson 13: Review

Last year, we learned many wonderful stories about some of the people in the Bible. We learned about the lives of prophets Elijah and Elisha. We also heard stories about great kings, such as David and Solomon, as well as other faithful followers of God, including Esther and Daniel. During the last quarter, we concentrated on learning about Jesus and His powerful teachings while He was still preaching on earth. All these great figures of faith taught us to obey God at all times. It is important for us to build our faith and trust in God's power and protection because He is always there to help us and bless us when we choose to follow Him. Let us apply the stories we have learned to our lives so that we can give all glory to God.

## VOCABULARY

**calf:** a young cow  
**invisible:** unable to be seen  
**abide:** to stay with, to remain

## BIBLE STORY

### Introduction

Boys and girls, have you ever heard anything about the Ten Commandments? If so, what do you know about them? [Have students do a pair-and-share, turning to their neighbor and sharing what they know about the Ten Commandments. Give them 1-2 minutes, and then resume class. Ask a few pairs to share what they talked about.] As you know, the Ten Commandments were the first rules God gave to the Israelites to follow. Does anyone know what the first commandment is? [Pause for students to respond.] The first commandment is "You shall have no other gods before Me." What does this mean? [Encourage students to respond.] Well, God wants us to put Him first in our lives and above all things in our hearts—above our toys and even our friends. In today's story, we are going to learn about how God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses and how important it is to worship the one true God in the universe!

### God Calls Moses

After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they traveled and lived in the desert. During this time, God provided them with manna and water every day so that they would not be hungry.

One day, God spoke to Moses. He called him up to a mountain and said, "You and all the people have seen what I did to Egypt and how I brought you out of the land.

If you promise to obey and follow Me, I will make you a great nation. Go and tell this to the Israelites."

Moses went down the mountain and told the people what God said to him. The people answered, "We will do what God tells us." Moses brought their answer back to God.

When God heard this response, He spoke again, saying, "In three days, I will appear to the Israelites in a thick cloud on Mount Sinai. Tell them to prepare to meet Me. But be careful and do not go near the mountain or touch it because anyone who touches the mountain will die. Wait until you hear a trumpet sound before you come close to the mountain."

So Moses reported all this to the Israelites. For the next two days, everyone washed their bodies and clothes, preparing themselves to meet God.

### God Appears

On the third day, very early in the morning, the people heard thunder and saw lightning. They were a little scared. But Moses led them out of their tents and everyone gathered near the foot of the mountain and waited for God to appear. When they looked up, they saw a thick cloud cover the mountain. Fire burst out and the sound of a trumpet blast could be heard. Then God called Moses and told him to go up to the top of Mount Sinai. God wanted to give the people His rules and commandments

since they had all promised to obey and follow Him. The people waited at the bottom of the mountain as Moses went up.

### **The First Commandment**

While Moses was up on the mountain, God gave him the Ten Commandments for the Israelites to follow. The first commandment was “You shall have no other gods before Me.” God gave this commandment because He knew that there were many people who worshipped false gods. Some people worshipped things like the sun, the moon, and the stars. Some believed that there were gods who controlled the wind, earth, fire, and water. These people thought that if they worshipped these gods, they would be protected. But they all forgot one thing: God is the Creator of the universe. Instead of worshipping the Creator, they were worshipping false gods that were creations of man and therefore powerless.

### **God the Creator**

In the Book of Genesis, it says that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and in seven days, God gave the world light and made all the animals. Everything was created through God by His mighty power. God is also the Creator of human beings. In Psalm 139:16, it states that God knew everything in the world even before anyone was born, and He knows what will happen to all of them in the future. God knows everyone’s thoughts and words. No one can hide from Him because each person’s life is in His control.

### **God Is Invisible**

So, Moses went up to Mount Sinai to talk with God and receive His commandments. Guess what the Israelites were doing down at the bottom of the mountain? They were waiting for Moses to return. They waited and waited, but he still had not returned, so they became very impatient.

The Israelites said to Aaron, the brother of Moses, “We don’t know what has happened to Moses. Make a god for us so that we can see it and follow it.”

Boys and girls, didn’t they know that God is invisible? Didn’t they know that the mighty God who brought them out of Egypt was the one true God that they should worship? Yes, they knew, but the people wanted something they could see in order to make them feel better.

Aaron listened to them and created a golden calf for them to worship. Oh, what a big mistake they made! At the same time that God was giving the command only to worship Him, the people at the foot of the mountain were dancing around and worshipping this new golden calf.

Even though God cannot be seen, He still knows everything. When God realized what the Israelites had done, He was very angry and disappointed.

“Go down and see what the people have done,” God said to Moses. “They have made a golden calf and are

worshipping it.”

Moses couldn’t believe what he had heard. He quickly went down the mountain and into the camp. When he saw the golden calf, he was shocked and angry. The people had just promised to follow God and now they were already disobeying Him. Moses immediately picked up the calf and threw it into the fire. Then, he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

Moses said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

Aaron answered, “These people are evil. They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control. He asked all the Levites to rally with him. The Levites were like priests. Priests are like our ministers today. They serve God with all their hearts.

Moses told the Levites to strap swords to their sides. After that, they were to go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor. The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the men were killed. Then Moses said, “You have been set apart to the Lord today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day.”

The next day, Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin, but now I will go up to the Lord. Perhaps I can ask God to forgive your sin.”

So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin.”

The Lord replied to Moses that the time would come for Him to punish them for their sin. And the Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf that Aaron had made.

### **The Only True God**

God is almighty and powerful. He knows everyone’s thoughts and actions, just like the way He knew that the Israelites were sinning. Even though the Israelites had promised to obey God, they quickly turned away and started worshipping a golden calf. God gave the people the first commandment to worship Him alone, because only He can give us salvation and eternal life.

Boys and girls, do you sometimes find it difficult to believe that God is loving and guiding you every day because you can’t see Him with your eyes? Whenever you feel like you don’t know where God is, stop what you are doing and count your blessings from God. Kneel down

and pray, listen to your heart, and you will find that God abides with you every second of your life. Let's feel God with our heart and worship Him with our actions! Think

about what you can do to worship this one true God in your everyday life.

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Where did Moses go to receive the Ten Commandments from God?** Mount Sinai.
2. **What was the first commandment God gave to Moses?** "You shall have no other gods before Me."
3. **Why did God want to give the Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites?** God wanted to give the people His commandments since they had all promised to obey and follow Him.
4. **What happened after the Israelites had been waiting for Moses for a long time?** They became impatient and forgot who the one true God was.
5. **What did the Israelites ask Aaron to do?** They asked Aaron to make them a golden calf for them to worship.
6. **What did Moses do after he found out that the Israelites were worshipping an idol?** He was shocked and angry. Moses immediately picked up the calf and threw it into the fire.
7. **There so many different gods that other people believe in. What should your attitude be about these gods?** We should be confident that there is only one god: our God.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God." (Isaiah 44:6b)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### 1. God is the Creator

Without turning to it, can you tell me the first verse of the Bible? [Let students answer.] "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This is the first verse in the Bible, in Genesis 1:1. Here, it tells us that God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. What does this mean to you? What does "creator" mean? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] A "creator" is a person who brings something into existence. In other words, God made this world. Without Him, nothing would exist, because everything within the heavens and the earth is part of His creation.

God is the Creator of all things, both living and non-living. Not only did He create all humans and animals, He also created nature and everything in it, including mountains, river, clouds, rocks, etc. Now, look around you. What do you see? [Let each student name one thing.] Hebrews 3:4 says, "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God." It is indeed amazing to know that God is the Creator of everything we see. Without God, we would not exist, nor would we have this beautiful world in which to live. Next time, when you see beautiful scenery, think about how amazing it is for God to have created this world on His own. If God hadn't created animals or plants,

we would not have any food to eat. If God hadn't made the sun, we would not only be living in darkness, we would also freeze to death. God made our lives possible and not lacking. Can you see God's amazing work around you?

Since God has created such a beautiful world for us, we should appreciate Him and worship Him for His greatness. We should always come before Him with a heart of obedience and worship.

The Israelites did not have the faith to believe that God was their Creator. All they had to do was to look around them to realize that this world is God's masterpiece. Sadly, they wanted to worship something that they could see, which is why they made a golden calf. Today, we should not follow the same path that the Israelites foolishly took. If we truly appreciate God as our Creator, we can experience Him simply by looking outside and seeing this beautiful world He has made for us. God has given us the commandment, "You shall have no other gods before Me." This commandment shouldn't be difficult to follow. There is only one God, the true God we worship, who is the mighty Creator of all things.

## 2. God is the Ruler

Being the Creator, God has absolute power over His creations. In other words, He is also the Ruler over all things. What does it mean when I say that God is the Ruler? Well, a “ruler” is the same as a king. What comes to your mind when you think about kings? [Let students think and answer.] A king has sole power and authority over his kingdom. His people have to listen to him and follow whatever he says. He can reward or punish someone. When people see him, they bow down and give praise to him. So, to say that God is our Ruler means that God is our King, and we are His people! Let’s read a passage from the Bible. Turn to Psalm 95:3-7. [Ask students to read aloud together.]

*“For the LORD is the great God,  
And the great King above all gods.  
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;  
The heights of the hills are His also.  
The sea is His, for He made it;  
And His hands formed the dry land.  
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.  
For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand.”*

Here, the Bible says that God is “the great King above all gods.” We are to worship and bow down to Him. While there are many authorities in this world, God is our ultimate Ruler. He is the only authority who can claim everything as His possessions, just as this passage tells us. 2 Chronicles 20:6 also says, “O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?” God rules over all the kingdoms and nations. Ultimately, there is only one kingdom, God’s kingdom of heaven, which will last forever, because its Ruler and King is our everlasting God. Moreover, the passage we just read in Psalm 95 also tells us that “we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” In other words, we are under God’s authority, and therefore, we must obey His commandments. Just as people in the past praised and feared their kings, we need to constantly praise God and fear Him. Today, we know that God has given us His laws through the Scripture. Do we follow them just as we would follow a king’s commands? Do we worship, praise, and show Him reverence because He is our Ruler?

## 3. God is the Savior

We have all heard that God is our Savior. He has a plan, called “salvation,” for us. What do you know about this plan? [Let students think, and then discuss their answers.] Firstly, let’s look at a very famous verse in the Bible in John 3:16-17 [ask your students to read aloud together with you.]: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” Two thousand some years ago, God sent His Son to this world. Do you remember His name? [Let students answer.] Jesus, the Son of God! God sent us His Son to sacrifice His life for our sins so that through Him we can receive salvation, reaching God’s presence at last. He is our only Savior and without Him, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

Now that we know that God had already laid out His plan for us thousands of years ago, let’s find out what the Bible tells us about salvation according to Jesus Himself. Let’s turn to a few verses in the Bible [write them on the board as your students read or in advance, before the lesson begins]:

### 1. Mark 16:16

“He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

### 2. Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said to them, ‘**Repent**, and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**’”

### 3. John 3:5

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

From the verses we have just read, we can see a few things that Jesus said we must do to receive His salvation. What are they? [Circle the bold words/phrases above on the board as the students point them out.]

1. Firstly, Mark 16:16 stresses that we must first believe in Christ. What does it mean to believe? Believing in Christ doesn’t only mean to believe that God exists. Rather, it means to believe that He is our Savior and that He is able to give us eternal life in His kingdom.
2. Secondly, Acts 2:38 says that we must repent. Can anyone tell me what “repent” means? [Let students answer.] To repent means to admit to God our past wrongs, that is, things that we have done against His word, wisdom, and will. Repentance allows us to make a determination to follow God.

3. Thirdly, the requirement for salvation is written in all three of the verses we have just read. What is it? [Let students answer.] We need to be baptized! Mark 16:16 says, "He who [...] is baptized will be saved." Acts 2:38 says, "Let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." John 3:5 continues, saying, "Unless one is born of water [...], he cannot enter the kingdom of God." After Jesus died on the cross, His disciples went to different places to preach the gospel and baptize many who believed and repented. Therefore, we know that baptism is essential to entering the kingdom of God.
4. Lastly, John 3:5 tells us that we must also be born of the Spirit. What does that mean? [Let students think, and then go over their answers.] To be born of the Spirit means to receive the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus left the earth, He told His disciples that His father would send them the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they could remember everything that He taught them and be empowered to preach the gospel. Without the Holy Spirit, His disciples would not have been able to preach His word by themselves. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that allowed them to preach without distractions, despite many difficulties. Likewise, we also need the Holy Spirit today to help us in our journey of faith so that we can reach God's presence at the end.

So, to recap, God is our Savior who has a plan for us to enter the kingdom of God. What is this plan called? [Let students answer.] Yes, salvation! And in order for us to receive salvation, what must we do? [Let students answer.] There are four things: **believe, repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.** Let me share a testimony with you:

Charles has been truth-seeking at True Jesus Church for about 2 years now. At first, he came to church with his

friend Joe only because he enjoyed going to RE classes, listening to Bible stories, and doing different kinds of activities. However, Charles gradually learned more about God as the Savior, and recently he has been reading the Bible more to learn about His salvation. Through his personal Bible reading and RE classes, he has come to fully believe that God is the Savior and that He has prepared for us a kingdom of heaven. After some serious consideration, Charles decided one day that he wanted to get baptized. He is very determined to become a follower of God. In his prayers, he told God that he realized how he had done many things against the teachings in the Bible, especially prior to coming to True Jesus Church. Before, he didn't know God and was not aware that he had sinned against God. But now that he had determined to follow God, Charles asked God for forgiveness, as well as the Holy Spirit, so that he could begin his journey of faith, striving forward to enter the kingdom of God. After a few months, Charles got baptized and received the Holy Spirit during the weekend of Spiritual Convocation. He was overjoyed and ready to obey the words of God.

#### Reflection Questions

- 1. Did Charles believe in Christ?** Yes, he believed that God was his Savior and that He had prepared salvation for him.
- 2. Did Charles repent?** Yes, he asked God for forgiveness in his prayers because he realized that he had done many things wrong in the past that were against the wisdom of God.
- 3. Did Charles get baptized and receive the Holy Spirit?** Yes, he was baptized and received the Holy Spirit during the weekend of Spiritual Convocation.

### 4. God is the Judge

Now that we know what we must do to enter the kingdom of God, you may ask, "Is that all? Whoever that believes, repents, is baptized, and has the Holy Spirit can receive eternal life?" Absolutely not. These are only the initial requirements for salvation. Ultimately, we will all need to face God, one by one, to see if we are qualified. Let's read Psalm 96:13: "For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth." Here, the Bible tells us that God will come judge us one day according to His righteousness. In other words, He will judge us according to whether or not we have been obeying His every commandment. This includes every deed and word that we have spoken. So we should not speak carelessly. Let's read another verse in Matthew 12:36: "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment." Thus, we must be careful of what we do and what we say

at all times. Even though we may have already believed in Christ, repented, received baptism and the Holy Spirit, it is still not guaranteed that we will enter the kingdom of God. When we get baptized, we also begin our walk with God, which is a lifelong journey. Only those who walk faithfully until the end of this journey will be able to pass the Judge, God Himself, and enter the kingdom of heaven. If we live a very unholy life, constantly disobeying the word of God, the Judge will not let us pass, even if we have already been baptized and received the Holy Spirit. Why? Because the Judge knows what unfaithful things we have done in our lives. Let me share a scenario with you:

When Evan was at school today, he got very angry because his friend Anthony accidentally spilled a bottle of water on his backpack, soaking all his books and homework. At that time, Anthony immediately apologized to Evan, but Evan didn't say one word back

to him because he was too angry. Later, as Evan was walking home from school, he began to think about what he could do to take revenge on Anthony. Finally, he came up with the idea to put glue on Anthony's chair as revenge. The next day, Evan waited until everyone had left the classroom for lunch to put glue on Anthony's chair. Suddenly, as the last person was leaving the classroom, Evan remembered what the Bible says about forgiving our enemies. He also remembered that God would judge his every action and deed. Even though he was very angry, Evan knew that God wanted him to obey Him at that time by forgiving Anthony. Therefore, Evan left the classroom, tossed away the glue in his hand and decided that he would obey the word of God. Instead of putting glue on Anthony's chair, Evan went to look for Anthony in the cafeteria. When he found him, Evan said, "I am sorry that I didn't say a word to you yesterday. I shouldn't have been so angry with you because of an accident. Don't worry about

what happened... My mom helped me dry my backpack and books. I can use them again!" That day, Evan went home and gave thanks to God that His word kept him from making a mistake. It'd have been a big mistake for Evan if he had actually put glue on Anthony's chair!

Students, God our Savior has already promised us His salvation. But in order for us to receive it, we must obey the word of God, including the Ten Commandments. Today, we learned that the first commandment is to have no other gods besides the one true God. How difficult is it for us to obey this commandment? If we acknowledge that God is the only God who created and rules us, who can give us eternal life, and who will judge us according our deeds and words, we would fear Him and worship no other gods. Boys and girls, is God your only God? Is following Him the most important thing in your life?

### HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. God
2. Mount Sinai; Ten Commandments
3. Aaron; golden calf
4. God is the Creator. Everything was created through Him.  
He died on the cross for us.  
He is almighty and powerful.  
God is perfect and has no sin.  
He can forgive our sins.  
He can give us eternal life.
5. Answers may vary.

## ACTIVITY

### 1 Ten Commandments Preview Game

**Objective:** To help students familiarize themselves with the Ten Commandments.

#### Materials

- 2 poster boards (prepared by teacher; see chart below)
- 2 sets of index cards with the key words written on them
- Tape

#### Instructions

1. Divide the students into two teams.
2. Show them the poster board on the wall. The Ten Commandments have been partially written out and the students have to fill in the blanks with the right key word(s). Give each team the mixed-up cards and some tape.
3. On your prompt of "ready, set, go," the teams will compete to be the first to fill in the missing words.

The Ten Commandments	Missing Key Words
1. You shall have no other gods before _____.	Me
2. You shall not bow down to _____ nor serve them.	idols
3. You shall not take _____ in vain.	the name of the Lord your God
4. Remember the _____, to keep it holy.	Sabbath day
5. Honor _____.	your father and your mother
6. You shall not _____.	murder
7. You shall not commit _____.	adultery
8. You shall not _____.	steal
9. You shall not _____ against your neighbor.	bear false witness
10. You shall not _____ that is your neighbor's.	covet anything

### 2 Memory Verse Challenge

**Objective:** To provide an opportunity to practice reciting today's memory verse.

#### Instructions

1. Before the activity, the teacher needs to prepare instructions on index cards. These instructions will tell the students how to recite the memory verse or what to do when reciting the memory verse. The instructions should vary; some examples are "rotate in a circle slowly," "stand on one leg," "pat your head," or "whisper it."
2. At the beginning of the activity, review the memory verse with the students a few times to make sure they remember it. The memory verse is: "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6b).
3. After the students have learned the memory verse, have each student come up one at a time to draw one of the index cards and do the activity listed on it while reciting the memory verse.

### 3 Remember the Commandments / Optional

**Objective:** To remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

#### Instructions

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. Once done, the teacher can put it on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**1. You shall have no other gods before Me.**"

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 1—One True God

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** There is only one true God—the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Lesson Objective:** To understand the difference between false gods and the one true God.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Isaiah 44:6b)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

Aaron    Mount Sinai    golden calf    Ten Commandments    God

## Fill In the Blank

1. Everyone's life is under the control of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Moses went up to \_\_\_\_\_ to get the \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
3. The Israelites asked \_\_\_\_\_ to make them a \_\_\_\_\_ to worship.

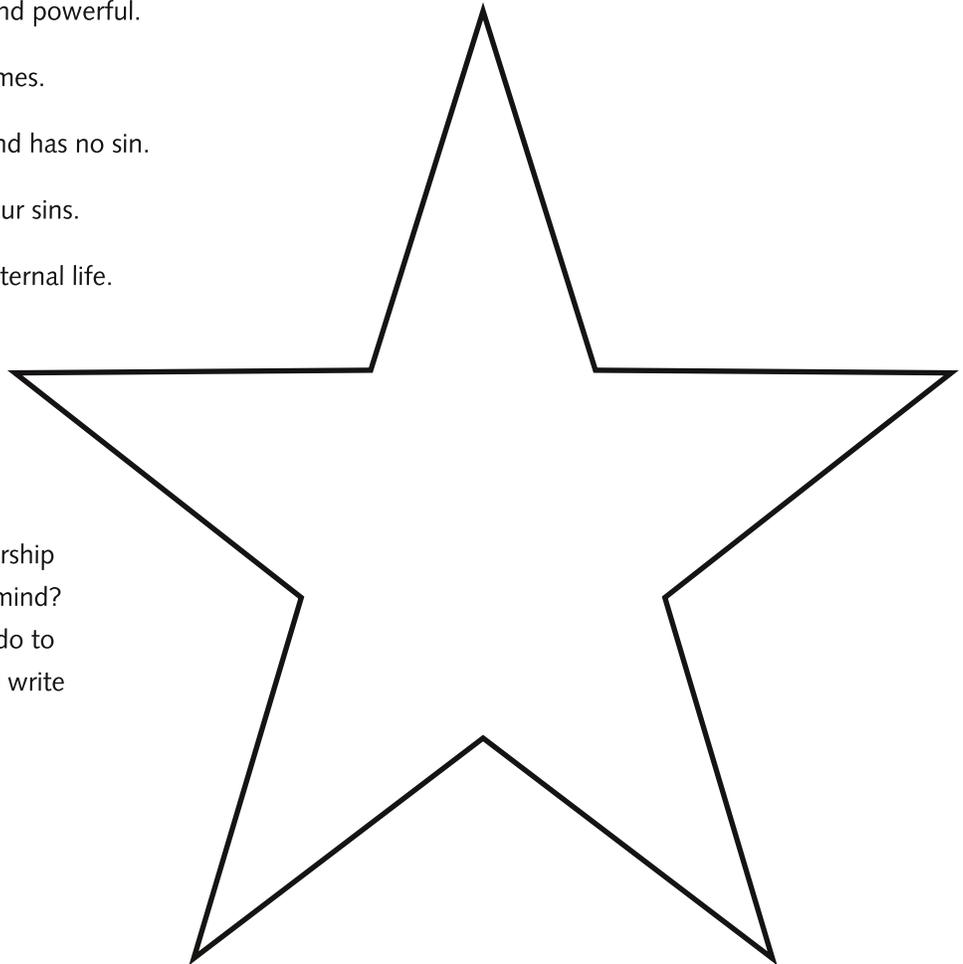
## Choose the Right One

4. Read the following sentences. Check the ones that are true about God.

- He knows only some things about us.
- God is the Creator. Everything was created through Him.
- He died on the cross for us.
- He is almighty and powerful.
- God sins sometimes.
- God is perfect and has no sin.
- He can forgive our sins.
- He can give us eternal life.

## Action! Action!

5. What can you do to truly worship God with all your heart and mind? Think of five things you can do to put God first in your life, and write them on the star.



# LESSON 2



## DO NOT WORSHIP IDOLS

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Idols

Idols were appealing to the Israelites. All the countries they defeated or conquered after wandering for forty years in the wilderness worshipped idols, and their idol worshipping always seemed to result in farming or military success. So, even though the Israelites were already worshipping God, it seemed only logical to them to worship idols as well for more power and reliance.

Idolatry as portrayed in the Old Testament seems strange in today's society. With the ever-sophisticated advances of modern science, few people still believe in the power of bronze statues and carved wood. However, idols still thrive in certain countries. Similar to those who sought idolatry in the Old Testament, some people today still believe that certain gods control events such as diseases and natural disasters. They believe that these gods must be kept happy at all times or else the people will suffer their wrath. Others treat idols as good luck charms and pray to them only in times of desperation.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Today, there are many different kinds of idolatry. While most people nowadays do not worship or pray to traditional idols, these people still practice different forms of idolatry. Anything that takes a person away from being faithful to God and His word can be considered an idol. For example, idolizing famous people, such as movie stars, or being preoccupied with television shows or computer games can take time away from God and be considered forms of idolatry. Another form of idolatry is the idolization of oneself. Instead of spending time communing with the Lord, people spend all their energy trying to reach their own goals and desires.

It is very easy for your students to fall into this type of idolatry. For example, at this age, your students may have many favorite cartoons or television stars. They may spend a considerable amount of time watching TV shows and might even be willing to give up just about anything to watch them. They may even purchase products related to their favorite shows and talk about them all the time.

It is important to help students understand what crossing the line to idolatry looks like—it is when you start to seek after what you like at all costs. Sometimes it is helpful just to talk about this issue and let them become aware of what they are doing. Survey how much time the students spend doing what they like versus how much time they spend with God. They may not realize how much time they are spending on things other than God until they see it on paper. It will help them put things into perspective.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 20:1-6  
1 Kings 12:25-33; 16:29-33; 22:29-40  
2 Kings 9:30-37  
Daniel 3

### BIBLE TRUTH

God commanded us not to worship idols.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To put God first in our lives.
2. To obey God's commands with faith and courage.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Yet for us there is one God,  
the Father, of whom are all things,  
and we for Him."

(1 Corinthians 8:6a)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord, we know that You are the only true God in this entire universe. Idols are meaningless and useless things. They cannot protect us and love us the way that You do. Please keep us from worshipping them and let us be completely devoted to You. May You keep us in Your love and grace every day. Hallelujah! Amen.

## REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the first commandment that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai. What is the first commandment? (To have no other gods before God.) God gave this commandment because He knows that many people like to worship idols that are not real. These idols cannot save us nor let us go to heaven. Only God has that power, and He wants everyone to be saved. While Moses was on the mountain, the people sinned and broke God's first commandment because they made a golden calf and began to worship it. In the end, Moses rebuked them and God sent a plague onto the people because of their sin. We learned that God is the only true God. He is the Creator of all things and the only one we should worship.

## VOCABULARY

**idol:** an object that is worshipped or adored

**furnace:** a structure in which heat is generated, usually with a fire

## BIBLE STORY

### The Second Commandment

Does anyone remember where Moses was when God gave him the Ten Commandments? (Mount Sinai.) When Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments from God, he listened very carefully because they were important. God was very serious when He gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. Why do you think God was very serious? God was very serious because He wanted His chosen people, the Israelites, to obey Him. God gave the first commandment to tell the Israelites that they could only worship Him. Then, God gave the second commandment. Let's find out what the second commandment is. Let's turn to Exodus 20:4-5a. [Have a student read the verses aloud.] God said, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them."

These verses record that it is wrong to make or worship idols. Do you know what an idol is? Discuss. (It's okay if the students only mention tangible idols. Non-tangible idols are mentioned in the Life Application section.)

It is wrong to worship idols because when people worship idols, they cannot be truly faithful to God. He is the only true God and that is why people should only worship Him and nothing else. Also, idols are not God. God also said that if the people disobeyed Him, they would be severely punished and would not be blessed by God.

### Idol-Worshippers

Even though God gave the Israelites this commandment not to worship idols, not everyone obeyed God. There were still many people who chose to disobey Him. Some of them were even kings. There were two kings in the northern kingdom of Israel who were famous for

worshipping idols. Their names were King Jeroboam and King Ahab. King Jeroboam even stopped the Israelites from worshipping in Jerusalem by setting up two golden calves in Dan and Bethel. God abandoned him and the kingdom of Israel because they chose to follow idols.

King Ahab married the evil Jezebel, and she introduced the idol Baal to the Israelites. King Ahab rebuilt the idol worship places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal, and he bowed down to worship them. Eventually, both King Ahab and Queen Jezebel died terrible deaths: Ahab was killed during a battle even though he tried to disguise himself, and Jezebel was trampled by a horse and her flesh eaten by dogs. They were both punished harshly for worshipping idols and leaving God.

### Worshippers of God

However, not everyone disobeyed God. Many people knew that God was the only true God, so they followed His teachings. Three well-known people who obeyed God were Daniel's three friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. They risked their lives in order to obey God. They were taken as prisoners from Judah to Babylon. The king of Babylon was an idol worshipper named Nebuchadnezzar.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar decided to build a giant golden statue that was ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He wanted everyone to worship it whenever he played certain music. The Babylonians obeyed and bowed down before the statue when they heard that music. But Daniel's three friends would not. They knew that it was wrong to worship idols. When others found out, they reported it to the king. He was very angry when he learned that they had not obeyed his orders.

The king had them brought before him, and he gave them one last chance to change their minds. If they still

refused, then he would throw them into a fiery furnace.

But the three men were very strong in their faith and bravely answered the king, "We do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve will be able to save us. Even if He doesn't, we still won't serve your god nor worship the idol."

The king was furious when he heard their answer. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual and had the three men bound with rope. Then they were thrown into the fire! The fire was so hot that it killed the men who had thrown them into the furnace.

Amazingly, the three friends were not hurt at all. The king looked into the furnace and saw that instead of three persons, there were now four. The extra figure looked like an angel. In fact, it was God who had come to save His followers. The king immediately called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to come out of the fire. When they came out, they were unharmed and didn't even smell like smoke. King Nebuchadnezzar was shocked. He began to praise the one true God because he realized there was no other God like Him. Imagine that! At first, King Nebuchadnezzar put people to death for not worshipping the idol. But after he saw the miracle, he began to praise God.

After this, the three men were appointed to work in the king's court. Unlike the evil kings who had just been mentioned, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were obedient and refused to worship idols. Even when King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into the fiery furnace, they believed and obeyed God's commands. As God had promised to those who listen to His teachings, He protected them and blessed them.

### Worship God

Today, there are many things that can be idols. They might not be tall, shiny, golden statues. They might be other

things or even people. However, if there is a person who should be worshipped above all other things, that person should be Jesus Christ. He is God, and He left wonderful examples for everyone to follow. Jesus showed people how to love, how to have compassion on others, and how to live. When people truly understand the love of God, they will know why He gave the second commandment, and then they will be able to put away all the idols in their lives. God wants everyone to live a righteous life and to go to the heavenly kingdom. He wants to help people by giving these commandments to them to follow. To be truly blessed, everyone should live for Jesus and for Him alone.

### Final Thoughts

What have we learned from the Bible stories today? [Give the students time to think and answer.] We learned that God commanded the Israelites not to worship idols because they are not God. The golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar made was just a statue. It had no life, it couldn't move, and it wasn't God. God didn't want the Israelites to make and worship idols; He wanted them to worship Him, the one true God. Did all of the Israelites obey God? No, King Ahab and King Jeroboam worshipped idols and were punished by God.

However, not everyone disobeyed God. There were other people who obeyed God and only worshipped Him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego obeyed God even though their lives were threatened. King Nebuchadnezzar told them that they would be thrown into the fiery furnace if they didn't worship the golden statue, but they still had faith in God. They believed in God's commands and His promises, and they were not hurt when they were thrown into the furnace. We can see that God blesses and protects those who listen to His teachings.

Today, we should do the same thing. We must only worship God. We can do that by putting Jesus first in our lives. When we obey God, we will also be blessed.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. What is the second commandment?** You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them.
- 2. What happened to King Jeroboam and King Ahab because of their idol worshipping?** God punished them.
- 3. What did King Nebuchadnezzar want Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to do?** He wanted them to bow down to the golden statue.
- 4. Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego thrown into the fiery furnace?** They refused to bow down and worship the golden statue.
- 5. King Nebuchadnezzar threatened the three men with death. Would it have been okay for them to worship the golden statue first and then ask for God's forgiveness later?** No. God commanded us to worship Him only. We must believe in God and obey Him. If we believe in His promises, we believe that He will protect us.
- 6. Is it okay to worship a good idol?** No, there is no such thing as a good idol. Idols are not God. We should only be worshipping the one true God.
- 7. Whom does God want us to worship?** He wants us to worship Him with all our heart.
- 8. What are some of the idols you face today?** Answers may vary.
- 9. What can we do to overcome the temptation of worshipping idols?** We can read the Bible to know God's words, believe in God's commandments and His promises, and pray to and ask God for strength.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him." (1 Corinthians 8:6a)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### Do Not Worship Idols

Let's turn to Exodus 20:3. [Ask students to read aloud together.] "You shall have no other gods before Me." Now, take a closer look at the word "gods." Is the letter "g" capitalized? No, it isn't. What does this tell us? [Let students think and share their answers.] These "gods" are different than our God, with a capital "G." [Write "gods" and "God" on the board so that your students can visualize the difference.] Many people believe that some things are "gods," but they are merely idols, objects blindly worshipped as gods. They are powerless. Let's turn to a passage in the Bible, Psalm 115:4-7:

*"Their idols are silver and gold,  
The work of men's hands.  
They have mouths, but they do not speak;  
Eyes they have, but they do not see;  
They have ears, but they do not hear;  
Noses they have, but they do not smell;  
They have hands, but they do not handle;  
Feet they have, but they do not walk;  
Nor do they mutter through their throat."*

In contrast to our God, who is the Creator of the universe, an idol, such as the golden calf the Israelites made for themselves, is made by human hands. An idol can never be a real "god." We, too, can build something that has a mouth, eyes, nose, hands, and feet, but we cannot give life to it. After God made Adam, the first human ever created, the Bible said that He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Gen 2:7). God is the only God who can give life. Other so-called "gods," on the contrary, are all manmade idols without life.

The idols in today's lesson were the golden statue and other carved images. However, we might not see them very often these days. In this generation, other kinds of idols are more common. What does that mean? What could be idols today?

Today, an idol is anything that we put before God because we think that it's more important than God. Let's read the second commandment again: "You shall have no other gods before Me." The word "before" indicates a level of

importance. God doesn't want us to place anything we deem important above Him. He doesn't want us to spend more time on things other than worshipping Him! You may ask, how is that possible? Yes, you may spend more time at school than you do at church. But worshipping God comes in many forms. Do you pray every morning when you wake up? When something good happens to you, do you give thanks to God in your heart? When you have to make a decision, do you ask God for His wisdom? When you do something wrong, do you repent? When you need help, do you think about asking God for it? When you have something to share, happy or unhappy, do you talk to God about it? If you do all these things I just asked, there is no doubt that you spend a lot of time worshipping God every day.

Sadly, many people don't have a habit of doing these things. Instead, they constantly place their focus on things other than God. For example, all day they think about making money, playing video games, or watching their favorite TV shows. This doesn't mean that money, video games, or TV shows are necessarily idols. They only become idols if we put them above God and spend more time and energy on them than on God. Moreover, being a worshipper of God certainly doesn't mean that we shouldn't do these things. Making money is important; we need money to survive. Likewise, playing video games or watching TV could be a healthy form of entertainment. But again, they could easily become modern-day idols if we spend excessive time and energy on these things. Let me share with you one example:

After working in the same company for some time, Janice felt that her work experience could get her a better-paying job. She went to a few companies for a job interview, in hopes that she could get a new job. A few weeks later, Janice received two job offers. The two offers had similar job descriptions, but they differed in their pay. The first company was offering her \$40,000 a year, and the second, \$50,000. The second company offered her higher pay because the job required Janice to work occasionally on the weekends, including Saturdays. So, this is what Janice thought to herself:

"If the second company is willing to pay me \$50,000 a year, that means my experience is worth more than what the first company is offering me. Why should I work for a company that doesn't pay me what my experience is worth? Moreover, they only said that I may have to work on occasionally on the weekends, which means that I will probably have to work on Saturdays only once in a while. I won't be skipping church services too often. It's not that bad! I'm sure God will understand."

### Reflection Questions

- 1. What are the idols in Janice's heart?** Money and a better-paying job that pays her according to her work experience are the idols in Janice's heart.
- 2. Why is money an idol for Janice?** Money is an idol for Janice because she is willing to give up observing Sabbath once in a while for a better-paying job. It is one of God's commandments to keep the Sabbath, and we should never put this day for God at risk.

Here is the another example:

For the last two weeks, Henry attended the Student Spiritual Convocation at church. On the first day, many of the SSC students were not very focused yet since they were still adjusting to the event. During lunch and dinnertime, they would be talking about things other than the SSC. But thank God, after the first and second day, all the students became a lot more focused, both in their learning and prayers. There was one exception, though, and this was Henry.

Henry loves watching TV. Every day, he watches TV from the time he gets home from school to the time he has dinner. After dinner, he watches TV again until his bedtime. Show after show, he never gets bored of watching TV. During the SSC, Henry was always thinking about the TV shows he watches every day. Many times, he got anxious and lost focus during a lesson because he kept thinking about how he was missing his shows. He never felt close to God during the SSC and didn't do so well on his tests. When it was over, Henry was very happy that the SSC had ended because he could finally go home and watch all of the TV recordings from the past two weeks.

### Reflection Questions

- 1. What are the idols in Henry's heart?** The television and his favorite shows are the idols in Henry's heart.
- 2. Why is the television an idol for Henry?** TV is an idol for Henry because he thinks excessively about watching his favorite TV shows when he is supposed to be learning the word of God. During the SSC, Henry should have been very focused in his learning and prayers, just like his friends were. However, Henry failed

to place God's wisdom above his favorite TV shows. At the end, he didn't have any regrets that he didn't do well on his tests. All he cared was that he could finally go home and watch TV again.

From these examples, we should be reminded not to let the things we like take the place of God. We should spend more time worshipping and praising God, rather than pursuing after what we like all the time. In order not to idolize things, we must have self-control. Let's say that we are playing our favorite video game. When our parents tell us that time is up, we must stop. If we feel like we can't stop playing the game, then we know that the video game has a very high potential of becoming an idol. And when does it really become one? [Let students answer.] It becomes an idol when we prioritize the video game above God.

Now, we know that worshipping idols is a sin in God's eyes because He has commanded us to have no other gods before Him. In the Bible, idol worshipping is also known as "idolatry." [Write the word "idolatry" on the board and ask your students to read it aloud a few times in order to familiarize themselves with this vocabulary word.] So, what does the Bible say about idolatry? What can we do to prevent ourselves from becoming an idol worshipper? Let's take a look at a few examples.

Ephesians 5:5 records that a covetous man is an "idolater." [Write the word "idolater" on the board.] To be covetous means to be greedy. An "idolater" is a person who worships idols. Why do you think that a covetous man is an idolater? In other words, why can the love of money lead us to become an idol worshipper? [Let students think and then have them share their answers.] If someone is greedy, he is probably not happy with what he has and wants more. For him, something other than God is his top priority, so that thing is an idol.

In order for us to be a true worshipper of God with no idols in our hearts, we need to be content with what we have. One way to do so is to always give thanks to God for everything that He has given us. Compared to many people in third world countries, or even in this country, we have a lot. Wanting something is not the best feeling. Instead of thinking about what we desire, we should focus on what we already have and be content with it. Ephesians 5:20 encourages us to give "thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Not only does giving thanks please our heavenly Father, it also helps us maintain a pure heart with God as the central focus in our lives. Now, use the next minute to list the many blessings that you have received from God (e.g., loving parents, friends, food, shelter, etc.).

OK, now take a moment to think about something that

we each really, really like. [Give students a moment to think.] How much time and energy do you spend on this thing? Does it take away the time and energy you would usually spend on God? How much self-control do you have? [Give students a minute to think and then have them share.] Once again, we can see that having self-control keeps us separated from idols. In fact, self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. We can always pray for the Spirit of God to fill us so that we can have more self-control. When we do so, the Holy Spirit will help us stop thinking or acting upon our excessive desires. Let me share a testimony with you:

Every day, Sean is allowed to play video games for an hour after dinner if he has already finished all his homework. Last week, Sean had so much homework that he didn't get a chance to play at all for the entire week. Today, Sean finally got a chance to play. As soon as he finished dinner, he jumped on the couch and turned his video games on. Time flew and an hour passed. Then Sean's mom came to talk to him:

**Mom:** "Time's up! You need to go get ready for bed."

**Sean:** "No! I didn't get to play at all last week. I should get more time to play this week! One more game, please?!"

**Mom:** "I understand. But you have school very early tomorrow morning and it's close to your bedtime now. It's time to turn it off."

**Sean:** "Well, it's close to my bedtime. If I skip reading the Bible and praying tonight, I can play for another twenty minutes and then go to sleep!"

**Mom:** "No, it's not right for you to do that. Your

priorities are wrong. Let me ask you, what is your priority? God, or your video games?"

**Sean:** "...God. You're right, Mom. I shouldn't use my time for God on video games. It's just that I haven't played for so long that I feel like I haven't played enough tonight. I should go pray now to repent and ask God to help take away my excessive desire for video games. The more I play, the less I have for reading the Bible and praying to God. If you didn't tell me to stop tonight, like many other nights before, I would have kept playing until I was too tired to do anything else."

That night, Sean's mom prayed and read the Bible with Sean. They talked about ways that could help Sean draw closer to God so that he could overcome his desire for video games with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Students, what are some things we can do that can help us draw closer to God? Well, one thing we can most definitely do is to invest more time in worshipping God on a daily basis. For example, we can sing hymns to praise God, giving thanks by remembering what He has given us (Ps 30:4), read the Bible regularly to learn about His wisdom, share a favorite verse with someone, pray to Him, or even talk to Him about anything and everything, as if you were talking to your dearest friend. God is pleased when we do these things because, by putting Him above everything else, we are showing how much we care about our relationship with Him. The closer we are to God, the further away we are from idols. "You shall have no other gods before Me." Let's begin following this commandment by putting God first in our lives!

## HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. False; do not worship idols is the second commandment.
3. False; there are many different kinds of idols.
4. True
5. False; God punished them and they died terrible deaths.
6. False; they refused to worship the idol.
7. False; they came out unharmed.
8. golden calves; God
9. God
10. Answers may vary.

## ACTIVITY

1

**Be Brave / Part A**

**Objective:** To help the students identify ways to put God first in their lives and to help them not let any idols take the place of God.

**Instructions:** Read the following sentences and look at the pictures. These people are going to attend Bible camp but they are not acting like they want to worship God and put Him first in their lives. What is holding them back? How can they change? Discuss each case as a class.

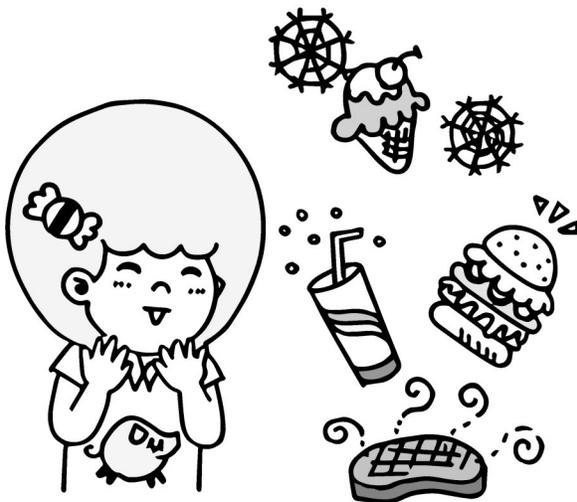
"I don't want to miss my favorite television show."



"My best friend can't go, so I won't have any fun."



"They probably don't have delicious food."



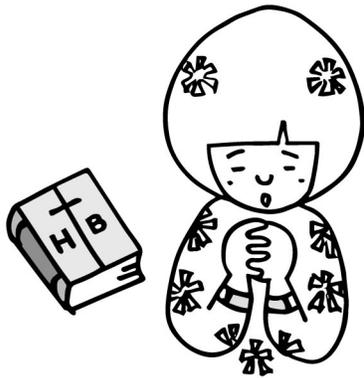
"I just bought a new computer game that I want to play, so I can't go."



Be Brave / Part B

**Instructions:** Are there things that are keeping you from putting God first in your life? Check the statements below to tell yourself what you need to do to help you worship God. Is there anything else you can do?

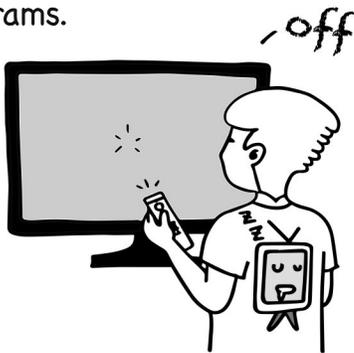
Read my Bible and pray to God every day to thank Him.



Give some of my money to church as an offering.



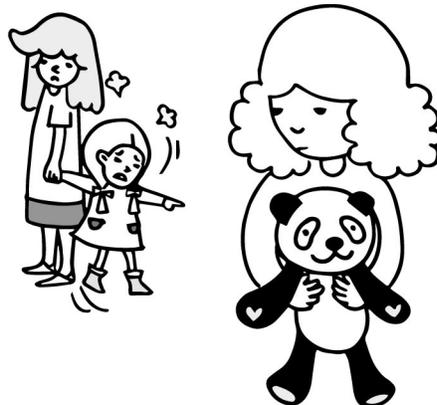
Stop watching so many television programs.



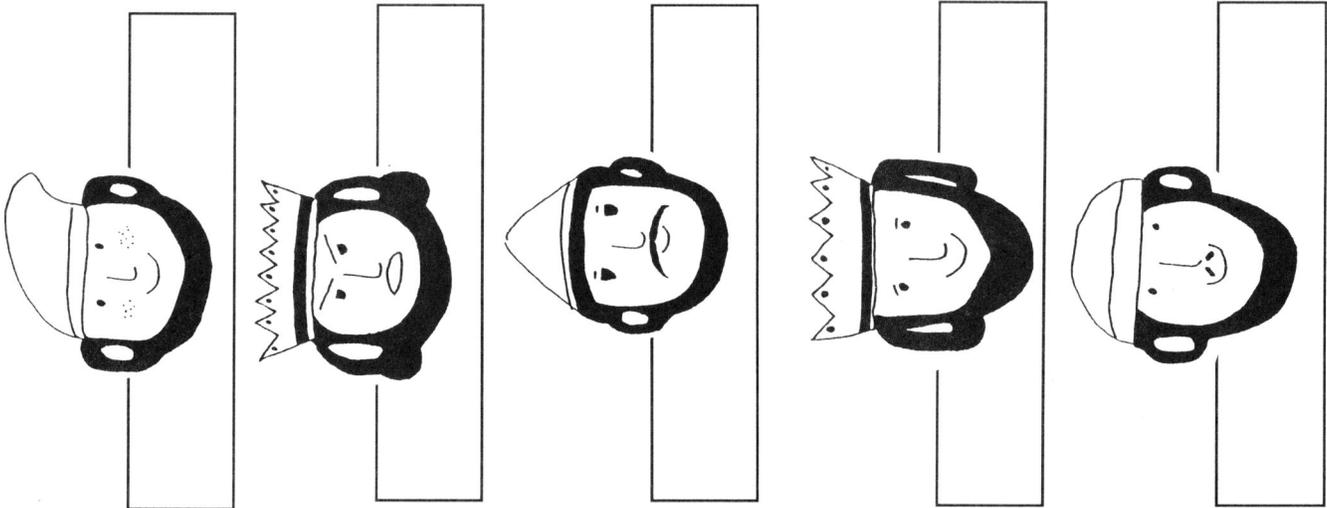
Use my time to help other people.



Give and share my things with the needy.



2

**Worshipping God Role-Play****Objective:** To help students recall the story of the three brave followers of God.**Instructions:** Use the puppets or props to role-play the story of Daniel's three friends. Show how God delivered them when they chose to worship Him at all costs. The teacher can draw out a furnace or ask the students to imagine one.

3

**Remember the Commandments / Optional****Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: **"2. You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them."**

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 2—Do Not Worship Idols

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God commanded us not to worship idols.

**Lesson Objectives:** To put God first in our lives and to obey God's commands with faith and courage.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Corinthians 8:6a)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : Why is it wrong to worship idols?
  - a. Some Israelites worshipped idols.
  - b. God commanded us not to worship idols because they are not God.
  - c. Some idols are golden.

## True or False

2. "You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them" is the third commandment. \_\_\_\_\_
3. There is only one kind of idol and that is the golden statue. \_\_\_\_\_
4. King Ahab married the evil Jezebel, and she introduced the idol Baal to the Israelites. King Ahab rebuilt the idol worship places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal and bowed to them. \_\_\_\_\_
5. King Jeroboam and King Ahab weren't punished harshly. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego bowed down to the golden statue. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were only burned a little bit when they came out of the fiery furnace.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Fill In the Blank

God    golden calves    God
-----------------------------

8. King Jeroboam set up two \_\_\_\_\_ and stopped the Israelites from worshipping \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Besides Daniel's three friends, \_\_\_\_\_ was also in the fiery furnace.

## Life Application

10. List 3 ways we can put God first in our lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 2—Do Not Worship Idols

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God commanded us not to worship idols.

**Lesson Objectives:** To put God first in our lives and to obey God's commands with faith and courage.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Corinthians 8:6a)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : Why is it wrong to worship idols?
  - a. Some Israelites worshipped idols.
  - b. God commanded us not to worship idols because they are not God.
  - c. Some idols are golden.

## True or False

2. "You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them" is the third commandment. \_\_\_\_\_
3. There is only one kind of idol and that is the golden statue. \_\_\_\_\_
4. King Ahab married the evil Jezebel, and she introduced the idol Baal to the Israelites. King Ahab rebuilt the idol worship places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal and bowed to them. \_\_\_\_\_
5. King Jeroboam and King Ahab weren't punished harshly. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego bowed down to the golden statue. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were only burned a little bit when they came out of the fiery furnace.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Fill In the Blank

God	golden calves	God
-----	---------------	-----

8. King Jeroboam set up two \_\_\_\_\_ and stopped the Israelites from worshipping \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Besides Daniel's three friends, \_\_\_\_\_ was also in the fiery furnace.

## Life Application

10. List 3 ways we can put God first in our lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 3



## GOD'S NAME IS HOLY

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### God's Name

There is an extraordinary reverence for God's name throughout the Old Testament. No one knows for certain how His personal name was pronounced. In Hebrew, when God told the Israelites His name, it was written down as "YHWH," which has no vowels and is therefore unpronounceable.

Many regarded the personal name of God to be too sacred to say. Whenever Jewish religious leaders came upon this name, they avoided saying it and they substituted "YHWH" with the Hebrew word Adonai, which means "my Lord." In this way, the vowels of Adonai came to be pronounced with the consonants of God's name, YHWH, to produce something like the English term "Jehovah." Now, it is customary to write this name as "Yahweh."

In the New Testament, God's name is revealed as Jesus. This is actually the Greek version of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means "the Lord saves" or "the Lord gives victory." This name carries power. All the miracles and signs that the apostles performed were done by the name of the Lord Jesus.

Today, it is also a name full of power and it should be revered. Therefore, we should always include "Lord" when we pray to Him or do anything by His name. The word "Christ" means "the anointed one" in Greek, which is the equivalent of the Hebrew word "Messiah." This refers to the Lord Jesus' status as the chosen Savior of mankind, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. It is not part of His name but identifies Him as the One promised from the Old Testament.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 3:14; 20:7

### BIBLE TRUTH

God's name is holy and He will punish those who misuse it.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn not to take or use God's name in vain.
2. To learn to be careful in our speech.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt."

(Colossians 4:6a)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for guiding us through another week. Today, we are going to learn about the holiness of Your name. Please help us keep Your name holy and let us always give praise to Your name. Also, help us in our speech so that our words will not hurt, but rather edify, everyone. May all the glory be Yours. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

"Oh, my God!" and "Jesus Christ!" are expressions used very frivolously today. They are often used to express shock or when swearing or complaining. Most people who use these expressions aren't even aware of their significance. So why do they say it anyway? They blurt it out because everyone else does. However, just because these are socially accepted and commonly used expressions does not make them acceptable to us as Christians.

God's name is special because it conveys His identity. The way people use His name shows how much respect they have for God. Remind your students that whenever they say God's name, they are expressing how they feel about Him. Misusing God's name is a sin because it breaks

the third commandment. God will also be hurt when He hears them using His name to curse or complain. Remind your students to use God's name appropriately and to say it in praise or worship.

Many times, your students will also say things without thinking about them. When they realize that their words have hurt someone else, they may apologize but it doesn't make the bad feelings go away immediately. Sometimes, they say hurtful things on purpose to get back at someone. Stress to them that even though it is not God's name that they are using in vain, it is still wrong. As long as they are hurting others, it is a sin. Encourage their speech to be "seasoned with salt."

### VOCABULARY

**holy:** to be set apart from other things

**vain:** futile; useless

**reverence:** deep respect

**anoint:** to choose someone for a higher purpose by the act of rubbing oil on their head

**season:** to add things like salt, peppers, herbs, and other spices to make something taste more flavorful

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the second commandment. What is it? (You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them.) God is the only true God. Idols are useless, manmade objects that cannot save people—only God can save people.

Jeroboam and Ahab were two kings who liked to worship idols. In the end, they were not blessed by God and both died terrible deaths. God punishes those who choose to worship idols.

However, God will protect those who choose to obey His words and follow His commandments. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were three friends who worshipped God. Even though they were about to be thrown into the fiery furnace, they remained faithful to the Lord. In the end, God delivered them from death.

We learned that there is only one God who can save us. We should never worship anything or anyone but Him.

### BIBLE STORY

#### The Names of God

There are many different names used in the Bible to describe God. When Moses was talking with God, he wanted to know God's personal name in case the Israelites wanted to know who He was.

God answered Moses, saying, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Ex 3:14).

What do you think about this name? Can you say that you are who you are? No, because there are many other people like you, so you need a name that sets you apart from others.

This name shows the unique nature of our God. He is the only God and His existence is unique so there can be no explanation for it. In fact, He doesn't need a name to set Him apart—there are no other gods.

Even though God gave His people this name, they still thought it was important to know the name of their God.

In Hebrew, the name for God is Yahweh, meaning "He is." The Israelites took what God said about Himself and made it into His name. They had such great reverence for this name that they would not spell it out completely when they wrote it in the Scriptures. They just wrote "YHWH," leaving out the vowels.

Today, no one knows how to pronounce this word, but the most likely way is "Yahweh," which is what is used today. In the English Bible, Yahweh is translated to "Lord." But this name is not really the true name of God. It's a name that the people used to remember God and to call on God.

There were also other names in the Bible used to identify and describe God. Can you name a few of them? One name is Immanuel, which means "God with us." This name was a prophecy that God will be with His people, that He will send His son to the people to save them, and this prophecy was carried out when the Lord Jesus was born.

Some other common words used to describe God are Rock (Dt 32:4), shepherd (Ps 23:1), and Father (Ps 89:26). However, these are also not the real names of God. They mainly describe who He is and what He is like.

In Matthew 1:21, an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that his wife Mary was going to give birth to a son. He told Joseph that this Son should be named Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.

The name Jesus means "the Lord saves." Did you know that this is actually the Greek version of the Hebrew name "Joshua"? We need to use this name with reverence because this is the name that God has chosen for Himself. In John 17:11-12, Jesus Himself said that this is God's name.

This name is a special name because it is the only name by which people can be saved (Acts 4:12). The Bible also says that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow in heaven and on earth (Phil 2:10). Because this name has been set apart from other names, it is holy.

Not only is this name holy, this name also has power. Did you know that when the apostles healed the lame beggar, they used the name of Jesus? And did you know that when they performed other miracles, they always used this name? This name carries the power of God. So when we use this name to speak to God, to pray, or to do anything, we should say "Lord" before it to show our reverence for God. This is why we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus.

What about the word Christ? Is that also part of God's name? (Some children think that Jesus is God's first name and Christ is His last name.) Actually, Christ is another title like Immanuel. This describes Jesus' role. Christ is a Greek word that means "the anointed one." It refers to how Jesus is the one anointed or sent by God to save His people.

There were many prophecies in the Old Testament about Christ, but these prophecies did not say what the name of Christ would be. When Jesus came, God showed us that the name of Christ is Jesus. So that is why we always say the two words together. It's kind of like saying "President Obama," where Obama is his name and president is his title.

### **The Third Commandment**

It is important to understand why God's name is so special. He is the one with the power and authority. He is the only one who can save us. That is why God doesn't want anyone to misuse His name.

The third commandment says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord Your God in vain." This means that no one should use the name of God irreverently. Anyone who uses His name must do so with respect. God will punish those who use His name inappropriately.

### **Small Words, Big Deal**

Even though God gave this commandment, people still use His name, Jesus, to swear or complain. They like to say things like "Jesus Christ, why did that happen?" or "Jesus, what a stupid thing to do!" Sometimes, they even use God or Lord. One very common phrase is "Oh, my God!"

Even though they are not Jesus' personal names, it is still wrong to use them this way and with such attitudes. People who use these expressions do not think about what they are saying. They use them because everyone else around them is doing the same.

Do they really want to call to God and ask Him for help? Do they need God to give them comfort? If they do, it is certainly all right for them to use God's name. They can pray, "In the name of the Lord Jesus." However, when they shout God's name in anger or complaint or to curse others, it hurts and sometimes angers God to hear it and He will punish them for misusing it.

God's name is holy and sacred. It should only be used in praise and worship.

### **Tongues Like Fire**

The reason why some people use God's name without thinking is because they have developed a bad habit of not watching what they say. In addition to hurting God when they misuse His name, they can also hurt others when they don't think about what they're saying.

Think about a time when you were angry with your parents. Did you say anything mean to your parents?

James chapter 3 teaches us that though the tongue is small, it can do a great deal of harm, just like how a small spark can set an entire forest on fire. God not only wants everyone to hold His name in holiness, He also wants us to watch our speech and be careful of the words that we use.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. In the Old Testament, what name did God tell His people to use for Him? "YHWH" or "I AM WHO I AM"
2. What are some other titles that have been used to describe God? Rock, Immanuel, shepherd, Father, etc.
3. What is God's name? God's name is "Jesus."
4. What does "Jesus" mean? It means "the Lord saves."
5. What are some ways to misuse God's name? Saying things such as "Oh, my God!" when we are surprised or irritated, or using His name to express frustration or anger are ways to misuse His name.
6. Why is it wrong to misuse God's name? His name is holy; it is the only name by which we can be saved. It is also a name with power, by which many miracles and signs have been and can be performed.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

This may be a good time to introduce the memory verse for this week. Tell the students that the Lord wants us to be careful not only with how we use His name, but also with everything that we say.

**"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt." (Colossians 4:6a)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### 1. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt" (Col 4:6)

Have you ever cooked or watched your parents cook? If so, you will know that salt is a key ingredient. Has your mom ever forgotten to put salt into a dish? What did it taste like? Did you like it? [Let students answer.] What are some other ingredients that your parents use when cooking? [Have the students go up to the board to write the ingredients.]

Just as seasoning plays an important role in making our food taste good, the words that come out of our mouth play an important role in making what we say pleasing to God. God hears every word and every thought that we have. If we have bad thoughts, speak bad words, or use harsh words that hurt others, God will be very disappointed. It is as if we presented Him with a poorly flavored dish. On the contrary, if the words we speak are used to help and comfort others, our speech will be pleasing and "tasteful" to God.

Imagine that, one day, you fell down the stairs at school when many people were around. One of them, standing at a distance, saw what happened to you, laughed loudly, and said, "That was the funniest fall I've ever seen!" How would you feel? [Ask your students to share their answers.] Is this person's speech seasoned with salt? No, his words are hurtful, not tasteful. In the same way, we shouldn't say things that will hurt people. Think of this situation as a plate of noodles: instead of being seasoned with salt, it is mixed with a whole bottle of hot sauce. Do you think anyone would like the noodles? No, whoever

eats it might even get mad at the cook! Certainly, this is not the right seasoning God wants in our speech because it creates a bad situation. The Bible says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Prov 15:1). Just as salt enhances the flavor of our foods, our speech should also bring the best out of every situation. Any words that hurt others or stir up anger are not seasoned with salt.

Now, there is another type of word that God considers "distasteful." In fact, these words are very nasty! This type of word has several names, for example, "profanity," "foul language," and "swear word." For example, the "F" four-letter word, "S" four-letter word, and the "D" four-letter word are all this type of word. They are nothing but rude, offensive, and absolutely unnecessary.

In many cases, those who use bad words are probably considered the "cool" people at school. But regardless of whatever people think, we as Christians should always first consider what God thinks. So, how do you think God views these words? [Let students answer.] To Him, not only are these words not seasoned with salt, they are rotten. They "taste" nasty to God.

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Here, we can see clearly that God wants us to edify others using our mouth, saying words that give grace. Does swearing do that? [Let

students answer.] Absolutely not. Then, since God doesn't approve of these words, by saying any of them, we sin against God. Many people nowadays use foul language too casually in their speech. Not only are they not aware that some people may be hurt by them, they also do not realize how much God is hurt when He hears them speaking those words. God keeps telling us not to sin. We can only keep ourselves holy before the Lord if we stay away from profanity in our speech. Let me share a story with you!

Since elementary school, Ella and Sally have always been best friends. Even though they attend different middle schools now, they still remain best friends and meet up with each other every other day. Usually, Sally would call Ella to make plans for their play date. Lately, however, Sally hasn't been calling Ella at all. One day, Ella decided to call Sally. She asked Sally when their next play date was going to be. Sally said to Ella, "Mmmmm... I don't know. I have so much homework nowadays. I'll let you know when I have more free time!" So, Ella waited another few days and called Sally again. Surprisingly, Sally's answer was the same. This time, Ella started to feel that something was not right with Sally. Ella and Sally had never gone more than four days without seeing each other. There always told each other everything.

Ella thought that Sally might be hiding something from her, so she decided to call Sally again:

**Ella:** "Hi, Sally. You said you've been very busy with homework lately... Is that [a bad word] true? Is there something you're not telling me about? We're best friends!"

**Sally:** "Well... Yes, Ella, sorry that I haven't been telling you the truth but..."

**Ella:** "[Another bad word] it! You were lying to me!"

**Sally:** "Ella, please listen. I'm sorry, but it is just that I don't know how to tell you how I feel. Actually, ever since we started attending middle school, I noticed that your language has been changing... Your words have become very rude, just like those bad words you just used; they really make me feel very uncomfortable around you. I know you don't mean them, but they really hurt me. This is why I haven't felt so eager to hang out with you now. I'm starting to realize that many people in my school also use these words, but I try to stay as far away from them as I can. Ella, I don't want this to happen between you and me! Please, if you can stop using these words, I will be so happy!"

**Ella:** "Oh, no... Sally, I'm really sorry that I never realized my words have hurt you so much. I didn't say them to hurt you. As you said, so many people around us use them. I can't help saying them sometimes! They slip out of my mouth so naturally. But you're right.

These words are very rude. I really shouldn't say them as a Christian. I will pray about this... Please pray for me, too!"

**Sally:** "Of course! I'm so happy that you are willing to change. I will surely pray for you."

From that day on, Ella prayed every day that God could give her the strength to remove these foul words from her mouth. She was so remorseful that she had picked up these words, so she repented and asked God for forgiveness. At the beginning, it wasn't easy for Ella to make the change, but with prayer and encouragement from Sally, Ella finally learned how to control her speech. Thank God, after all this, Ella and Sally have remained best friends. Now they always remind each other to season their words with salt!

What can you learn from Sally in this story? [Let students answer.] If there is anyone around you (a friend, a relative, or even a close family member) who uses foul language all the time, there is something we can do to help. God wants us to love and care for others. If we see that someone is sinning against God by using words that they shouldn't use, we should speak up. With love and respect, tell them that swear words are not seasoned with salt. They don't please God. Let us learn from this story and strive to keep foul language far from us!

Let's now practice some ways to season our speech with grace. [Give each student one of the scenarios below and have them fill in the blanks.]

1. "Your feet must hurt, let me \_\_\_\_\_ you carry these things."
2. "My father just lost his job. What can I do to \_\_\_\_\_?"
3. "Don't worry, I will \_\_\_\_\_ for you and your family."
4. "Lord, even though it is a rainy day, we still \_\_\_\_\_ You for protecting us and guiding us."

Did you notice that speech that is seasoned with grace is motivated by love and thanksgiving? Speech that is pleasing to God comes from a heart of love for Him and for others. We can pray for God to help us be more loving to Him and to others so that our speech can be pleasing to Him. Let me share a story with you:

Angelina has been baptized for almost a year now. Thinking back, she is so thankful for the love, care, and support that the other members have been showing her since she first came to True Jesus Church as a truth-seeker. Angelina has quite a sorrowful background. When she was still in elementary school, her mom passed away from lung cancer. Not long after, her father became addicted to alcohol, abusing it as a way to cope with his negative emotions. Because of this, he

often neglected Angelina, his only child. Growing up, Angelina didn't have the same love and care that many of her friends received from their parents. Oftentimes, she felt bitter and unhappy because of the situation with her dad.

Angelina came to True Jesus Church for the first time when she was about to go to college. She remembered being welcomed warmly, greeted by many smiles, and introduced to new friends. She even thought of it as the "happiest day of her life." Ever since that day, Angelina came to church every week. Over time, she eventually opened up about her dad during conversations with a few members. At first, Angelina was worried that she would be judged because of her background, so she didn't mention much. However, she was surprised to hear how they responded to her situation. Angelina said, "Every word they said to me touched my heart; so loving, caring and kind. I had never felt that before. Their words lifted me up and encouraged me to think positively. They would call me to make sure I was all right, spend time listening to me, and keep me in their prayers. At first, I took all this for granted and didn't think much about why they were so kind to me. But as I knew more about God, I realized that He is love and that He had sent these members to me so that I was able to experience Him through their words of love and kindness. When Christ lives in us, our heart is filled with

love. Everything we say will then become full of love. These members did it, and this is what I strive to do as I have now put on Christ."

"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones" (Prov 16:24). Let us strive always to season our speech with salt so that others can experience God through our loving and kind words!

It is easy to remember the teaching to be gracious in our speech when we are in a good mood or when things are going well. However, it is when things do not go well that we must be more careful not to say something we know is not nice, because we will regret it later. Think through the following scenarios and talk about what your first reactions would be, and what you think should be your correct response (if the initial reaction was not ideal behavior):

1. Your little sister accidentally tore up a picture you drew, and of course, you are very angry.
2. A school friend commented that your home-cooked lunch looks yucky and smells funny; you feel annoyed.
3. Your mother mistakenly accuses you of breaking something, but it was your sibling that did it. You are hurt and feel the need to defend yourself.

## 2. Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

How many of you have heard your friends, teachers, or people on TV say "Oh, my God" or "Jesus!" for no good reason? [Most of the students will probably raise their hands.] How many of you have said these phrases yourself?

Imagine that one of your friends constantly calls your name when around you, but he doesn't really mean to speak to you at all. Moreover, every time you respond to him, he doesn't even have an explanation for why he called your name! How would you feel? [Let students answer.] Well, this is probably how God feels when we use His name in vain. When we say phrases like, "Oh, my God," to express our frustrations, we are not talking to God. But God is present everywhere we go. When we say a phrase that addresses Him without really meaning to address Him, God feels very disrespected. This is called taking God's name in vain, and it is against the commandments of God!

Now, let's come up with alternatives to taking the Lord's name in vain so that we can avoid breaking the third commandment.

[Give each student one of the statements below and have them come up with alternatives for the italicized words. If

there are more students than there are phrases, divide them into groups. Encourage them to be creative in coming up with funny or unique phrases that will not offend God.]

1. "*My God*, she broke my toy!"
2. "*For God's sake*, clean up your room!"
3. "*Oh, God!* My mom is going to be mad!"
4. "*Jesus Christ!* That was a loud burp!"
5. "*Oh, my God*, I can't believe I lost my homework."

As we can see, there are many different ways we can express our surprise or frustration without offending God. But the examples we just looked at are not the only ways we take God's name in vain. Has anyone here ever said the phrase, "I swear to God"? Or maybe, "I'm a Christian, so I wouldn't lie to you." Both of these are also ways that we take God's name in vain. As Christians, we should never use God as a "guarantee" of our honesty. God's name is only to be used in a holy manner, with honor and respect.

### 3. God will judge our words.

Remember how we talked about God as our Judge in Lesson 1? And today, we learned about seasoning our words with salt, and not using God's name in vain but with respect. Now, let's connect the two together. We now know that the words that come out of our mouth can please God if they are loving and kind, but they can also disappoint God if they are harsh. In addition, God feels disrespected when we use His name in vain. If we intentionally say things that we know God doesn't like, He will not be happy and might punish us. On the contrary, if we always seek to please God in our speech, letting others feel the love of Christ through us, God will bless and reward us in His time. God is our Judge and He is carefully recording every word we say so that He can use them to judge us in due time. Having said that, we must be mindful of what we say at all times. God will judge our every word according to what He has taught us to do, and that includes everything we learned today!

Now, let's hear a conversation between two brothers. Pay attention to the difference between their use of words. We will have a short discussion afterwards. [Read the dialogue, using a different voice for each brother. Alternately, ask three students to take one role each and read or role-play the dialogue.]

**Andy:** "Oh, my God! Our little brother was eating candies while playing games on our computer. Now the keyboard is all sticky! I'm going to yell at him now!"

**Jack:** "Wait a second! This is not a big deal. He has never done this before... I'm sure he didn't do it intentionally. I will tell him nicely to be careful next time. Now, let me help you clean the keyboard!"

*Jimmy, Andy and Jack's little brother, walks into the room...*

**Andy:** [Yelling] "Hey, Jimmy! Did you know that you made our computer keyboard all sticky with your candies? Why are you always so careless and messy? Go clean it up!"

**Jimmy:** [Trembling with tears] "I'm sorry... I didn't know. I'll try to be more careful next time..."

**Jack:** "It's all right, don't cry. I know you didn't do this on purpose, right? If you knew the keyboard was sticky, you would have cleaned it up."

**Jimmy:** "Yeah, I didn't know... I'm sorry, Andy..."

**Andy:** "Well, I don't care if you knew or not. This just proves that you're always so careless. Jesus! Can't you learn from your other ridiculous mistakes?"

**Jimmy:** "I..." [crying]

**Jack:** "Andy, that's enough. Jimmy is younger than both of us. It makes sense that he is not as careful as we are sometimes. What you said is hurtful, and I don't think it

helps this situation at all! Jimmy, let's go. I'll clean the keyboard with you. Don't be upset because of what Andy said, OK?"

#### Reflection Questions

- 1. Between Andy and Jack, whose words are seasoned with salt?** Jack's. While Andy was yelling at Jimmy with hurtful words, Jack tried to make the situation better by trying to understand Jimmy's actions and comforting him.
- 2. How did Andy use God's name in vain?** He said "Oh, my God" and "Jesus" to express his frustrations, disrespecting God in the process.
- 3. What things did Andy say that hurt Jimmy?** He said, "Why are you always so careless and messy," "I don't care," "You're always so careless," "Your other ridiculous mistakes," etc. These words do not carry any love and understanding for his little brother.
- 4. What did Jack say to help the situation?** Before Jimmy walked into the room, he tried to stop Andy from going to yell at Jimmy and even offered to talk to him nicely and clean the keyboard. Later, when Jimmy was trembling with tears because of what Andy had said to him, Jack stood up for him by making it known to Andy that Jimmy did not make the keyboard dirty intentionally. He was constantly comforting Jimmy as Andy yelled at him. At the end, Jack stopped Andy from hurting their little brother even more.

Students, we are God's children and everything that comes out of our mouth reflects Him, our heavenly Father. We know without a doubt that God is a loving Father; do our words reflect the way He is, and the way He loves people? The Bible teaches us to imitate Christ so that we can let others see Jesus in us. Is this something you do with the words you speak? What changes can you make so that you will shine the light of Jesus through your speech? [Ask students to name three ways in which they can use their words to shine the light of Jesus.]

---

## ACTIVITY

---

### Remember the Commandments / *Optional*

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

#### Instructions

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**"

### HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

---

1. vain
2. punish
3. True
4. False; our speech should always be with grace.
5. True
6. We need to speak in a way that glorifies God. We need to ask for wisdom to know what to say in each situation. This includes asking Him how we should use His name.
7. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 3—God's Name Is Holy

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God's name is holy and He will punish those who misuse it.

**Lesson Objectives:** To learn not to take or use God's name in vain, and to learn to be careful in our speech.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Colossians 4:6a)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

### Fill In the Blank

1. We should not use God's name in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God will \_\_\_\_\_ those who misuse His name.

### True or False

3. It's okay to use God's name in worship or when we give praise. \_\_\_\_\_
4. It's okay to say other bad or hurtful words, as long as we don't use God's name. \_\_\_\_\_
5. God wants us to be careful of what we say. \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Answer

6. What does it mean when it says that our words should always be "seasoned with salt"?

---

---

---

7. What are some ways that you can make your speech more pleasing to God?

---

---

---

---

# LESSON 4



## THE HOLY SABBATH

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Sabbath

The word “Sabbath” comes from the Hebrew word meaning “to cease.” During creation, however, the Bible did not use the word “Sabbath” (Gen 2:3). God clearly equates “Sabbath” with “seventh” when He substitutes one for the other in Exodus 20:11.

The first record of Sabbath observance as required by God was when the Israelites were traveling from Egypt to Sinai (Ex 16). They were not permitted to gather manna on the seventh day. The importance of keeping the Sabbath commandment can be seen in this instance of when God severely punished a Sabbath breaker. In Numbers 15:32-36, God sentenced a man who had been gathering sticks on the Sabbath day to death by stoning. God punished him because he intentionally broke the commandment and did not regard the day as holy.

By New Testament times, there was a change in the understanding of the purpose of Sabbath. There were detailed regulations and the Jewish leaders made the observance more rigorous than God had intended. In the first major written work of Rabbinic Judaism called the Mishnah, an entire chapter is dedicated to thirty-nine categories of activities prohibited on the “Shabbat” (Sabbath). This showed the importance the Jews placed on the laws concerning the Sabbath.

Jesus had to point out the errors of their burdensome laws: it was not wrong to eat on the Sabbath, even if food must be plucked from the ears of corn, nor was it a sin to do good, for the Lord of the Sabbath is merciful and understanding (Lk 6:1-10; Mk 2:23-28; 3:1-6).

Today, the majority of churches no longer observe the Sabbath day (i.e., Saturday) but a day termed by Christians as “the Lord’s day.” In AD 321, Emperor Constantine issued a decree for Sunday worship, which was affirmed by the council of Laodicea.

The true church maintains the holy Sabbath day as an article of faith because it is a direct commandment from God, and God established and consecrated the seventh day of rest from the time of creation. For children to appreciate the importance of true Sabbath day worship, we need to instill the importance of observing the Sabbath with a genuine heart of worship for the purpose of salvation, which is under grace.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-18

### BIBLE TRUTH

Sabbath is a holy day of rest set aside by God.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the importance of keeping the Sabbath as a commandment of God.
2. To relate Sabbath to worshipping God at church.
3. To realize that God considers whether our heart “keeps the Sabbath” as most important.

### MEMORY VERSE

“And He said to them,  
‘The Sabbath was made for man,  
and not man for the Sabbath.’”

(Mark 2:27)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, we want to thank You for all Your love. You set aside the Sabbath, a special day at the end of every week, so that we can forget about everything else and just focus on worshipping You. Today, we come together to learn about how You want us to keep the Sabbath in our hearts and to honor the Sabbath with our actions. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

When you ask your students why it is important to come to church on Saturday, they will no doubt tell you that it is because it's the Sabbath. Although they know that God created the Sabbath as a day of rest, what does it really mean to your students? Do they come to church out of habit, to play with their friends, or to rest and worship God?

Children often build their faith on those older than them, such as their parents, grandparents, or older siblings. They commonly associate going to church with the most interesting activity of the day, such as attending RE class, joining children's choir, or playing with their church friends.

It is important for students at this age to develop a heart of worship on the Sabbath. Observing Sabbath does

not only involve showing up at church and obediently sitting in class and worship services. Remind your students that God wants us to come to church to remember Him and everything He has done for us—He created us and saved us. When they come to church on the Sabbath, they are coming to God's house, not to their school playground.

Help your students understand that Sabbath is a day for them to draw near to God. Even when they are far from church with no way to join Sabbath service or attend RE class, it is still possible for them to observe the Sabbath by reading the Bible, praying, and singing hymns. What is crucial is that they truly remember God and His love and devote their hearts to Him on every Sabbath.

### VOCABULARY

**Sabbath:** the seventh day of the week; a day of rest set apart by God

**synagogue:** a Jewish temple; a place of worships for Jews

**Pharisees:** a strict, elite Jewish group well-versed with Jewish laws

### REVIEW

Boys and girls, last week we learned the third of the Ten Commandments—whisper that commandment to the person sitting next to you. Now on the count of three I want everyone to say it together: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." Very good, everyone!

Do you notice anything in common about the first three commandments? (God!) How do we worship God? (Come to church, attend RE class, etc.) That's right!

Now turn to a partner and, together, think of how someone might break the third commandment, and then think of a person in the Bible who praised God with what they said. [Give students time to discuss.]

Good job, everyone! As you can see from this little exercise, we need to be very careful about the words that come out of our mouth. Sometimes, the words we choose to say may hurt others. That is why it is important to think about what we want to say before we say it. Jesus wants us to follow His example and learn to be careful when we speak.

### BIBLE STORY

#### The Fourth Commandment

Today we will learn about the fourth commandment, which is: "Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy." God knew that we would be working hard at school for most of the week and that we would get tired. Our parents also get tired from working, too. So, God set apart a special day for us to rest and spend quiet time with Him. The very special word for this day is "Sabbath."

The Lord said, "Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God." [Write or post the key words on the board: Sabbath, holy, work.] This is why people go to church on the Sabbath. They are

resting from their work, and they also want to remember God on this special day.

The Sabbath was something special God created for His people. Similarly today, God gives us the Sabbath day as a sign that He is our Lord, the one and only God. When we come to church on Saturdays for Sabbath, God will bless us and make us strong in our faith.

#### To Remember His Creation

God made this Sabbath day special for several reasons. It was so important that after spending six days to create the world, God rested on the seventh day. Children, do you think that God gets tired or needs to rest? (No!)

That's right, but God still rested because He wanted to make that day special for us.

God doesn't want us to forget that He made all things, including man, in six days. However, sometimes we get caught up in our lives and forget that it is God who gave us our friends and family and all the things we enjoy.

On the Sabbath day, we need to especially remember that God made and gave us everything. How can we thank God for this? (We can sing hymns, give thanks, and pray.)

### **To Remember His Salvation**

Now, turn to your partner and share with them the greatest gift God has ever given you. [Let students share.] You are absolutely right if you said Jesus dying for us is the greatest gift God has given us.

When Jesus died for us, it meant that we now have the chance to go to heaven and be with God again. God doesn't want us to forget this because He is waiting in heaven for each and every one of us. So, every Sabbath is also telling us that we're coming closer and closer to seeing God again.

The next time we come to church for Sabbath, let us remember that Jesus died for us because of His deep love for us. We can show God how thankful we are by being attentive in RE class and services and by keeping the day holy (i.e., by not doing other things that will distract us when we are worshipping God).

### **Forgetting the True Meaning of Sabbath**

Over the years, the Jewish people continued to make rules and laws about the Sabbath day because they wanted to make sure everyone kept the Sabbath perfectly and didn't break it.

They added rules about how far you could walk, what you could and couldn't do on the Sabbath, etc. However, these rules were set by man and not by God. Eventually, the Jewish people had made so many rules that they forgot the real reason why God gave man the Sabbath in the first place.

God wanted His people to rest and to remember that God had created them and saved them. Yet, the Sabbath became more about keeping rules!

### **Jesus Explains the True Meaning of Sabbath**

A special group of Jews called the Pharisees kept every law and made sure everyone followed these laws. They did not like Jesus and were jealous of Him because He was well liked by the people and He would challenge them and their laws.

One day, when Jesus and His disciples were walking through a field of wheat, His disciples became hungry and began to pluck some of the grains of wheat to eat. The Pharisees that were there saw what Jesus' disciples did and wanted to get Him into trouble. They quickly pointed out that Jesus' disciples weren't doing what was right

according to the rules and laws.

Jesus saw this as a chance to teach the Pharisees and everyone else about the true meaning of Sabbath.

He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him?"

Jesus was telling the Pharisees that Sabbath wasn't just about following rules—it was about remembering God. If someone was hungry, they should eat rather than starve just for the sake of following their rules.

While Jesus may have challenged the Pharisees' errors, He still kept the Sabbath holy by entering the synagogue to worship and to teach people about God. He wanted people to remember God's love and power. He also wanted people to understand that their Sabbath laws had taken them further away from God's intentions for man on the Sabbath.

### **Jesus Shows the True Meaning of Sabbath**

Another Sabbath day came along and there was a man with a crippled hand in the synagogue where Jesus was speaking. The man's hand was so badly injured that he couldn't use it anymore. When Jesus saw the man, He had compassion on him and wanted to help him.

Also present at the synagogue were some Pharisees. They considered healing others as working on the Sabbath, which would mean breaking the laws. They kept close watch to see if Jesus would heal the man so that they could accuse Him of breaking the fourth commandment.

Jesus knew what these Pharisees were thinking, so He turned around and said, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or destroy?"

He said this to show the Pharisees that they did not truly understand what it meant to keep the Sabbath. It was a day of rest but it didn't say it was wrong to help people in need. Boys and girls, if one of your classmates fell down outside church and scraped his knee, would you ignore him and say that you couldn't help him because the Sabbath is a day of rest? It sounds funny, but that's what the Pharisees believed.

The Pharisees were so strict about resting that they didn't even allow people to be healed! God loves all of us, and He wants people to worship and remember Him. One way to do that is to help others in need.

After Jesus asked His question, none of the Pharisees said a word. When Jesus saw that not one of them spoke up, He was angry that the Pharisees could have so little love towards others. Last time, the Pharisees were angry because a hungry person plucked grain to eat on the Sabbath. Now they were angry because Jesus wanted to heal a sick person on the Sabbath.

After angrily looking around at the Pharisees, Jesus turned to the man with the crippled hand and said, "Stretch out your hand," and his hand was healed completely.

**Follow Jesus' Example of Sabbath Worship**

There is one thing Jesus said that each of us should always remember. He said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

This means that God gave us the Sabbath to rest and to remember Him. He is our Creator and our Savior. We can do this by worshipping Him and by showing love to others as Jesus did.

Boys and girls, Sabbath isn't just about following rules in RE class and going to service in the chapel. God gave us

this day to remember everything that He has done for us. The Sabbath also exists to help us remember and hope for the most wonderful thing for which we are waiting: to go to heaven!

So each Sabbath, we need to come to church ready to worship God, ready to thank Him for everything, and ready to learn more about Him. We can also spend our Sabbaths helping others, praying for others, and becoming helpers for our Lord.

**CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**

1. **The Lord said, "Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ (Sabbath), to keep it \_\_\_\_\_ (holy).**
2. **On which day did God rest after He finished creating everything?** The seventh day.
3. **Which day of the week is the day that God rested?** Saturday.
4. **Why was God not happy with how the Jews were keeping the Sabbath?** They were more focused on following the rules than on remembering God.
5. **What does God want us to remember on the Sabbath?** He wants us to remember that He created all things, including us, and that He saved us.
6. **True or False: The Pharisees were right in refusing to help others on the Sabbath.** False; God didn't say it was wrong to help others on the Sabbath.
7. **When Jesus came into the world, He didn't keep the Sabbath because there were too many rules.** False; He still kept the Sabbath as God had intended it to be kept.
8. **Jesus' disciples plucked grains of wheat from the fields because they wanted to prove to the Pharisees that they could do whatever they wanted on the Sabbath.** False; they were hungry.
9. **What should we do on the Sabbath?** We should come to church, attend RE class, and learn more about God.
10. **God wants us to worship Him with all our heart on the Sabbath.** True.

**MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE**

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.'" (Mark 2:27)**

**SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION****1. The Significance of Sabbath**

Today, many people call themselves Christians, but not all of them observe the Sabbath. However, the Bible clearly tells us that God wants us to keep His commandments (Jn 14:15). James 2:10 says, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." Here, we can see that disobeying one commandment is just like disobeying them all. In other words, not keeping the Sabbath is just as bad as worshipping idols, murdering, and stealing in God's eyes. In 1 John 2:4, the Bible also tells us, "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him." We know from this verse that people who do not observe

the Sabbath do not completely understand the truth of God. Since it is one of the Ten Commandments, and as important as the other nine, we must not neglect keeping the Sabbath.

On the other hand, Sabbath is a covenant between God and men. How is it so? Firstly, let me explain to you what a "covenant" is. [Write the word "covenant" on the board, and have your students read it aloud a few times.] A "covenant" simply means an agreement. As a biblical term, it means an agreement between God and His people in which both parties make certain promises to each other.

In this case, God made a covenant with His people saying, “Hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God” (Ezek 20:20). To “hallow” means to keep holy. Here, God tells us to honor His Sabbath as a holy day, worshipping Him with our hearts. In doing so, God promises to make us His special chosen people. If we do not keep the Sabbath, thus disobeying His commandment, we do not know the truth of God and therefore are not considered His people. We are true followers of God only if we obey all of His commandments.

Mark 2:27 says, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.” What does the verse mean by “the Sabbath was made for man”? Let’s consider this question. Did God create humans first, or did He initiate the Sabbath first? [Let students think, and then share their answers. You can also ask them to search for the answer from the Bible.] God created Adam, the first human on earth, on the sixth day. Then, on the seventh day, God “blessed [this] day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His

work which God had created and made” (Gen 2:3). From here, we can see that the Sabbath was made to be a blessing to us. After God created mankind, He wanted a special day for His people to rest from their labor to “recharge.” What does it mean to “recharge”? As Christians, our home is in heaven. But until we go home, we all have to work very hard in this world, and God surely knows that. So, God created this special day, the Sabbath, for us to renew our strength, reassuring us that God is our Savior and that He will one day receive us into His eternal kingdom, our heavenly home where toil is no more. The Sabbath is a day of rest, a blessing to mankind. Moreover, it is a day to remember how great our home in heaven is. This is why Jesus reasoned with the Jews whether or not healing should be allowed on the Sabbath, or if picking grain to eat is lawful to do on this holy day. Jesus explained clearly, as we learned in our lesson today, that Sabbath is a day to do good because in doing so, we have the hope of entering the kingdom of God! Sadly, the Jews didn’t understand this. They made the Sabbath a burden to themselves rather than a day of true worship.

## 2. Ways to Keep the Sabbath

Now that we know the importance of keeping the Sabbath, you may ask this question: in what ways should we keep and “hallow” the Sabbath? What exactly does the Bible tell us to do on this day? Surely, keeping the Sabbath doesn’t only mean going to church. Even if there isn’t a church in our region, we can still keep the Sabbath. So, what exactly does God require of us on the Sabbath? Let’s find out from the Bible!

### a. Rest from worldly tasks

As we discussed earlier, Sabbath is a day for us to rest. More specifically, it is a day for us to rest from our worldly tasks, that is, our everyday responsibilities in this life. For you, your number one responsibility is to learn as a student. The older you get, the more responsibilities you will have. One of your parents’ many responsibilities is to make money in order to sustain your family. Indeed, there are many worldly tasks for which we need to work hard. However, the fourth commandment clearly tells us, “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work” (Ex 20:9-10). So from Sunday to Friday, we can work as hard as we want. But, on the seventh day, no matter how busy our lives are, we are to rest from all our worldly tasks and focus on God. For as long as we live, every Saturday should be reserved for God.

### b. Remember God’s creation

Exodus 20:11 says, “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” The Sabbath is a day for us to remember God’s creation. It was on this day that God

rested from creating the heavens and the earth. By reminding ourselves that God is our Creator, we are reassured that He has power over all things and that there is nothing He cannot help us overcome. He is able to work wonders in our lives. When we remember how God created this world with His power and might, we will have the strength again to welcome any challenges that may come our way, knowing that everything is in the hands of our almighty God. This is exactly why God made the Sabbath for us—to renew our strength through remembering Him!

### c. Remember God’s salvation

“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. [...] And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day” (Dt 5:12, 15). The Israelites had previously been under the oppression of the Egyptians, unable to worship God. But now that God had brought them out of Egypt, they were able to worship Him freely, and He wanted them to use the Sabbath as a day to remember their salvation. If He had not brought them out of Egypt, they would never have been able to observe the Sabbath in the first place. Likewise, we should use the Sabbath as a day to reflect upon and remember God’s salvation for us. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins so that we could have the hope of salvation and eternal life in the kingdom of God.

**d. Honor the day and worship God with our hearts**

Let's turn to Isaiah 58:13-14. [Ask a student to read the passage aloud.]

"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Not only did God bless us with a day of rest, He also made this wonderful promise to help us prosper, as long as we keep the Sabbath. But first, we need to understand the true meaning of keeping the Sabbath. Do you think you know it? Let me give you a simple test.

1. Where should we go on the Sabbath?
  - a. A place to worship God, e.g., the church of God
  - b. Home, because it is a day of "rest"
  - c. Wherever we want to go, because God has blessed this day
2. How does God want us to be on the Sabbath?
  - a. Unhappy, because we are forced to go to church
  - b. Happy, because God has made the Sabbath a blessing to us
3. Which of the following are ways to keep the Sabbath a holy day?
  - a. Show off our new toys at church
  - b. Worship God with all our heart
  - c. Listen to and learn the words of God
  - d. Relax or even take a nap during RE class
  - e. Clean up after RE class
  - f. Focus in prayer
  - g. Share testimonies about God
  - h. Chat with my friends, whom I have not seen all week, during a sermon

Did you get all the answers right? God's promise is reserved only for those who observe the Sabbath with the right heart. Let us reflect upon ourselves and strive to keep the Sabbath the right way!

**e. Receive God's word**

The Sabbath day is also a day for us to receive the words of God. In this life, we all face many difficult situations and decisions to make. If we don't have the wisdom of God, it is impossible for us to live a life pleasing to Him. God made the Sabbath day, not only for us to rest from our worldly tasks, but also to receive His words. Luke 4:16 records that Jesus Himself also observed the Sabbath in the synagogue,

learning the word of God and standing up to read. Do you remember what Jesus did as an occupation? [Let students answer.] Jesus was a carpenter before He started His ministry. Jesus did not come from a wealthy family. He had to work hard in order to make a living. But Jesus did not neglect the importance of Sabbath. He kept it a day for God so that He could receive God's word for His later ministry. Likewise, we should always be ready to receive God's word on the Sabbath. If we always go to church unprepared, we will miss out on many opportunities to receive God's word. Let me share a scenario with you:

This week, Carlos has been very busy studying for his final exam next week. On Saturday morning, Carlos' mom finds Carlos still studying when they are about to leave for church. She tells Carlos to get ready to leave, but Carlos replies, "Mom, I have a lot left to study for next week. Can I skip church today?" Denying his request, Carlos' mom insists that he attend Sabbath. Carlos unwillingly changes for church and leaves with his parents. During the morning sermon, Carlos sits by himself at the back of the chapel. From the front, it looks like Carlos is reading the Bible, but in reality, Carlos is reading his notebook and studying for his exam! As soon as the sermon ends, Carlos retreats into the RE classroom to study by himself. It isn't until RE class is about to start that he finally puts down his book.

**Reflection Questions**

1. **Do you think God was pleased to see Carlos studying so diligently for his exam?** While it wasn't wrong for Carlos to want to study for his exam, he shouldn't have been studying on the Sabbath. Sabbath is a day to rest from worldly tasks and to receive God's word. By choosing to study instead of listening to the sermon, Carlos failed to honor the Sabbath. To him, studying was more important than worshipping God on the Sabbath. Therefore, God was not pleased.
2. **In what ways did Carlos fail to honor the Sabbath?** Firstly, Carlos did not plan ahead to study at a different time, instead of on Saturday, because he didn't think it was important to reserve the Sabbath for God. Secondly, Carlos thought about skipping the Sabbath to study. It is a divine commandment to keep the Sabbath and by choosing to complete his worldly task instead of going to church, Carlos showed that God is not his priority. Lastly, he spent the entire morning service studying instead of listening to the sermon. The Sabbath is a day to receive God's word, and it didn't please God that Carlos was studying something other than His wisdom.

**f. Perform good deeds**

In our lesson today, we learned that the Jews misunderstood the law of God and made Sabbath a

burden to themselves. Do you remember what they thought about healing on the Sabbath? [Let students answer.] They thought that it wasn't lawful to heal on the Sabbath because it was considered a form of "labor." Now, do you remember what Jesus said to them? [Let students answer.] He said, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" Students, Sabbath shouldn't be a burden for us. When we come to church, we should feel happy that God has given us a day of rest and blessings to worship and draw closer to Him. Having said that, everything is lawful to do on the Sabbath as long as it pleases God. And what pleases God the most? What is the greatest commandment? [Let students answer.] The greatest commandment is to love! So, on the Sabbath, God doesn't only want us to worship Him with all our heart, He also wants us to show our love to the people around us, performing good deeds and helping others. Let us learn from the example of Jesus and try to show more love on this beautiful Sabbath day!

Let me share this with you!

Annie is an accountant; her job is very difficult and requires a lot of focus. On top of this, Annie is also a mother. She has to take care of her 6-year-old son who is still very young and dependent. You can imagine how busy and restless things can get in her life. However, if you didn't already know about Annie and her background, you never would have thought that she lives such a busy life because she always looks happy. Many people have asked her, "How can you always stay so happy?" Annie always answers them, "Well, come to my church this Saturday and you will find out!"

In fact, Annie is the same as everyone else. She feels tired after working 5-6 days a week, and she can't wait for Friday to come because that's when she and her husband take their son to church! By going to church on Friday night and every Saturday, Annie "recharges" herself by receiving the word of God and praying for strength for the following week.

Annie claims that without the Sabbath, she would not be able to find peace in her restless life. Moreover, Annie always finds her heart filled with joy on the Sabbath through serving God and helping others. Every Saturday after church service, she helps clean up the church with other church members and prays with the church members for mutual encouragement and to comfort those who are in despair or in need.

She cares about other brothers and sisters so much that she always stays after church to talk to them until the last person is gone. Once in a while, Annie also likes to invite the church members to her house after church for a fellowship dinner. Even after a long week of work and a long day at church, Annie never feels tired on the Sabbath day.

Through serving the Lord and helping others, Annie finds joy in knowing that the joy of God dwells within her heart. And when God feels so near, even though she lives a very busy life, Annie doesn't have to worry about anything. In fact, the time Annie looks forward to every week is Friday evening and Saturday, the blessed Sabbath day!

## HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy.
2. C
3. B
4. Sabbath, holy, synagogue, Sabbath
5. creation, saved
6. False; the Pharisees were upset.
7. True
8. David
9. They had so many laws about the Sabbath that they forgot what keeping the Sabbath was really about—to remember God and worship Him. They made Sabbath a burden.
10. Answers may vary. Example: We can keep the Sabbath holy by coming to church ready to worship God and to think about what He has done for us, giving thanks to Him for everything, and being excited to learn more about Him. We can also spend our Sabbaths helping others, praying for others, and becoming helpers for our Lord.

---

## ACTIVITY

---

**1**

### Ten Commandments Calendar

- Objectives:**
1. To remind and review the Ten Commandments with students.
  2. To visibly see that Sabbath days are set apart for God.
  3. To plan special activities with the students on Sabbaths to remember its significance.

#### Materials

- Colored pencils and/or crayons
- Glue
- 10 slips of paper with one commandment written on each
- Colored construction paper
- String
- Single hole punch
- Calendar printouts
  - a. 12 monthly printouts; one month per page in portrait orientation (the calendars should have space for writing and drawing)
  - b. Annual calendar printouts; one per student

#### Preparations

Label the monthly and annual calendars with the correct months and dates. There should be one copy for each of the twelve months, and as many copies as students for the annual calendar.

#### Instructions

1. Explain to the students the need to plan our Sabbaths to be at church and to worship God.
2. Give each student an annual calendar; they will be taking these calendars home after class. Then, distribute the monthly calendars equally among the students. Each student should have at least one monthly calendar, but if there are more students than months, then ask students to pair up.
3. On both their annual and monthly calendars, ask the students to circle each Saturday in a bright color. Now we are done with the annual calendars, so the students can put those away.
4. Give the students one commandment each. Ask them to write the commandment out on their monthly calendar and draw an illustration to match. Since there are more months than commandments, the teacher can choose what to write on the two months that are left over. (Suggestion: Write "God created us" on January and "Jesus died for us to save us" on February or December to remind the students of the two things they should always remember when coming to church on the Sabbath.)
5. After the students are done with their monthly calendars, glue the printouts onto colored construction paper to make a class calendar. Try to use twelve different colors if possible. Hole-punch two holes across the top and string together the calendar. (Alternatively, if there is space in the classroom to display the months separately, do not hole punch or string the calendar together.)
6. Explain how important it is for brothers and sisters to be together on Sabbath. Ask students to partner up and discuss what they enjoy doing on Sabbath. The class can arrange to do one of these activities at the end of class every other week. (Suggestions may include singing a particular hymn, enjoying a special snack together, making get-well cards for anyone who is sick or not feeling well, etc.) Make note of these activities on the class calendar. Then, put the calendar in a visible place in the classroom or stick each month around the classroom to display each of the ten commandments.

## 2

**Hearts of Worship**

**Objective:** To allow students to understand that there may be times when Sabbath will be observed at a place other than church. The most important thing is to have a true heart of worship in those situations.

**Instructions:** Read the story to the class. Then hold a class discussion.

It was cold and crisp outside, but the sun was shining and the sky was blue. The Lee family set out early on their trip to their relatives' because it would be a long drive. Elizabeth and Darryl were going to see their aunt, uncle, and cousins whom they hadn't seen in two years. They were all going to go to church together for the Sabbath. There was a special reason why they were making this long three-hour drive. Their aunt just had a baby girl and they were going to see her for the first time. It was very exciting for Elizabeth and Darryl. To help pass the time, the Lees had brought along their Bibles to read in the car.

Before they left in the morning, the Lees had knelt down to pray to God, asking Him to guide them and to keep them safe during the long trip. It was in the middle of winter but luckily, the weather had been nice and clear. However, as they drove now, Darryl noticed that the sky was getting darker and darker with each passing minute. After a while, it began to rain. Darryl's dad turned on the headlights and drove slower as the rain grew heavier. The weather quickly worsened.

As the rain was falling, Elizabeth was taking a nap with her head on a pillow that was propped up against the window. She was dreaming about getting a present for her birthday when suddenly, someone tugged at her arm. She rubbed her eyes and heard her brother shouting at her.

"Look," said Darryl, "it's snowing for the first time this year!"

Elizabeth looked out the window and saw that it was snowing hard. Her dad was driving at a snail's pace. She could hardly see the road. The snow began coming down harder and the wind began to pick up. The snowflakes had now turned into a huge snowstorm. After a few minutes, their dad pulled the car over to the side of the road. He couldn't see the road anymore. He turned the radio on and heard that the snowstorm would last for at least an hour. The Lees decided that it would be better to wait until the weather was better before driving again.

Their dad said to everyone, "Well, it looks like we are going to be here for a while. I don't think we'll be able to make it to Aunt Jane's in time for service."

Their mom had some better news. "Let's get out the blankets from the trunk and warm up. I also have some hot soup in the thermos."

Everyone huddled in the blankets and drank hot soup. After they had finished drinking, their mom suggested singing a hymn. Also, because everyone had their Bibles, they also decided to read a passage on King David. After finishing the passage, they prayed to God to thank Him for protecting them.

Praying, Darryl said, "Thank You for keeping us safe in the snowstorm. Even though we cannot make it to church, we are still remembering Your words and keeping the Sabbath. Thank You, Lord."

After this prayer, Elizabeth and Darryl both felt tired. They soon fell asleep. When they woke up, they noticed that they were moving again. The weather had gotten better, and they could see the roads much clearer than before. The Lees thanked God for protecting them and allowing them to observe the Sabbath, even through a snowstorm.

## 3

**Remember the Commandments / Optional**

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**4. Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy.**"















E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 4—The Holy Sabbath

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** Sabbath is a holy day of rest set aside by God.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To understand the importance of keeping the Sabbath as a commandment of God.
  2. To relate Sabbath to worshipping God at church.
  3. To realize that God considers whether our heart “keeps the Sabbath” as most important.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Mark 2:27)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Unscramble the Commandment

1. the holy to Sabbath Remember keep it
- 

## Multiple Choice

2. \_\_\_\_: When the Pharisees saw Jesus' disciples plucking grain, they were \_\_\_\_.
- Happy because the disciples were doing a good thing
  - Furious because the disciples were not cleaning up after themselves
  - Angry because the disciples were breaking Sabbath laws
  - Confused because they didn't know what the disciples were doing
3. \_\_\_\_: What did Jesus and His disciples do on the Sabbath?
- Walked around town and caused trouble with the Pharisees
  - Plucked grain from a wheat field and healed a man with a crippled hand
  - Agreed with the Pharisees that it is better to starve on the Sabbath to keep it holy
  - Taught all the followers that they don't have to worship in synagogues anymore

## Fill In the Blank

4. Jesus kept the S\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ by going to the s\_\_\_\_\_ every S\_\_\_\_\_ to teach.
5. On the Sabbath day, God wants us to remember His c\_\_\_\_\_ and how He s\_\_\_\_\_ us.

## True or False

6. The Pharisees were thankful that the man with the crippled hand was healed on the Sabbath. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus was angry with the Pharisees because they wouldn't answer when He asked them if it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath. \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

8. Which Old Testament character did Jesus use to show that it was okay to eat on the Sabbath when you are hungry?
- \_\_\_\_\_

9. Why was God not pleased with how the Jews observed the Sabbath?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

10. How can we keep the Sabbath holy with the right heart?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 5

## FILIAL PIETY



### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Honor

In the Bible, we can find four references to honor, used in the following contexts: to praise highly, to care for, to respect, and to obey. Guide your students in finding specific ways they can praise their parents highly and ways they can care for, respect, and obey them.

1. To praise highly (Prov 4:8)
2. To care for (Ps 91:15)
3. To respect (Lev 19:3; 20:9)
4. To obey (Dt 21:18-21)

#### Joseph Made the Extra Effort

When Jacob called Joseph to pay his brothers a visit in Shechem, Joseph promptly answered, "Here I am." Shechem was located approximately 50 miles north of Hebron, so it would not have been a quick journey for Joseph. But without complaining or delaying, Joseph obeyed his father and immediately set out for the trip.

When Joseph finally made his way to Shechem, he discovered that his brothers were not there but had gone on to Dothan. Going to Dothan meant an additional 15-mile journey northward. Joseph could have said that he had fulfilled his father's wishes to go to Shechem and returned home. Instead, he made the extra effort to carry out his father's command.

#### Ruth Cared for Naomi

Ruth supported her mother-in-law Naomi by going out to the fields to glean heads of grain. Gleanings were essentially the leftover stalks of grain after the first harvest cutting.

According to God's commandment, the Israelites should not reap their harvests to the corners of their fields nor gather any gleaning from their harvests (Lev 23:22). This was done to make sure the poor and the stranger among them were taken care of.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 20:12  
 Genesis 37:12-36; 40-50  
 Ruth 1-4  
 Luke 2:41-52

### BIBLE TRUTH

God promised to bless those who honor their parents.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that honoring our parents is a commandment from God.
2. To learn how to love and respect our parents.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

(Ephesians 6:1)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, we thank You for always watching over us. You provide us with families that love us and always take care of us. Through today's lesson, please help us learn how to honor and obey our parents, as this is one of the commandments You want us to follow. Please forgive us when we fall short, and put in our hearts the constant desire to honor and care for everyone in our family. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The fifth commandment from God, “Honor your father and your mother,” is also the first commandment with a promise (Eph 6:2), which means that it is a commandment of great importance. God promised that if we honor our parents, our days may be “long on the earth.”

In this day and age, much of the respect and reverence that was once expected, even demanded, of children to their parents has been lost in many families. Though parents do not love their children any less, it has become common for children to take the love of their parents for granted or misuse that love by making demands all the time.

It is crucial, therefore, to establish the right concept of filial piety and parental honor in the hearts of your students. Since your students still rely on their parents for many things beyond daily necessities, including comfort, love, and approval, now is the perfect age to teach them the importance of loving and honoring their parents

through their actions. Learning this teaching from an early age will help them carry this principle into adulthood.

It may be difficult for your students to fully understand what it means to honor someone. So, start with the four meanings of honor in the Bible described earlier—praise highly, care for, respect, and obey—to provide your students a concrete notion of how to honor their parents.

In addition to teaching them to understand what “honor” means, encourage your students to think about practical actions they can perform on a daily basis to demonstrate their care, respect, and obedience to their parents. In this way, their parents can see by their actions that they are obeying God’s fifth commandment.

God Himself watches and takes note of every action that we take, no matter how small. Ensure your students that God’s words never fail. His blessings and promise are sure to follow if they obey this commandment.

### VOCABULARY

- honor:** to show regard, respect, devotion, and love for someone
- pasture:** an area with grass or other plants where animals can graze and eat
- merchants:** people who buy and sell various things to make a living
- Pharaoh:** the title given to ancient Egyptian kings
- famine:** extreme lack of food in an area
- mother-in-law:** the mother of one’s husband
- daughter-in-law:** the wife of one’s son

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the fourth commandment. What is the fourth commandment? (Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.) God spent six days creating many things: the sun, the moon, the animals, every living creature, and man! However, God set aside the seventh day, Saturday, as a day of rest. He set an example for us by resting on the seventh day.

In the Old Testament, there were strict rules to follow on the Sabbath because God wanted everyone to spend that day truly resting and worshipping Him. Over time, people began to add their own rules about the Sabbath.

When Jesus came to this world, He taught the people the true meaning of keeping the Sabbath; it meant going to the temple, learning God’s words, and praying. Even more importantly, He taught the people to remember God and to serve Him.

What does it mean to serve God? Sometimes, helping people is a way to serve God. As long as what we are doing draws us closer to God, then we are keeping God’s commandment.

## BIBLE STORY

### Introduction

How much do your parents love you? [Brainstorm with the students on all the things that their parents do for them, free of charge. To help the students visualize the extent of their parents' care, make a list on the board.]

From the day you were born, your parents have loved you unconditionally. It is so natural for parents to love their children. However, sometimes it is not so easy for children to show love to their parents.

God thinks that it is very important for children to love their parents. That is why the fifth commandment that God gave to us says: "Honor your father and your mother." God promises to bless all those who follow this commandment.

There are many stories of children in the Bible who honored, respected, and obeyed their parents. Let us learn from the stories of three such people who honored their parents and were blessed by God as a result.

### Joseph Loved His Family and Honored His Father

Joseph was one of twelve sons of a man named Jacob. He was loved by his father very much. His father even made him a special coat of many colors.

One day, Jacob called out to Joseph and asked him to do something. Joseph's brothers had gone to feed the sheep in a place called Shechem, so his father wanted Joseph to go there and see how they were doing. [It may be helpful to draw a simple map showing where Hebron, Shechem, and Dothan are in relation to one another.]

Joseph was in Hebron at the time. Going to Shechem to look for his brothers meant that Joseph would have to make a very long journey because Shechem was about fifty miles away from home. [If you know the distance your students live from church, you can help them understand this distance by comparing it to their commute to church. Remind them that there were no cars in Joseph's time.]

Do you think Joseph complained to his father? No. Joseph replied to his father, "Here I am." Joseph showed that he honored his father by answering immediately when his father called him and by being willing to listen to what his father wanted him to do!

[Ask students a question about how they respond when their parents call them to do something. For example, you might ask, "When you are upstairs in your room and your parents call you to come downstairs, how do you respond? Do you wait until they call you the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th time? Do you respond right away the first time you hear them?"]

Joseph obeyed his father and immediately started on his journey to Shechem. Once he reached Shechem, he could not find his brothers. So he started wandering around in the fields looking for them. His brothers were not there!

Finally, someone saw Joseph wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" Joseph replied that he was looking for his brothers. The man told Joseph that his brothers had gone to another place called Dothan. [Show the map again.]

Do you think Joseph gave up and went home after hearing that he would not find his brothers at Shechem? Do you think Joseph continued further to Dothan to look for his brothers? Joseph continued on his journey to Dothan to complete the task his father gave to him. Even though the task was difficult and he had already spent so much time looking for his brothers, he did not give up right away or go home with the task unfinished.

Finally, Joseph reached Dothan. Joseph's brothers were very jealous of him and when they saw him they took him and threw him into a well. Later, they decided to sell Joseph to some merchants who were passing through the land. The merchants then sold Joseph to an official in Egypt to take care of his household.

At first, the official liked Joseph a lot, but when Joseph was wrongly blamed for something he did not do, he threw Joseph into prison. It was already bad enough that Joseph was separated from his father and living in a strange place, but now he was being thrown into prison for something he did not do.

As always, Joseph continued to trust in God while he was in prison, so God was with him. One day, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a strange dream that he could not explain. No one else in Pharaoh's entire kingdom was able to explain the dream either. However, Joseph was able to explain the dreams to Pharaoh because God had told Joseph the meaning of those dreams. Pharaoh could see that the Spirit of God was in Joseph, so he awarded Joseph greatly and made him ruler of the entire land. Besides Pharaoh, there was no one who was greater than Joseph in all of Egypt.

Seven years later, Joseph was still living in Egypt. There was a big famine in the land, but because Joseph had stored extra food in Egypt, people went there to buy food and grain. One day, Joseph saw that his brothers had come to Egypt to buy food. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him and thought that he was an Egyptian.

When Joseph told his brothers who he really was, they were so surprised that they could not answer him! If you were Joseph, what would you have done when you met your brothers? Joseph told his brothers not to feel bad about selling him. He knew God had planned it so that he could help people during this famine.

Joseph asked them how their father was doing. Was their father still alive and well? He told his brothers, "Hurry and go up to my father and tell him everything that has happened to me. Then hurry and bring him here to Egypt so he can live near me. I will provide for you and all of your family during these years of famine. Hurry and

bring my father down here!"

Even after so many years apart, Joseph thought about how he could take care of his father and what he could do to honor him. He prepared many gifts for his father: donkeys carrying grain, bread, food, and many wonderful things from Egypt.

When Joseph's father finally arrived in Egypt, Joseph went out to meet him. Joseph hugged his father and wept for a very long time. Joseph gave his father the best land in Egypt to live in and he continued to take care of his father until the very end.

We can see how much Joseph loved his family and honored his father. Even though his brothers mistreated him, Joseph showed them love and forgiveness. Even though he had not seen his father for so long, he still wanted to honor him and take care of him. Since Joseph kept God's commandments, God was with him and blessed him throughout his life.

### **Ruth Made a Determination to Take Care of Naomi**

This next person we will hear about was a very good daughter-in-law. Her name is Ruth.

There was a man called Elimelech. He, his wife Naomi, and his two sons lived in Bethlehem. There was a famine in the land, so they traveled to a place called Moab to look for food and then settled there.

While living in Moab, Elimelech's two sons got married. One married a woman called Orpah and the other married Ruth. Unfortunately, Elimelech and his two sons soon died. Now there were only three women left in the house: Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth. What were they going to do? They had no one left to support them.

Naomi was a very kind woman. She did not want her daughters-in-law to suffer with her. They were still young and could remarry. So, she told them to go back home to their own families to find new husbands and decided to return to Bethlehem by herself.

Orpah took the advice of her mother-in-law and went home, but Ruth decided to stay with Naomi. She knew that it would be difficult for her mother-in-law to take care of herself since she was already an old woman.

Ruth convinced Naomi by saying, "Don't urge me to leave you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me if anything but death separates you and me."

Ruth used very strong and determined words to show how much she loved Naomi. She wanted Naomi to understand that she would always be there to take care of her, no matter what.

The two of them returned to Bethlehem but they still had to work in order to survive. Ruth went out into the grain fields and picked the leftover grain from the floor so that she and her mother-in-law would have food to eat. She worked very hard every day from morning until night.

When the owner of the grain field, Boaz, gave her some food to eat during the day, she ate until she was satisfied and kept the extra, not for herself, but for her mother-in-law. Not once did she complain of all the hard work she had to do for her mother-in-law. She did everything with a willing and cheerful heart. Whenever Naomi asked Ruth to do anything, she quickly obeyed and did as she was told.

When Boaz saw and heard of all the wonderful things Ruth did for Naomi, he was very impressed and touched. He knew that Ruth was a good woman because she honored her mother-in-law. When he found out that he was a relative of Naomi, he decided to marry Ruth and take care of both Ruth and Naomi. God really blessed Ruth because she honored and loved her mother-in-law with all her heart.

### **Jesus Honored and Obeyed His Parents**

Jesus Himself set the perfect example for us by honoring and obeying His earthly parents. When Jesus was twelve years old, Jesus and His parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover. After the feast was over, His parents left to go home since the journey would take a few days. They did not know that Jesus had stayed behind in the temple to listen to the teachers talk about God.

When His parents finally realized that Jesus was not with them, they frantically looked everywhere. Eventually, they went back to the temple and saw Jesus talking with the teachers and asking them questions. They were amazed that He knew so much about God.

When his mother had the chance, she went up to Jesus and asked Him, "Why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?"

Even though Jesus' parents did not understand why He wanted to stay in the temple to talk with the teachers, Jesus went home obediently with His parents. He did not argue with them. Jesus set a good example for everyone to follow.

Joseph, Ruth, and Jesus are only three of the many examples of children in the Bible who honored their parents. They all wanted to honor their parents, and they did whatever they could to obey, respect, love, and take care of them. This is how God wants everyone to follow the fifth commandment.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The fifth commandment says to \_\_\_\_\_ (honor) your father and your mother.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ruth) was a good daughter-in-law.
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ (obeyed) His parents and went home with them.
4. Joseph took care of his father by bringing him to Egypt so that they could be closer together. He also gave Jacob the best land to live in. True.
5. God wants everyone to love and respect their parents. True.
6. What does it mean to honor your parents? It means to respect, obey, and care for them.
7. How do you know that the fifth commandment is important to God? It is a commandment with a promise.
8. How did Joseph, Ruth, and Jesus honor their parents? They obeyed and loved them wholeheartedly.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Ephesians 6:1)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### Filial Piety

Why does the Bible place such great importance on honoring our parents? In 1 John 4:20-21, the Bible says, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” The same teaching applies to honoring our parents. If we cannot learn to honor and obey our earthly parents, the very people who love and take care of us, then we cannot truly learn to honor and obey God, our heavenly Father. If we cannot repay our parents’ love by honoring them, we will never be able to apprehend the greater love of God and repay Him. Therefore, we can see that honoring our parents is the first step to honoring God. But what exactly does “honoring” mean? How can we honor our parents? Let me share a few examples with you.

#### **a. Respect them**

The very first thing we can do to honor our parents is to respect them and respect what they say. The Bible tells us that children are a heritage from God (Ps 127:3). God wants our parents to teach us the way we should go so that we can always stay on the right path as we grow (Prov 22:6). Because of this, our parents often give us advice. For example, they might tell us not to watch TV for more than an hour a day. Does this sound familiar to you? Sometimes, their advice might not be something you want to hear. You might think it's not fair that you've spent all

day at school working hard and when you get home, you can only spend this little time watching TV. Raise your hand if you've ever felt this way before. Certainly, this is not a good feeling. But this is the time we need to learn to respect our parents. They have experienced far more than we have and they want to show us the right things to do. They give us advice because they want the best for us. As much as we want to go the other way, we should always pay respect to their words and obey them. Our parents love us and they will never lead us down the wrong path. Listen to them and respect what they say. With respect comes trust. Always trust that our parents give us the best advice because they love us so much. Let me share a story with you.

This time last year, Janice had a conversation with her mom:

**Janice:** Mom, I really want to join the dance club at school.

**Mom:** Why do you want to join the dance club all of a sudden? You never mentioned before that you like to dance.

**Janice:** Well, I don't. But all of my best friends joined this year. They told me that it's really fun and they get to compete with other schools at the end of the year. Last year, our school won and now everyone thinks that dancing is so cool.

**Mom:** I see. But Janice, this is your junior year in high

school. Your homework is going to get more difficult, and you will need more time to study this year. I understand that you want to do something fun with your friends, but you're already taking piano lessons and I don't want you to have too much pressure. This is a very important year for you, and if you fall behind, your senior year will be even more difficult. I don't want you to look back and regret your decision. It sounds like joining this dance club is quite a commitment. Isn't it?

**Janice:** Yes, it is. Okay, I'll think about it again. Maybe you're right.

**Mom:** Remember, Janice, whatever you decide to do, I will support you. But take my advice and really think about it. Let me know what you decide, okay?

**Janice:** OK!

That night, Janice thought about the idea again and decided not to join the dance club. Even though she really wanted to join, she respected her mom's advice. She knew that her mom just wanted the best for her. For a few weeks, she was a little sad that she wasn't able to go to dance rehearsals with her friends. But, as the year went on, Janice became so busy that she forgot about how much she wanted to be part of the dance club.

Thinking back, Janice is really thankful for her mom's advice last year. Even without joining the dance club, Janice's junior year was not an easy year for her. She had a lot more homework and projects than she did the year before. She can't imagine how she could have managed if she had to go to dance club rehearsals every other day, on top of her schoolwork and piano lessons. Janice now knows that her mom's advice is always the best!

### Reflection Questions

- 1. Did Janice respect her mom's advice? How did she feel afterwards?** Yes, she did. She really wanted to join the dance club, but she respected her mom's advice and didn't join. She was a little sad because she didn't get to do what she wanted.
- 2. How does Janice feel now about her mom's advice? Why?** She feels very thankful for her mom's advice now. If she hadn't listened to her mom, she would have ended up having a very tough year due to her increased homework and projects, in addition to her piano lessons. She is glad that she took her mom's advice not to join the dance club.

### b. Appreciate them

Another way to honor our parents is to appreciate them and always think about their many good qualities. Since we live with our parents and see them every day, sometimes we forget that they do many things for us. How many of you say thank you to your mom every night

for cooking dinner for the family? How many of you ask your dad, "How was your day?" when he comes home from work every day? And how many of you think about your parents in your daily prayers? Little things like this do not only show our parents how much we care about them, they also help us appreciate them more so that we don't take their love for granted. We can become more patient and understanding with them. And with more appreciation comes more love. Try it yourself at home...you can fill your house with warmth when you show more appreciation to your family!

### c. Show kindness to them

Honoring our parents is not simply about obeying everything they ask us to do. It also means taking the initiative to do something for our parents that will make them happy. One of the many things we can do to make our parents happy is to show kindness to them. That way, they know that we love and care for them just as much as they do for us. Here are some examples for you:

- It's Sunday and Robert is enjoying his weekend playing video games. Suddenly, Robert's dad comes into his room and says, "I'm going to be outside cleaning my car if you need me." As Robert continues playing his video game, something comes to his mind: "Dad has had so much work this past week and we didn't really get a chance to talk. I should spend some time with him today. I'll go outside and help him clean his car!"
- Jane's mom is having her friends over for dinner tonight. She is very excited about today because she hasn't seen her friends in years. After dinner, Jane's mom starts cleaning up the table so that she can bring out some refreshments for the guests. Seeing that, Jane goes into the kitchen and says to her mom, "Mom, let me clean up the table. You haven't seen your friends for such a long time. You should spend more time with them. Don't worry. I'll bring out the fruit and dessert, too."
- Daniel lives with his grandparents. Every morning, they like to sit outside on the patio and drink some tea. This is their favorite thing to do, but Daniel views it as an incredibly boring way to spend his time. However, even though Daniel doesn't really enjoy sitting out on the patio, he goes out every Sunday morning to spend time with them. He knows that his grandparents love it when he sits there with them and laughs with them when they talk about their old stories. Daniel probably knows every story by heart now, but he doesn't mind listening to them over and over again, because he knows that this makes his grandparents happy.

From these stories, we have learned that honoring our parents also means showing kindness to them and making them happy. If we appreciate our parents' love, we will always try to make them happy. In addition, we have also learned that we need to extend our love to our grandparents. They are the parents of our parents, and our parents honor them, too. Think about it, if we don't honor our grandparents, whom our parents love very much, how hurt would our parents be? And if we hurt our parents, we're not honoring them. So, honoring our parents requires us to also do the same to our grandparents. They love us as much as our parents do.

After all, honoring our parents or grandparents is not that difficult. We know that they love us, and naturally, we just want to love them back! With love comes respect, appreciation, and kindness; equipped with all three, we can easily follow the fifth commandment. But sometimes, we may find it difficult to honor our parents when they discipline us. Raise your hand if you have been disciplined or "punished" by your parents before. As you can see, it is common for parents to discipline their children. Why is that? There has to be a reason behind it. Do you know why your parents discipline you? Don't tell me the answer yet. Let me first share a story with you to which we can all relate:

Carmen is at the mall with her mom shopping for a birthday gift for Carmen's little brother. As soon as they enter the toy store, Carmen asks her mom if she may go to the Girls section. Her mom replies, "You can go look around for 10 minutes. When you are done, come back and meet me here. Remember though, today we're getting a birthday gift for your brother and nothing else. If you see something you like, you'll have to wait until next month as we agreed, okay?" Carmen nods and quickly leaves. 10 minutes later, Carmen returns from the Girls section...

**Carmen:** [Holding a toy] Mom, can I get this? I know! I agreed that we're not getting another toy until next month. But remember last year when it was my birthday, you got something for James, too? To be fair, I should also get a new toy on his birthday!

**Mom:** Carmen, we already agreed on not getting a new toy this month. You cannot change your mind now. Also, last year I got James a book on your birthday only because I saw that book while shopping for your gift, and I thought it was a great book for James to learn the alphabet! Technically, it wasn't a gift.

**Carmen:** [Raising her voice] No! That's unfair! All I know is that James did get something on my birthday last year, and I should get something today, too!

**Mom:** Carmen, I know you really like this toy, but we're not getting it because we agreed on it. You already got a new toy last week, and we cannot spend more money

on buying toys this month. If you really like this, we'll come back next month and get it. Daddy and I don't want you to spend too much money on toys. That's why we made this agreement, remember?

**Carmen:** [Voice still raised] I don't care! It's just not fair! This is not that expensive at all! I'm not spending a lot! I want this! I'm getting it today!

In the end, Carmen left the toy store crying because her mom would not let her get a new toy. That night, Carmen's mom had a long talk with Carmen about what happened. She was very disappointed that Carmen talked back to her and raised her voice. As "punishment," she took away all the toys Carmen had in her room for three days. She wanted Carmen to learn to appreciate all the toys she already had and to understand that it was not right for her to talk back to her mom or to break their agreement. For the next three days, Carmen prayed and thought about the whole matter and she finally understood the lesson her mom wanted to teach her and apologized to her. Carmen now knows that her mom only wants her to learn how to spend reasonably and be content with what she already has.

From this story, can you tell me now why our parents sometimes discipline us? [Let students answer.] Like Carmen, sometimes we make mistakes and we don't realize it right away. Our parents, however, don't want us to make the same mistakes again. They want us to learn a lesson from these mistakes so that we can do better next time. Imagine if Carmen's mom didn't talk to Carmen about what she did wrong at the toy store. Carmen would probably do the same thing again next time when she sees something she really wants to buy. Carmen's mom didn't want to "punish" Carmen, but she did it because she knew that Carmen could better understand how to appreciate her toys more through this experience. During the three days without her toys, Carmen probably thought that her mom was being mean and not loving. But we can see that Carmen's mom disciplined her because she loves her! If she didn't love Carmen, she would not have spent the time to tell her what she did wrong. Carmen's mom probably didn't feel good about punishing Carmen either, but she did it because she doesn't want Carmen to make the same mistakes again. Hebrews 12:11 says, "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Our parents certainly know that we don't like to be disciplined. So why do they still do it? Because they want us to be better. They love us so much that they are not willing to see us doing what is wrong. It's their responsibility to train us in the way we should go, that is, the path that is right in the eyes of God. So next time,

when our parents discipline us, try to think about the lesson they want us to learn. And when we finally see where they are coming from, we'll see that they love us very much—so much that they only want the best for us.

Now, let's talk about the commandment's second part. Honoring our parents is honoring God and by honoring our parents, we will receive more blessings. In fact, this commandment is the first commandment with a promise! Let's turn to Exodus 20:12. What is the blessing that God has promised us if we honor our parents? [Let students answer.] "That your days may be long upon the land." Remember what the first four commandments are? [Let students answer.] The first four commandments all teach us to love God and honor Him. But God knows that if we are unable to obey our earthly parents, we will be unable to love Him as our heavenly Father. So, by honoring our parents, we are showing God that we are willing to honor Him. Similarly, if we fail to respect, appreciate, and be kind to our parents, God knows that we will continue to fail Him also. This is not what God wants from us. God wants us to live a life that gives glory and honor to Him. He has promised to give us a long life if we honor our parents, because this is the very first step in showing God that we are willing to live a life that honors Him.

Students, our parents love us very much. They are the ones that truly care about us and unconditionally give to us. We can trust and rely on them all the time. Their love for us is a genuine demonstration of God's love towards all

of us, and it will hurt Him very much if we continuously take our parents' love for granted. When we don't honor our parents, God, too, is dishonored. "Why don't My children respect My commandment? Why doesn't he appreciate how much I've done for him? Why isn't she kind to Me?" All these questions come to His mind when we dishonor our parents. Is this how we want our heavenly Father to think about us? Certainly not. What can we do? [Let students answer.] It all starts with honoring our parents!

**For Teachers:** Help your students identify areas where they have trouble honoring their parents. What are some things that they do that make their parents unhappy? What actions can they take to make a change? Help them understand that their parents only want what is the best for them. Listening to their parents will actually help them develop and grow. You may also want to point out to your students that honoring their parents does not simply mean obeying everything they are asked to do (within the boundaries of Biblical teachings). It also means taking the initiative to do something for their parents that will make them happy. Discuss with your students about what their parents like and what they can do for them. After the discussion, help your students create a practical list of five things they can do to honor and obey their parents. You can have them write the five things down on an 8"x11" piece of paper, and then have them date it and sign the bottom to signify their commitment. A sample is provided on the next page.

### HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. D
3. Joseph told his brothers to bring his father back to Egypt. He gave his father many gifts and gave him the best land in Egypt to live on.
4. C
5. A
6. Ruth followed Naomi to her hometown in order to take care of her. She went to the fields every day to gather grain for them to eat.
7. B
8. Jesus obeyed His parents by returning home with them.
9. Answers may vary.

## Life Application Activity Sample

## How I Can Honor My Parents

1. Sometimes when I wake up in the morning, I am very grouchy. I know this makes my mommy sad because she only wants to wake me up to get ready for school. To show my love to my mommy, I will wake up with a smile on my face and say "good morning" to her.
2. I get into fights with my brother many times over toys. This makes my parents unhappy because they say we should not fight. To honor my parents and make them happy, I will let my brother have the toys he wants.
3. My mommy and daddy are extremely happy when I finish my homework before bedtime. I will honor them by always doing my homework before I play a video game.
4. My daddy loves to sit on his favorite couch reading his newspaper. My daddy also likes to drink tea. I will show my daddy that I love him by offering to get him a cup of hot tea next time I see him reading his newspaper.
5. My mommy works so hard to prepare yummy meals for me. I will show her how much I love her by offering to wash the dishes after dinner.

September 1, 2011

Susie

## ACTIVITY

1

**Honor Your Parents****Objective:** To help students identify ways they can honor their parents.**Instructions:** Read the following sentences. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to show how you can honor your parents.

1. I can help by \_\_\_\_\_ after each meal and \_\_\_\_\_ the garbage out.

2. I can \_\_\_\_\_ the family car.

3. I can help \_\_\_\_\_ the laundry after it has been washed and dried.

4. I can \_\_\_\_\_ to God and ask Him to guide my parents.

5. I can show my obedience by doing things when my parents \_\_\_\_\_ me to do them.

6. I can show honor by \_\_\_\_\_ my parents when they call for me.

7. I can help my parents by keeping my room \_\_\_\_\_.

8. I can make my parents happy by not \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2

**Appreciation Tickets**

**Objective:** To help students show their appreciation and love for their parents.

**Materials**

- Blank or construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors

**Instructions**

1. Ask each student to create three tickets that they can give to their parents. Each of the tickets should include something they want to do for their parents. These things can include washing the car or dishes, tidying up their room, or something their parents want them to do.
2. Their parents can redeem these tickets at a later time. The tickets should be a manageable size but also large enough for writing and drawing (6" by 4" is a reasonable size).
3. Have the students decorate their tickets and ensure that their parents are aware of the tickets. Explain to their parents that this is one way their children can show their love and respect for them.

## 3

**Thank-You Card**

**Objective:** To help students show their appreciation to their parents by saying "thank you."

**Materials**

- Blank or construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors

**Instructions**

1. At the beginning of class, the students should have brainstormed a list of things that their parents do for them every day. Review the list with them and reiterate once again how their parents show their love to them every day through all their actions.
2. Have the students make a thank-you card for their mom and dad telling them how much they appreciate all the things that they do.

## 4

**Remember the Commandments / Optional**

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**5. Honor your father and your mother.**"

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 5—Filial Piety

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God promised to bless those who honor their parents.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To understand that honoring our parents is a commandment from God.  
2. To learn how to love and respect our parents.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Ephesians 6:1)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : **When Jacob called to Joseph, Joseph replied \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. "I am busy."
  - b. "Here I am."
  - c. "Don't bother me."
  - d. "I can't hear you!"
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : **What did Jacob want Joseph to do?**
  - a. Buy some milk
  - b. Read a book
  - c. Feed the family sheep
  - d. Look for his brothers
  
3. **How did Joseph take care of his father Jacob?** \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Naomi was Ruth's \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. Daughter
  - b. Grandmother
  - c. Mother-in-law
  - d. Aunt
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Ruth followed Naomi to her hometown in \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. Bethlehem
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Jordan
  - d. Moab
  
6. **How did Ruth take care of Naomi?** \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Where did Jesus' parents take Him to during Passover?**
  - a. Bethlehem
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Jordan
  - d. Moab
  
8. **How did Jesus obey His parents?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. **I obeyed my parents this week by \_\_\_\_\_.**  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 6



## DO NOT MURDER

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Blood Revenge

Under Mosaic Law, every transgression was punished, and murder was a serious crime. A common practice in ancient societies was blood revenge: the murderer was put to death by the deceased's family or nearest relatives. Many people have used Exodus 21:23-25 as the justification for this punishment. However, the "eye for eye" rule was a guide, not the law. In murder cases, there were elders, judges, or even kings who acted as arbitrators between two parties. These verses were meant to make the punishment fit the crime: a harsh punishment would be unfair but a lenient one would not deter crime or teach a lesson. Jesus taught in Matthew 5:38-48 that these verses were not meant to justify revenge. It is always important to remember that God is the supreme Judge; He will punish and reject those who have sinned.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Murder is a very serious crime. Your students will have no problem grasping that concept and understanding the consequences of such an act. It may be more relevant to focus on Matthew 5:22. Jesus said, "Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of judgment. [...] But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire." Jesus teaches that we should not be angry with our brethren or insult them. Although being angry with and insulting others are not physical acts of murder, they can cause a person to commit murder. Murder is usually committed because people first have hatred in their hearts, which leads them to think about hurting another person. Anger is the small spark that lights the fire. That's why it is crucial to make peace with our brethren. Matthew 5:24 even teaches us that if we are angry with someone when we go to offer a gift to God, we must first "leave [our] gift there before the altar, [...] be reconciled to [our] brother, and then come and offer [our] gift."

It is important to teach the students to make amends with each other when conflicts arise. It is common for young children to argue over things that seem trivial to adults. At this age, children can become very attached to their opinions and perceive a different opinion to be a personal attack. Let us teach the students to disagree politely when different opinions arise. Let us also encourage them to make peace with each other as quickly as possible when misunderstandings occur. It is important for them to understand that they should not let anger or resentment grow in their hearts. Instead, they should have the peace of God in their hearts and love one another.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 20:13  
 Genesis 4:1-15  
 1 Samuel 18:5-9; 24:1-15; 26:7-11  
 Luke 20:19-20; 22:1-6

### BIBLE TRUTH

God will severely punish those who commit murder.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to love one another.
2. To learn to be a peacemaker.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

(Luke 6:27b)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for protecting us this past week. Today we will learn about the sixth commandment. Please teach us how to love and care for everyone. Let us always pray to You for guidance and strength. May all the glory be given to You. Hallelujah! Amen.

## REVIEW

Does anyone remember what we learned about last week? [Allow students to answer. If they forget, provide guidance.] We learned about three people who honored their parents. Which commandment were they obeying? Yes! They were obeying God's fifth commandment. Joseph took care of his father in his old age by bringing him to Egypt and giving him the best piece of land to live on. He made sure he stayed close to his father. Ruth took very good care of her mother-in-law Naomi. She went back to Bethlehem with Naomi and even worked in the grain fields to make sure the two of them had food to eat. God blessed Ruth greatly by giving her a very good husband named Boaz. Jesus was obedient to His parents. When they came to the temple to look for Him, He left willingly and did not argue. We learned that we need to follow these examples and honor our parents by loving, respecting, obeying, and taking care of them to the best of our ability.

## VOCABULARY

**murder:** unlawful, willful killing  
**vengeance:** revenge

## BIBLE STORY

### Violence in the World

In our world today, there are many good people and many good things that happen. For example, sometimes when a person loses something, a kind stranger finds it and returns it! That's the honest thing to do, right? Sadly, there are also many bad things that happen. In the news, we can see that a lot of murders and violent crimes happen every day. It seems like they are getting worse each day. Why do you think people do bad things? [Discuss.] We know that anger and hatred can cause bad things to happen. What are some of those bad things? [Discuss.] Anger can lead to murder, which we often hear about in the news. What is murder? [Allow students to respond. Have a brief discussion and go over the definition of murder, which is in the "Vocabulary" section.] In fact, murder has become so common that people no longer seem to be shocked by such news. It happens in homes, in schools, and even in public places like the park.

### The Sixth Commandment

As we learned a few weeks ago, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. Today we will learn about the sixth commandment, which is, "You shall not murder." God knew that people angered quickly, which could lead to murder. What is happening now in today's society tells us that God was right. Even though God had commanded the people not to kill, many did not listen and consequently were punished for their sin.

### Cain and Abel

Today, we will learn about three Bible stories about people who had hatred in their hearts, which led them to commit murder. Two of these stories took place before God gave

the Ten Commandments.

The very first murder recorded in the Bible happened when Cain killed his brother Abel because of his hatred for Abel. Cain thought that he could get away with it but God saw everything.

Let's open our Bibles to see what God told Cain. Let's read Genesis 4:10, 12. [Have a student read the verses aloud.] We can see from these verses that God knew exactly what Cain did, and He was not pleased. God punished Cain so that his crops wouldn't grow.

How do you think Cain felt? When Cain heard God's words, he became very scared. He thought that others might want to kill him. So God told him, "If anyone kills you, they will suffer vengeance seven times over." From this, we can see that God does not like it when people are killed for any reason. God doesn't even like it when people get hurt.

### Saul and David

King Saul was another person who had hatred in his heart. He was very jealous of David because people praised David more than him. Saul tried many times to have David killed. He made sure that David was in many battles. Saul hoped that David would die during the fighting. When that did not happen, Saul tried to kill David himself. God protected David, and he managed to escape each time.

While David ran from place to place during his escape from Saul, he had two opportunities to kill Saul. David's soldiers encouraged him to get rid of Saul so that he would not have to run away anymore. What do you think David did? [Have the students share their answers and vote for what they think David did. Record their answers by using tally marks on the board.] David spared Saul's life

both times. David said something very important to his soldiers: "Who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?"

David spared Saul because he respected God. God had anointed Saul as king, so how could David hurt someone whom God had anointed? David also knew that if he killed Saul, God would definitely punish him. So, instead of taking matters into his hands, David trusted in God and let Him take care of it. Saul later fell on his own sword after he was severely wounded in battle. Since David obeyed God's commandment, God delivered him in the end. There was no need for David to commit murder.

### Jesus' Death

Even though Jesus willingly died on the cross for us, the Pharisees and Jewish leaders played a big role in His death. They constantly plotted to have Him killed because they didn't believe that He was the Messiah. They didn't believe that Jesus had come to save people from their sins.

They asked Jesus many questions, hoping to trick Him into saying something wrong. However, Jesus was righteous and never sinned. So, the leaders asked Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus and in the end, Jesus was crucified on the cross. Even though those people did not actually touch Jesus and kill Him with their own hands, it was no different than murder. The Pharisees and Jewish leaders had hatred in their hearts.

### Murder of the Heart

Today, we talked about what murder is—an unlawful, willful killing. Murder is an action, something that people do or carry out. Before people commit murder, they feel something inside their hearts that is as dangerous as murder: hatred. Being mad at someone is not the same as murder, but having intense hatred for someone can lead to

murder. In the Bible stories we learned about today, hatred led people to violate God's sixth commandment. These three incidents happened because these people were angry and had hatred in their hearts. This deep anger and hatred caused them to try to find ways to kill the other person. When someone keeps thinking about evil things, it will eventually lead to sin.

In Matthew 15:19, Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Sin grows from the heart, so we should not let bad thoughts stay within our heart. Instead, we should follow Jesus' teaching to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. When we love others and have pure thoughts instead of evil thoughts, we will be led away from sin.

### Final Thoughts

From the three stories we learned about today, we can see how dangerous it is to have anger and hatred in our hearts. What bad things happened because people were angry and had hatred in their hearts? Cain hated his brother Abel and murdered him. The Pharisees and Jewish leaders plotted to kill Jesus because they didn't believe that He was the Messiah. Saul wanted to kill David because he was jealous of David. However, David set a very good example for us. Even though Saul wanted to kill him, David did not take revenge. Instead, David spared Saul's life because Saul was God's anointed. Also, David trusted in God and God protected David.

God gave us the sixth commandment, "You shall not murder," because He loves us. He doesn't want us to be angry with or hurt others. Most importantly, God doesn't want us to be angry because anger hurts us. Instead, God wants us to love Him and to love our neighbors.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Who committed the first murder in the Bible?** Cain.
- 2. Why did Saul try to kill David?** Saul was jealous of David, because David received more praise than him.
- 3. Whom did Jesus command us to love?** Jesus commanded us to love God and our neighbors.
- 4. Whom does Jesus want us to love in addition to God and our neighbors?** Jesus wants us to love our enemies.
- 5. What led Cain, Saul, and the Jewish leaders to want to murder?** They had hatred in their hearts.
- 6. Why is being angry with someone dangerous?** Anger can grow into hatred and hatred in one's heart can lead a person to commit murder.
- 7. When you become angry with someone, what can you do so that you will not sin?** Answers may vary. They may include: pray for a peaceful heart, sing hymns, remain silent, take some time to calm down, etc.
- 8. It is difficult to love people who don't like you. How can you show love to your enemies?** Answers may vary. They may include: pray for them, greet them, or proactively show acts of kindness to them regardless of their response, etc.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.” (Luke 6:27b)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

The sixth commandment is: “You shall not murder.” It doesn’t sound like a difficult commandment to follow at all. If this is what you are thinking right now because you’ve never thought about killing someone, then you don’t completely understand this commandment. Today, we’re going to study this commandment on a deeper level.

Firstly, let us talk about the meaning of “murder.” We know that to murder means to kill someone. But what other meaning does it hold in the sixth commandment: “You shall not murder”? We can find the answer in the Bible. Let’s turn to 1 John 3:15. Can someone please read it aloud for me? [Pick a student to read.] “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” What does the Bible tell us here? Who is considered a “murderer” in the eyes of God? [Let students answer.] It says, “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer”! So, “murdering” in God’s eyes doesn’t only mean literally killing someone. If we simply hate someone, God considers us to be murderers, too!

Furthermore, it says that a murderer will not receive eternal life. This ties back to the Ten Commandments. The eternal heavenly kingdom is only for those who obey God’s commandments. If we break any of them, we will not be able to enter the kingdom of God!

This is where the sixth commandment becomes difficult. If there is one word that summarizes all of God’s commandments, this word would be “love.” There’s absolutely no hatred in the law. To hate someone is not acceptable in the eyes of God. Jesus Himself told us, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:39). When we have negative feelings towards others, whether it is anger, jealousy, contempt etc., we are not fulfilling the law. Worse yet, if we allow any of these negative emotions to grow into hatred, we are breaking the commandment of God by being a “murderer.” So, how can we prevent ourselves from having these negative feelings towards people around us? What can we do to follow this commandment of God? Let us discuss a few points.

### Be peacemakers.

Today, we learned that it is not good for us to have anger and hatred in our hearts. If we find that we have become angry for some reason, what should we do? Matthew 5:22 records: “Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of judgment. [...] But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.” Here, Jesus teaches us not to be angry with or insult people. Jesus is teaching the people that it is not only murderers who will face judgment. People who remain angry with others or insult others will face the same judgment as murderers. This is how Jesus talks about murder. To Jesus, being angry with or insulting others is as bad as murder. So, what should we do when we’re angry? We should remember God’s words and calm down as soon as possible. When people are angry, they will often do things that they regret later, because their actions usually hurt others and themselves.

#### Activity #1

Brainstorm a list of ways to keep the peace when we are angry. Here are some examples: pray in silence, remain silent, count to ten, or go to a quiet place and

calm down. Reinforce that doing these things can help us keep the peace until we are ready to talk to the other person. Then, remind the students that after they have calmed down, they should make peace (e.g., apologize, clear up the misunderstanding, etc.). Have the students choose one way to keep the peace, then ask them to write it on a piece of paper and decorate it. They can also draw a picture that illustrates the description.

#### Activity #2

Bring a puppet or a stuffed animal to class. Create a scenario in which the puppet was wronged. (Examples: someone insulted him, someone was angry and yelled at him, someone accused him of doing something wrong when he didn’t, etc.) Ask the students to come up and role-play which emotions the puppet was going through and what we can do to help the puppet resolve the situation.

The Bible doesn’t say that anger is a sin. But if we are not careful to control our anger, the evil will use this anger to make us sin. The Bible says, “Be angry, and do not sin”:

do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (Eph 4:26-27). If we become angry and allow that anger to remain in our hearts, it will certainly grow, and it might lead us to do bad things to other people. This is when we give place to the devil to make us sin against God. Here, the Bible teaches us not to let the sun go down on our wrath. What does that mean? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] It means that we should try to rid anger from our hearts as soon as possible. Just as the sun never stays bright all day, we should also never let anger remain in our hearts for a long time. When we see the sun go down, we know that it is a reminder for us to calm ourselves down from everything that might have made us angry that day.

Moreover, Romans 12:21 teaches us, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." We should take the initiative to do good in order to overcome evil. When Jesus was on the cross, He asked God to forgive those who had crucified Him (Lk 23:34). Although Saul was trying to kill David and David had two opportunities to kill him, David spared Saul and entrusted his life into God's hands. Jesus Christ and David are both great examples of those who overcame evil with good! Likewise, when we become angry, we can try to do something nice and make peace with the other person. That way, not only will the devil be unable to grab hold of something evil in our hearts, he will be completely defeated because of the peace and love we are able to show others. Yes, sometimes it is very difficult to get rid of anger, much less love our enemies. But is it possible? Surely! In order to overcome evil, we need to have a lot of love. You might think that it is impossible to have the amount of love needed to always forgive and love our enemies. But with God, everything is possible. As a matter of fact, God is love. His love is boundless. When we feel that we cannot settle the anger in our hearts, all we have to do is ask God to give us more love. Let God take control, and let His love conquer. The devil cannot enter our hearts to harm us when God has already filled our hearts with love. God is able to help us overcome evil, as long as we go to Him for help. Here is a testimony:

A few years ago, Victor had a very bad cold and the doctor suggested that he take the whole week off school. He stayed home for the first three days, but since he didn't want to fall behind, he decided to go to school on Thursday. On that day, Victor had some medicine before he went to school, which made him very tired and sleepy all day. After several morning classes, Victor finally couldn't stay up anymore and fell asleep during his English class. Since his teacher knew that he wasn't feeling well, she didn't wake him up. However, his classmate Kevin, who was sitting next to him, had an evil idea. Instead of letting Victor rest, Kevin woke him up and whispered to him, saying,

"Victor, the teacher is mad. She asked you to stand in the corner of the classroom! Didn't you hear her?" Victor woke up and thought that what Kevin said was true. So he stood up and walked towards the corner of the classroom. Everyone started laughing at Victor. The teacher said to him, "Victor, are you okay? Where are you going? Do you need to go home and rest?" Immediately, Victor realized that the teacher had never asked him to stand in the corner of the classroom. Kevin had made it up because he wanted to embarrass him. But Victor didn't tell the teacher. He walked back to his seat and said to the teacher, "I'm okay. Sorry that I fell asleep. My medicine is making me a little tired." At that time, Victor was actually a little angry that Kevin had embarrassed him in front of the whole class. But he remembered not to repay evil with evil.

As soon as Victor went back to his seat, Kevin whispered again to him, saying, "You looked like a zombie just now walking to that corner. Haha!" This time, Victor really got angry. He was trying to be a peacemaker, but Kevin wouldn't stop making fun of him! That day, Victor went home with anger burning in his heart. He thought of many ways to embarrass Kevin the same way he had embarrassed him. But later on in the day, Victor was reminded about how the Bible says, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." He realized that his anger was making him want to sin against God! Immediately, Victor went into his room and started praying. Not only did he repent for all the thoughts he had about taking revenge on Kevin, he also asked God to give him the strength to make peace with Kevin. Victor kept praying until he finally didn't feel angry anymore.

The next day, Victor went to school and saw Kevin by himself, frantically looking through his backpack. Since Victor wanted to make peace, he asked Kevin, "What happened? Do you need help?" Panicking, Kevin told Victor that he lost his artwork—an assignment due for his art class. Kevin hadn't realized that his backpack was not zipped until he arrived in the classroom this morning, so he had no clue when the artwork had fallen out of his bag. Victor said to Kevin, "Don't worry, your artwork has to be somewhere at school since your dad drops you off at the entrance of the school every morning, doesn't he? Let's go back to the entrance now and try to find your artwork on the way!" Sure enough, Kevin found his artwork in the hallway not far from his classroom. He looked at Victor and said, "Thank you, Victor. And I am sorry about yesterday. Thank you for helping me find my artwork!"

Ever since then, Victor and Kevin have been good friends, and Kevin has never made fun of Victor again.

**Reflection Questions**

- 1. How did Victor's anger make him want to sin against God?** He was thinking about ways to take revenge on Kevin because of his anger.
- 2. What did Victor do in order to stop himself from "giving place to the devil"?** He prayed to God to give him the strength and love to forgive Kevin and make peace with him.
- 3. Why do you think Victor wrote a card to Kevin? What was he trying to do?** Victor was trying to be a peacemaker by making friends with Kevin. He didn't want to repay evil with evil. Instead, he overcame his anger and all other negative thoughts by doing what is right in the eyes of God.

Now, let's hear a variation of this story.

That same day, Victor went home with anger burning in his heart. He thought of many ways to embarrass Kevin the same way he had embarrassed him. But later on in the day, Victor was reminded about how the Bible says, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." He realized that his anger was making himself want to sin against God! He knew that taking revenge on Kevin wouldn't please God. But Victor was very angry. He didn't want Kevin to think that he was too weak to take revenge on him. So, Victor decided that he was going to make fun of Kevin by pulling his chair away as he was sitting down so that he would be embarrassed in front of the whole class. He thought to himself, "This can't be wrong... Kevin made fun of me yesterday and now I'm just making the game fair! God will understand." That night, Victor skipped his daily prayer. He didn't want to think more about how the Bible teaches us to "overcome evil with good." He didn't want to feel guilty about his plan to take revenge. He was afraid to pray to God because he knew that God only wanted him to make peace with Kevin.

The next day, Victor did what he planned. He pulled away Kevin's chair as he was sitting down—Kevin fell on the floor and he was very embarrassed! When the teacher found out what had happened, she was very angry. Victor said to her, "You didn't know, but I actually started walking in the classroom randomly the other day not because I was not feeling well, but because Kevin told me to! He wanted to make fun of me, so he told me that you wanted me to stand in the corner of the classroom. He deserves what happened to him today!" At the end, both Kevin and Victor were punished. After that, they were so angry at each other that they didn't talk to each other for a few days. However, they later both regretted making fun of each other in the first place because they realized how difficult it was to hold grudges against a friend. What a bad experience this was for the both of them!

**Reflection Questions**

- 1. Why didn't Victor want to pray?** Because he knew that God didn't want him to repay evil with evil. But Victor could not overcome his thoughts of revenge because of the anger burning in his heart. He decided not to pray to God so that he didn't have to face his guilt. He was overcome by evil.
- 2. Was Victor able to "overcome evil with good"? What was the consequence?** No. Victor decided to take revenge on Kevin by pulling his chair away from him as he was sitting. In the end, Victor and Kevin were both punished. They suffered a lose-lose situation and regretted everything they had done in the first place.
- 3. From this variation of the story, what did you learn? Which Victor do you want to be?** Answers may vary. [Allow time for the students to think, and then ask some volunteers to share their answers.]

Students, God's commandments are all about love. Not only do we have to love God with all our heart, we also need to love those around us, including those who make us angry. Never risk being a "murderer" by hating someone. We must remove our anger and hatred by asking God to help us love our enemies! That way, no evil can make us break the commandments of God. Is there someone in your mind now with whom you have been angry? How long has it been? It's probably time to remove this anger in your heart. How ready are you to do this? Do you need God's help? Together as a class, let's strive to encourage and pray for one another so that we can overcome evil with good and obey God's commandment!

## HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; God punished Cain for his sin.
2. True
3. False; David refused to kill God's anointed one.
4. False; they did not believe that He was the Messiah.
5. angry
6. jealous
7. Cain murdered Abel because he hated him.
8. It's dangerous because our anger can grow and lead us to do bad things to other people.
9. We shouldn't take revenge because that is the opposite of being a peacemaker. We should overcome evil with good.
10. If we're angry with someone, we should rid our hearts of that anger as quickly as possible. We can pray and ask God for strength, sing a hymn, or take some time to calm down.

## ACTIVITY

1

### What Went Wrong?

**Objective:** To identify traits that we should not have and to remind students of the sixth commandment.

**Instructions:** Cain, Saul, and the Jewish leaders all had evil thoughts in their hearts. Their evil thoughts led them to think about committing murder. Look at the list of words below. These are things that God does not want us to feel or do. Look for these words in the word search. Then, starting from the top left and going row by row, use the remaining letters to complete the sixth commandment. The words can be horizontal, vertical, or backwards, and they can overlap.

**Words:** anger, kill, evil, hatred, harm, jealous, revenge



**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2

**Let God Dwell in Our Hearts**

**Objective:** To help the students learn to rely on God at all times through a hymn.

**Instructions**

Write the words to the hymn on the board. The words are sung to the melody of "Jesus Loves Me." Feel free to sing the song more than once. You can divide the students into two groups, then designate each verse to a group. Another option is to create hand motions together as a class to accompany the song.

**Verse 1:**

God made everything I see,  
All the world, including me.  
He can help me when I pray,  
So I'll trust Him every day.

**Refrain:**

Yes, I will trust Him,  
Yes, I will trust Him,  
Yes, I will trust Him,  
I'll trust Him every day.

**Verse 2:**

When I don't know what is right,  
Or when I'm afraid at night,  
Friend and helper He will be,  
For He knows what's best for me.  
(Refrain)

**Verse 3:**

God sees all things everywhere,  
I can trust Him to take care.  
He is wise and kind and strong,  
I will trust Him all day long.  
(Refrain)

## 3

**Remember the Commandments / Optional**

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**6. You shall not murder.**"

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 6—Do Not Murder

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God will severely punish those who commit murder.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To learn to love one another.  
2. To learn to be a peacemaker.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Luke 6:27b)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

**True or False**

1. God didn't punish Cain for murdering Abel. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Although Cain sinned against God, God still had mercy on him and said that whoever killed him would get punished seven times worse than he did. \_\_\_\_\_
3. David listened to his followers when they told him to murder Saul. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Pharisees and Jewish leaders believed that Jesus was the Messiah. \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill In the Blank**

jealous   angry
-----------------

5. Jesus said that those who are \_\_\_\_\_ with others will face the same judgment as murderers.
6. Saul tried to kill David because he was \_\_\_\_\_ of David.

**Short Answer**

7. Why did Cain kill Abel?

---

8. Why is it dangerous to remain angry?

---

**Life Application**

9. Why shouldn't we take revenge?

---

---

---

10. If we are angry with someone, what should we do?

---

---

---

# LESSON 7

## DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Family Law

Israelite society was family and clan-based and the importance of the family unit is reflected in many Old Testament laws. A stable relationship between husband and wife was basic to the Old Testament view of family life. Marriage was intended to be between one man and one woman, though kings and other prominent figures often had more than one wife. Alongside his legal wife, a man could also have any number of concubines or "slave wives" that had lower status.

Polygamy was never actually banned in the Old Testament but God certainly did not approve of or recommend it. There were some guidelines on how to deal with concubines and divorce but on the whole, these were generally family affairs and the Law did not intervene. However, what God did forbid was adultery. The conditions and consequences of adultery were clearly outlined in Leviticus 18-20. Usually, the punishment for this sin was death. The deeper meaning of marital fidelity in marriage was that it represented the spiritual fidelity of Israel to God.

#### Bathsheba

First the wife of Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba later became the wife of David, King of Israel. She is most known for the Bible story in which King David seduced her. Bathsheba was a daughter of Eliam. She was from David's own tribe and the granddaughter of one of David's closest advisors (2 Sam 15:12). She was also the mother of Solomon, who succeeded David as king, making her the Queen Mother.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 20:14  
2 Samuel 11-12:15

### BIBLE TRUTH

God wants us to keep our bodies, which are temples of God, holy.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to keep our thoughts pure and our bodies holy.
2. To learn to guard our eyes and our heart from evil things.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

(Psalm 51:10)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for always protecting us. Today, we will learn about the importance of keeping our bodies holy. We need to remember that our body is a temple of God and that we need to take good care of it. Please keep our thoughts clean and pure, and give us a faithful spirit. We praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

You may think that it is too early to be addressing the topic of committing adultery with your students at this age. You may also feel a bit awkward talking to them about what adultery means. You can simply tell them that adultery is when a married person is not being faithful to his or her husband or wife. Realistically speaking, school-aged children might already know families that have broken up because one of the parents had a girlfriend or boyfriend. Therefore, it is vital that children are reminded about how important it is to be faithful with any promise they make, especially when in a marital relationship.

Please also stress to your students that our body is a temple of God. That is why God does not delight in anyone who dishonors it in any way. Let your students understand that watching violent and inappropriate movies, as well as reading adult magazines, are also ways of defiling their bodies. Encourage your students to avoid such demeaning shows and books. While curiosity is a part of growing up, it is important that your students understand the dangers of such behavior. Once they understand that, they can stand firm in their belief throughout their lives and remain faithful to God.

### VOCABULARY

**adultery:** the act of not being faithful to one's husband or wife

**rebuke:** to scold, to reprimand

**consequence:** an end result that is usually negative

**endure:** to tolerate something

### REVIEW

In the last few weeks, we learned the first six commandments given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Do you remember what they are? [To visually reinforce the commandments, you can write each commandment on a long strip of paper, and as students recall the commandments, you may tape the strips on the board one by one for them to see. Save this visual aid for next week's teacher to use for review.]

The first six commandments are:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.

Good memory, everyone! So, to explain the first commandment in my own words, I would say that "to have no other gods before Me" actually means to "worship God as the only true God." Now, can you do the same and turn to your neighbor to explain these six commandments in your own words? [Give the students another two minutes; walk around to check if they really understand what these commandments mean. Please see the interpreted children's version of the first six commandments below to help them understand better.]

One example of an interpreted children's version is:

1. Worship God as the only true God.
2. Don't make anything in your life more important than God.
3. Always say God's name with love and respect.
4. Honor the Lord by resting and going to church on the seventh day of the week.
5. Love and respect your mom and dad.
6. Do not hurt others.

## BIBLE STORY

### Introduction

Today, we are going to learn about the seventh commandment: “You shall not commit adultery.” This means to always be faithful to your husband or wife. I know that none of you are married yet, so you don’t have a husband or wife. However, you can think of your parents’ relationship. You would only want your dad to love your mom, right? You wouldn’t want him to fall in love with another woman. That’s what God wants us to do when we get married; He wants us to love our spouse for our entire life!

In order to be faithful at all times, we have to guard our eyes and our heart carefully from evil thoughts. Boys and girls, close your eyes for a second. No peeking! Raise your hand if you have ever noticed bad thoughts entering your minds without knowing how they got there. [Pause to see the show of hands.] Now, put your hands down and open your eyes. Guess what? Sometimes even when we don’t try to think of mean or wicked things, these thoughts just appear. It’s because Satan doesn’t want us to have a clean and pure heart. What does he want? He wants our troubling thoughts to cause us to make mistakes! In our story today, we are going to learn about a very successful person in the Bible who made some terrible mistakes, because he didn’t guard his eyes or his thoughts. Let’s see what happened.

### David and Bathsheba

Sometimes, even people who seem to be very good can commit sin when they begin to lose their close relationship with God. This was what happened to King David. After many years of leading the Israelites’ kingdom successfully, King David became so relaxed that he forgot to be careful physically and spiritually. One year during springtime, David stayed behind in Jerusalem while his soldiers went off to fight.

One evening, when David was walking on the roof of his palace, he saw Bathsheba, a very beautiful woman, taking a bath. Her beauty amazed David. David wanted to know who she was and someone told him that Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, one of David’s best soldiers. David should have put Bathsheba out of his mind when he heard that she was married, but he didn’t. He ordered some messengers to get her. She came to the king’s palace secretly. That night, David and Bathsheba did something that God only allowed a husband and wife to do.

Some time later, Bathsheba sent David a note that she was pregnant with his child! David became desperate when he learned about this news. God was very angry with David for committing adultery with one of his soldier’s wives. David tried to think of a way to cover his sin. Instead of confessing his wrongdoing to God, he acted as if God did not know and started to hide his wrongdoing. David asked Bathsheba’s husband Uriah to

come home in hopes that he would visit his wife. If Uriah did visit his wife, then naturally everyone would think that he was the baby’s father. However, David’s plan didn’t work. Uriah did come back to Jerusalem, but he refused to go down to his house, not even after David got him drunk. He slept with the king’s servants instead. He wouldn’t let himself enjoy being home with his wife while the other soldiers were having a hard time on the battlefield.

What could David do now? He still had not admitted his mistake to God, and he was running out of time. Soon, Uriah would hear that Bathsheba was going to have a baby, a baby that was not his. David thought and thought and came up with an evil plan. He addressed a letter to Joab, his army general, and commanded him to “set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.” Then, he had Uriah take the letter back with him to battle.

Sure enough, Uriah died in battle shortly after he returned to his unit. When Bathsheba heard the news, she cried and cried. After she had her time of mourning, she became David’s wife and gave birth to a baby boy. It was at this time that God became even angrier with David. Now not only did he break the seventh commandment, but he also broke the sixth commandment that forbade people to murder. David thought that he could solve the problem his own way and that no one would know. God knew and He sent the prophet Nathan to rebuke David’s sins.

To teach David a lesson, Nathan told him a story about a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had many cattle and sheep while the poor man had nothing but one little lamb. The lamb was like family to the poor man, and he let it drink from his cup and share the same bed. One day, when a traveler came to the rich man’s house, he had to prepare food for him to eat. Selfishly, he did not want to kill any of his own animals, so he took the poor man’s lamb instead.

After David heard the story, he was very upset. He thought that the rich man should be punished. He didn’t realize that Nathan was talking about him!

Nathan said, “You are that rich man. You have sinned against God. The son born to you will die and you will have no peace in your house from now on.”

It was only after these words that David realized that he had sinned greatly in front of God. Not only had he killed Uriah with the sword, he had also taken Uriah’s wife for himself. Now, he had to suffer by losing the baby and the peace that he once enjoyed. What a tragic ending! David repented wholeheartedly, and God saw his sincere and sorrowful heart, full of regret. However, this did not take away the sad consequences that David had to endure for the rest of his life.

**Our Body: A Temple of God**

Boys and girls, the Bible tells us that our body is a temple of God. What does it mean to have a body that is a temple of God? [Pause for students to speculate.] If we are God's temple, that means we belong to God! We are holy! We are holy because God lives in us. You might ask, "But how will this make a difference in my life?" If we are temples of God, then we should be holy not only in church, but everywhere we go! We must be holy in our homes, at the mall, in school, and at work every day, not just on the Sabbath day.

King David sinned by not keeping his thoughts and body holy, and he was punished in the end. We want to learn from David's mistakes and be able to make the right decisions in our life. How can we do this? Well, it's not that hard! We just need to keep a close relationship with God and always pray to Him for strength and guidance. If we ever find ourselves straying from the right path, then we can remember what God said about being holy. It is our responsibility to keep our bodies clean and our minds pure, for that is the will of God.

**CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**

1. **Why did King David stay behind in Jerusalem while his soldiers went off to fight?** He was relaxed and felt that his army was strong enough without his presence.
2. **What happened to David when he forgot to be careful physically and spiritually?** He saw Uriah's wife Bathsheba bathing and wanted to sin with her.
3. **What did David do when he found out that Bathsheba was pregnant with his child?** He became desperate trying to cover up his wrongdoing. He ended up ordering Uriah to be killed on the battlefield.
4. **Which commandments did King David break?** King David broke the seventh commandment, which is "You shall not commit adultery," and the sixth commandment, which is "You shall not murder."
5. **Who did God send to rebuke David for what he had done?** God sent the prophet Nathan.
6. **How did Prophet Nathan point out David's sin?** He told a story of a selfish rich man taking away a poor man's only lamb.
7. **What were the sad consequences David had to endure because of his sins?** He lost his first son born from Bathsheba, and the peace from God departed from his family.
8. **Why do you think King David committed adultery and murder even though he knew the commandments?** Answers may vary.
9. **Why does God only want each person to have one wife or husband?** Answers may vary.

**MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE**

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

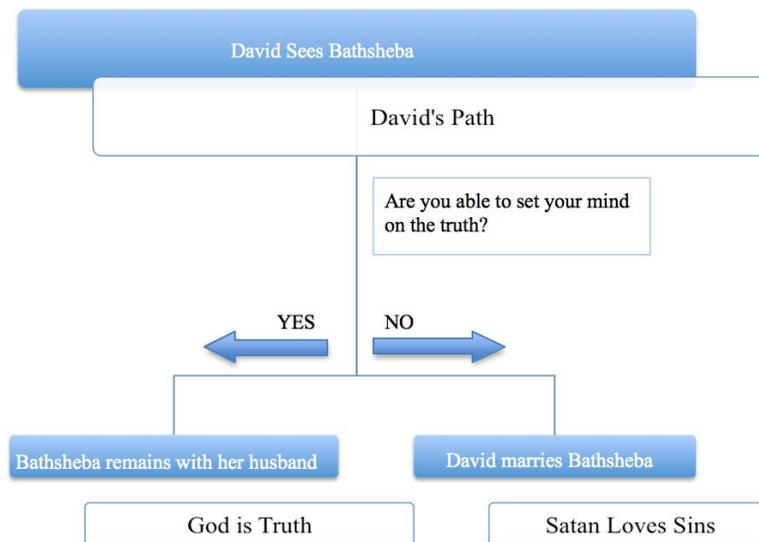
### Marriage is between one man and one woman.

"You shall not commit adultery." What is adultery? Adultery happens when a married person loves another person, apart from his or her own spouse. An adulterer is also someone who marries more than one person.

Long before David had become king, God already gave His Ten Commandments to the Israelites. David knew very well that God does not permit committing adultery and

that his desire for Beersheba did not please God. Despite this, David failed to guard his mind. He chose what he wanted instead of what God wanted!

**For Teachers:** Draw a map on the board to show your students how David failed to follow the truth. Below is an example.



As children of God, our responsibility is to follow the truth. We must be very careful not to make a wrong turn or go on a path other than the one that leads us to the truth of God. From the map, we can see that David came to a point where he had to pick which way to turn [point to the diagram on the board]. What question was David asked? [Let students answer.] "Are you able to set your mind on the truth?" And what was David's answer? [Let students answer.] His answer was "no." He chose to marry Bathsheba instead of following the truth. Take a look at the map one more time. If David had chosen the other way, where would he have ended up? [Let students answer.] He would have ended up being on God's side! But look how far David was from God after he chose to sin

against God...all because of that one wrong turn he made!

Today, if we want to draw closer to God, there is one path to take, and that is to follow the truth! We must keep our hearts pure, overcome any desires that do not please God, and set our minds only on the truth of God. If our minds are not on the truth, we could easily go down a path that draws us away from God. Students, what is your desire? Is it to stay at home and sleep until noon, instead of coming to church on Sabbath? Or is it to tell lies, instead of being honest? God wants you to follow His truth. Is your mind set on the right path?

### Guard our eyes and our heart from evil things.

Boys and girls, have you ever heard of a song called "Be Careful, Little Eyes, What You See"? The lyrics go like this:

*There's a Father up above, looking down in tender love,  
So be careful little eyes, what you see.*

**For Teachers:** Read the lyrics once, and then sing it with the melody for the students to hear.

*Oh, be careful little eyes, what you see.  
Oh, be careful little eyes, what you see.*

You may think that this is just a preschool song and that you are too old for it. Guess what? You will never be too old to sing this song! It is a great reminder for all of us. Let us first look at the lyrics. What is this song trying to remind us of?

"Oh, be careful little eyes, what you see." In comparison to other body parts, our eyes are small. However, what we see with our eyes can cause a lot of evil to come into our hearts, which is the most inner part of us where the Spirit of God dwells. This is why we should be very careful of what we see. Satan is constantly waiting to fill our hearts with wicked thoughts until the Spirit of God doesn't want to dwell in us anymore. Every time we see something that displeases God, such as a violent movie, we're giving Satan a chance to grow wicked thoughts in our hearts. While what we think may never become real, our thoughts can cause us to sin against God within our very heart. Satan is waiting. But as long as we keep our eyes away from things that can cause us to sin, Satan will never get a chance to work.

Moreover, as the lyrics also mentioned, "There's a Father up above, looking down with tender love." Who is this Father above looking down at us? [Let students answer.] God, our heavenly Father, is the one looking down with tender love. When we are tempted to sin against God with our eyes, remember that God is watching from above. He loves us very much and has given us the Holy Spirit to help us overcome evil. If we allow Satan to place wicked thoughts in our hearts continuously, the Spirit of God will eventually have no place to dwell. God will be very disappointed and disheartened. We warmly and openly accept the tender love from God and guard our eyes and our hearts from evil things. Let me share a story with you.

Ivan loves listening to popular music. One time, he was browsing on the Internet and he saw that one of his favorite female singers had just released a new music video. He decided to search for and watch the video. As soon as the video started playing, Ivan saw his favorite female singer, who was wearing very little. As it continued to play, Ivan had a feeling that something was wrong. Some other male dancers appeared in the music video and started dancing with the female singer quite inappropriately. At that time, Ivan was really

enjoying the music. However, Ivan decided to turn off his computer because he knew that he shouldn't be watching the video in case it became even more inappropriate. Ivan didn't want to risk sinning against God with his eyes. After turning off the computer, Ivan went into his room and started reading the Bible. He didn't want to think anymore about the music video he had just watched.

The next day, Ivan's friends were talking about the music video. They asked him if he had also watched it. Ivan explained to them that he didn't watch all of it because he felt that the dance was not very appropriate. His friends began to laugh at him. They thought that the dance was what made the video so good. They also said that Ivan was being a "good boy" and that he wasn't very cool.

Even though Ivan didn't feel very good about what his friends said to him, his heart wasn't moved. He was determined not to watch the music video because he knew that God wanted him to guard his eyes and heart from all evil things. He didn't want to take any chances. In the end, Ivan prayed to God to give him more strength so that his friends and their words would not affect him.

### Reflection Questions

- 1. What did Ivan do in order not to sin against God?** He turned off his computer and decided not to finish watching the inappropriate music video. He also read the Bible and prayed to God so that he could stand strong and not fall into temptation again.
- 2. What sacrifices did he have to make in order to guard his eyes and heart from evil things?** Ivan had to endure teasing from his friends, which made him feel very sad and hurt in his heart. However, Ivan did not change his mind because of this. He would rather see his friends laughing at him than risk sinning against God.

### Keep our thoughts pure and our bodies holy.

As we mentioned earlier in the lesson, Satan is always looking to place evil thoughts into our minds. However, if we are always filled with the Holy Spirit, Satan will never find a way to enter our hearts. Let me explain why. The Bible tells us, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Cor 6:19). Our bodies are the temple of God, where His Spirit dwells. Since the Spirit is from God, He is holy and pure. Therefore, the more we're filled with the Holy Spirit, the more we become holy and pure. What exactly does it mean to be holy and pure? When a person's heart is holy and pure, it means that he is always seeking to do what is right in God's eyes and keeping himself free of sins. Is it

possible to do that? Absolutely! With the help of God's Spirit, we can all keep our thoughts holy and our bodies pure. The good news is that God has made our bodies a temple of His Spirit. As long as we are willing to be holy and pure for God, His Spirit will love to live in us.

On the contrary, if we are not willing to be pure and holy for God, His Spirit will not fill us. When that happens, we leave a lot of room in our hearts for Satan to enter. He will battle with the Spirit of God within us and try to conquer our minds! This is very scary. But again, this is something that we can avoid. The moment we think about disobeying God, we are already in Satan's trap. Once that thought has been initiated, Satan knows exactly where

to attack us and will constantly make us think about disobeying God so that his power can overtake the Spirit of God within our hearts. So, in order for us to prevent Satan from doing his work, we must first keep our thoughts pure. If we don't even start thinking about evil, Satan will never have a chance to set his trap. On the other hand, we also need to keep our bodies holy before God. 1 Corinthians 6:20 tells us, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Our bodies do not belong to ourselves. They belong to God! We're all made in His image; every single one of us is His unique masterpiece and He loves us all very much. We're here to do God's will; we cannot simply just do anything we want to do. Instead, as the Spirit of God lives in us, we should glorify God in everything we do.

Students, even though you are still very young, it doesn't mean that you will not meet temptations, because the world we live in is full of unholy things. Satan is always seeking to attack God's people. If we do not guard our hearts well, we can also fall into Satan's trap. The Bible tells us to be sober-minded (1 Pet 5:8), meaning that we should always watch out for things that can potentially harm our faith and stay away from them. In order to do so, we need the help of God's Spirit. We all live in a world full of temptations, and we cannot rely only on our own power to resist them. Therefore, let us be more diligent in praying for the Holy Spirit and for Him to dwell in us. When the Spirit of God dwells in us, there will be no more room for Satan to enter our hearts!

### HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

---

1. C
2. B
3. adultery
4. Uriah
5. False; God was angry with David.
6. False; David ordered Uriah to be killed on the battlefield.
7. B
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

## ACTIVITY

1

### Act Out the Story: Nathan Rebukes David (2 Samuel 12:1-11)

**Objective:** To help students see that our God is a righteous God, for He rewards and punishes.

#### Materials

- Stuffed toy sheep
- Poster with many sheep and cattle drawn on it

#### Instructions

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-11 with students first before acting out the story.
2. Call for students to play the following characters:
  - Prophet Nathan
  - King David
  - Poor man
  - Rich man
  - Guest
  - Rich man's sheep and cattle (several)
3. After reviewing the storyline, ask all the students to think about the role they'll be playing. Let them have fun acting out all the expressions they think their character should have.
4. Begin acting. The teacher can read from the passage below as the students act it out:

#### Nathan Rebukes David (New Living Translation)

<sup>1</sup>So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: "There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle [have students who are sheep and cattle hold up the poster]. <sup>3</sup>The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man's own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter [have the student playing the poor man cuddle with the stuffed toy sheep]. <sup>4</sup>One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest."

<sup>5</sup>David was furious. "As surely as the LORD lives," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! <sup>6</sup>He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity."

<sup>7</sup>Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. <sup>9</sup>Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. <sup>10</sup>From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own."

<sup>11</sup>"This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you."

At the end of the acting, sit down with the students in a circle to talk about what they have learned from this passage. How did they feel when Nathan pointed out to David that he was just like the selfish rich man because he took Uriah's only wife? As we can see later in the Bible, God eventually forgave David, but David had serious consequences to deal with for the rest of his life. First, the child born from Bathsheba died. Also, David's many children would always fight amongst themselves. This was especially hard on David because he loved all of his children very much.

Let's learn from King David's mistakes. We should always guard our eyes and our heart from evil, and be faithful to our spouse when we get married.

## 2

**Wear It Outside, Do It Inside**

**Objective:** To remind students not only to “wear” God’s commandments on the outside, but to follow them with actions in daily living.

**Materials**

- 2 old, large shirts or jackets
- 2 knit caps
- 2 pairs of large gloves
- 10 index cards with the Ten Commandments written on them (1 per card without commandment number written)
- Tape

**Instructions**

The objective of this game is to be the first team to finish the relay and put the commandments in order.

1. Divide the students evenly into two teams. If you have an odd number of students, one can be the referee. Otherwise, the teacher will be the referee.
2. Line up the teams at one end of the room and place a set of clothing for each team at the other end of the room.
3. On your signal, the starting students will race to the other side of the room and put on the clothes. The referee will decide if a student has successfully put on the articles of clothing. Until the referee says OK, the student cannot take off the clothes for the next student to put on.
4. After the referee says it’s OK, the student then takes off the clothes as quickly as possible and the next student in line repeats the process.
5. Once the last team member puts on the clothes, the rest of the team members sort out the Ten Commandments index cards in order and tape them on the student with all the clothes on. The first team that completes all the tasks is the winner.
6. At the end of the game, remind the students that we should not only wear God’s word on the outside, but also put them into actions wholeheartedly. When we receive His word into our heart, He will give us the strength to walk on the right path.

## 3

**Remember the Commandments / Optional**

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

**Instructions**

Since this quarter’s lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson’s commandment is: **"7. You shall not commit adultery."**

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 7—Do Not Commit Adultery

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God wants us to keep our bodies, which are temples of God, holy.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To learn to keep our thoughts pure and our bodies holy.  
2. To learn to guard our eyes and our heart from evil things.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 51:10)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : What were the mistakes David made?

- a. He committed adultery.
- b. He murdered Uriah.
- c. All of the above.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ : How do you think God felt when David covered up his sin?

- a. God probably did not care.
- b. God was sad and angry.
- c. God was proud of David.

3. The seventh commandment says that we cannot commit \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Bathsheba was the wife of \_\_\_\_\_, one of David's best soldiers.

5. David and Bathsheba got married happily with God's blessings. \_\_\_\_\_

6. David sent a letter to his general to promote Uriah to be a higher-ranking officer. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ : Who did God send to rebuke David?

- a. Prophet Samuel
- b. Prophet Nathan
- c. Prophet Elijah

8. What can we do to keep our bodies and thoughts holy?

---

9. Writing Your Own Pledge

The memory verse tells us that we need to ask God to give us a clean heart and steadfast spirit so that we can keep our bodies and thoughts holy. As you think about this important goal, take the time to write a pledge of your own to God to stay holy every day, and be sure to keep your promise with your actions!

**I pledge to my Lord Jesus Christ to stay holy. I promise to...**

---



---

This is what I will do every day to keep my heart clean and my thoughts pure:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 8

## DO NOT STEAL



### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Stealing

There were strict guidelines recorded in the Old Testament laws concerning stealing. Repayment of the stolen property was insufficient; instead, one had to repay double or even four times the original value. This type of repayment had a number of effects. It acted as a deterrent to future thefts, helped ease the pain and suffering caused, and helped the victim become more forgiving of the crime. It is important to note that the punishment for stealing was much more severe when it came to stealing from God, as seen in the example of Achan.

In addition to stealing in general, some scholars believe that the eighth commandment in the Old Testament context may have referred to kidnapping, or the stealing of human life. Slavery was common everywhere and the poor were often oppressed, sometimes to the point of death. In any case, God regarded this sin as serious enough to be included in the Ten Commandments.

#### Achan

Achan is a figure mentioned in the Book of Joshua in connection with the fall of Jericho and conquest of Ai. His name means "one who troubles." According to chapter 7, Achan stole gold, silver, and a costly garment from Jericho that were "consecrated to the Lord" (Josh 6:19). The Book of Joshua tells us that this act resulted in the Israelites being collectively punished by God: they failed in their first attempt to capture Ai, with thirty-six Israelite lives lost. The Israelites cast lots to find out who was responsible. Achan was identified. As a result, they stoned him to death along with his sheep, livestock, and, according to many interpretations, his wife and children. Their remains were burnt by the Israelites and buried under a pile of stones.

### BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 6-8  
Exodus 20:15

### BIBLE TRUTH

God punishes those who break His commandment and steal.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that stealing is wrong and is a sin in God's eyes.
2. To know that God sees and knows everything that we do in secret.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Let him who stole steal no longer."

(Ephesians 4:28a)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, You are an almighty God. You see and know everything. Yet sometimes we do things in secret, thinking that no one will know. That is our weakness. We need to remember that You are always with us. During times when we feel weak, we should pray to You and ask for help and guidance. Please help us to keep Your commandments. We praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Stealing is often thought of as taking something from someone without that person's knowledge or permission. However, it can involve more than that. Finding something and not returning it or refusing to give something back are also forms of stealing. People might think, for example, that taking materials or extra stationery from work is not a big deal since it doesn't hurt anyone. They often forget that it is a direct sin against God.

It is important to let your students understand why people steal. Some think that it is fun, and they get a thrill out of not getting caught. Some are jealous of what others have. Then there are those who do not have enough money to buy what they need, so they resort to stealing.

None of these reasons justify their actions. Furthermore, stealing usually leads to more trouble. To help the students have a better understanding of this issue, share with them some signs to be aware of: complaining about what they have instead of being thankful; feeling sad or angry because they do not have something someone else does; being willing to do anything to get something they don't own. Remind your students that no matter how clever they think they are, God sees everything. No one can escape His judgment in the end. Also remind them that God will always provide. Encourage them to pray earnestly and ask for what they truly need.

### VOCABULARY

- steal:** to take something from someone wrongly  
**dismay:** deep disappointment or discouragement  
**accursed thing:** something marked for utter destruction

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the seventh commandment given by God. Does anyone remember what it was? [Pause for students to answer.] Yes, the seventh commandment is "Do not commit adultery," and it means that we should be faithful to our spouse and love him or her all our lives. Does anyone remember what were the biggest mistakes King David made in his life? (He committed adultery and murder.) What consequences did David have to suffer because of his wrongdoings? (His first son born from Bathsheba died. He never had peace after that.) What was the biggest lesson you learned from last week's story of David? (Answers may vary.)

## BIBLE STORY

### Introduction

Today, we are going to learn about the eighth commandment, which is "You shall not steal." Before we go on, I would like you to pay attention to what I wrote on the board. Are you ready? Here it is—

- A new toy, CD, or video game
- A new pair of rollerblades
- A new pair of pajamas
- A new purse
- A racetrack set
- A 12-speed bike
- A monster truck
- A ping-pong table
- A big trampoline
- A superhero costume

Wow, what a long wish list! How many things do you want? [Listen to students' answers.]

If you were given a piece of paper to write down all the things you want, maybe your list would be even longer than mine. So let's imagine that all your wishes were granted, and you got everything you wanted. Do you think you would appreciate those things? Do you think you would be happy? I wonder how long this kind of happiness would last. [Pause to hear students' thoughts.] Boys and girls, when our heart becomes greedy and is filled with many things we want but can't get at the moment, what do you think will happen? Well, you might think stealing could be an easier and faster way to get what you want. You might think, "Since no one is watching, why don't I quickly put that cute eraser set in my pocket and walk out of the store like nothing happened? Hey, it'll be mine within seconds and without too much effort!" Boys and girls, do you think that's the right thing to do when you really want something? Of course not! In our story today, we are going to learn about what happened to a man who stole from God.

### Achan Sins

Achan was an Israelite. He was a soldier in the army during the time of Joshua. Before entering the land of Canaan, the army had to fight many battles. But because God was with them, they always won and took over every city they fought. After they conquered the city of Jericho, they were supposed to destroy almost everything because the people in Jericho sinned and worshipped idols. God did not want the Israelites to keep these things. They were instructed to take the silver and gold and bronze and iron vessels and bring them to God's temple because they were treasures that belonged to Him.

However, when Achan saw that some of the things that were about to be destroyed were very beautiful and expensive, he suddenly forgot what he was supposed to do. Achan's heart was tempted by his own greed. He decided to take gold, silver, and a beautiful piece of clothing and hide them in the ground inside his tent. He did all of this in secret, thinking that he could get away with it because no one else was watching.

Even though no one saw Achan steal those things, God saw everything and was very angry. To show the people that stealing was a serious sin, God let the Israelite army meet with a lot of danger. In the next battle at the smaller town of Ai, thirty-six men died because God was no longer with them. The Israelites became frightened. Joshua was in great distress upon seeing this happen. He tore his clothes and, with the elders, fell before the ark of the Lord, all of them throwing dust on their heads. Joshua knew that something was wrong, so he came before God to ask why this happened. Let's open our Bibles to Joshua 7:7-15. [Take a minute to read these verses together with the students so that they can hear the conversation between Joshua and God.]

### God's Punishment

Joshua went to God to find out what was wrong. "Alas, Lord God," he prayed, "why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Now when the nations of Canaan hear about Ai, they will wipe Israel off the earth." Joshua didn't understand why they had lost the battle so terribly. He thought that God was with them and that they would always have the victory.

"Get up!" God told Joshua. "Why do you lie thus on your face? Israel has sinned." Then God told Joshua that someone in the camp had not followed all of God's commands when they fought Jericho.

God told Joshua to get up and bring the people together the next morning, saying to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you. The person who stole it will have to be burned with fire, along with everything he has, because he has done a disgraceful thing."

God told Joshua how to find the man who had taken the accursed thing. He was to have all the tribes gather, at which time God would reveal the tribe of the sinner. After that, God would narrow it down until they knew the family, then the household. Joshua followed God's directions and a man named Achan from the tribe of Judah was picked out. "My son," Joshua told Achan, "I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and confess to Him, and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me."

Achan felt so sorry for what he had done, and confessed that he had indeed sinned before God. He had taken some silver coins, a large wedge of pure gold, and a beautiful Babylonian garment from Jericho. They were all buried under his tent. Joshua sent messengers to look for these things and came back with everything Achan said he had stolen.

Then Joshua brought Achan, his family, and all his possessions to the Valley of Achor and said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned Achan and his family with stones and burned everything he had with fire. A great heap of stones was raised over the place to remind people of the consequences of not obeying God.

After the incident involving Achan, everyone felt discouraged. Then God said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land." So Joshua did as God commanded and there was a great victory over their enemies that day.

### Final Thoughts

Boys and girls, God is indeed watching us at all times. Whenever we are tempted to take something from someone because we think that no one will ever find out about it, let us not forget that God is always watching from above. Our wrongdoings have nowhere to hide. Let's not forget that God also punishes those who break His commandments. Like David, Achan tried to hide his sin, but God saw what he had done, even though he tried to do it in secret. Like David, Achan was punished by God, and he finished his life in a tragic way. We should never take God's commandments lightly, thinking that stealing is no big deal. As the memory verse reminds us, "Let him who stole steal no longer" (Eph 4:28a). If you have ever taken money from your parents without telling them, or taken other people's things without returning them, repent before God and determine to keep God's commandments in your everyday life, starting from today.

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Why did Joshua lose the battle of Ai?** Someone among the Israelites had sinned against God.
2. **Who was the person that sinned?** Achan.
3. **How did Achan sin?** He took some gold, silver, and a beautiful garment from Jericho and hid them in his tent.
4. **Which commandment did Achan break?** The eighth commandment, which is "You shall not steal."
5. **Do you think Achan stole from God on purpose?** Answers may vary.
6. **What would you do differently if you were Achan and you saw all those beautiful things in Jericho?** Answers may vary.
7. **What were the sad consequences Achan had to face because of his sins?** He lost his life, and his family died, too. All his possessions and the things he had stolen were burned to ashes.
8. **How would you help someone break his habit of stealing?** Answers may vary.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Let him who stole steal no longer." (Ephesians 4:28a)**

### SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

#### Everything belongs to God.

In today's lesson, we learned that stealing is wrong and that it is a sin against God's commandments. Let me first ask you a question. What does it mean to steal? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] To steal means to take someone else's possession without permission. If a man took something for himself that didn't belong to him without asking for the owner's approval, then he would have sinned against God by breaking the eighth commandment. In the Bible, there are quite a few examples where stealing greatly displeased God. For example, we learned about the story of Achan today. God was very angry about what he did. What consequences did he have to face at the end for stealing? [Let students answer.] Achan, together with his family, were stoned to death and all his possessions burned. As we can see, stealing is a serious sin in the eyes of God. Achan certainly knew that. But why is it that he was still tempted to steal? Where did the temptation come from? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] Achan was tempted by his own greed. He wasn't satisfied with what he already had: his family, animals, and possessions. When he saw the expensive treasures in Jericho, he knew that they didn't belong to him but he wanted them so badly that he decided to steal them. He went against not only the commandment not to steal, but also the commandment of God not to take any treasures from Jericho.

Have you ever really wanted something that you cannot

afford? [Let students answer.] It is very natural for us to have desires. However, we must be careful not to let our desires make us sin. When we want something badly, Satan may use it as a chance to tempt us to steal. Unfortunately, Achan fell into Satan's evil. His desires turned to greed. He could not have cared less about the consequences of stealing as he was hiding the treasures in his tent. But later on, not only did he deeply regret his actions, but he also had to bear the consequences of disobeying the commandment of God.

Today, we must never follow the example of Achan. God has blessed every single one of us with many different things. Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we should be thankful for what we do have. There are many people in this world who don't have the things that we have. They live in extremely poor conditions. To them, having a bed, some warm clothes, or even just a pencil is a dream. But if they spend their whole lives thinking about how lacking they are, they will never be happy. The Bible says, "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Ps 24:1). We all belong to God, and so does everything in this world. What we have, or what other people have, all belong to God. He promised to provide for us. While we may not have everything we want, God knows exactly how much we need, and we will never lack anything. As He provided for the birds in the sky, God will also provide us with enough

to live a happy life. The key is always to be thankful for what we have. If Achan had also thought about that, he probably wouldn't have risked sinning against God for the few treasures that he wanted. If he knew that he and his family were going to be punished by God, he would have been more thankful for them, above any silver or gold he saw in Jericho. Today, we don't have to wait until we are punished by God to know that stealing is wrong. All things belong to God, and He can give or take away anything from us. If we obey His commandments, He promises to bless us abundantly. On the contrary, if we purposely disobey God like Achan did, God can take away what we already have. Let me share a story with you:

When Sherry was a young teenager, she had a bad habit of stealing. It all started when she used to take her little sister's toys, which she didn't have, and hide them in her own room. The older she got, the worse her habit became. Whenever no one was around and she saw something she liked that she thought was not a "big deal," she would take it and put it in her pocket or purse. For example, she stole a pencil from her classmate, some candies from a convenient store, and some coins from her relatives' house. In her mind, they weren't a "big deal" because they were very cheap. She thought that when her classmate found that her pencil was missing, her "rich mom" would get her a new one. Likewise, the candy store owner had so much candy and her relatives had so many coins that they wouldn't even realize that something was missing. Sherry thought that stealing was okay as long as she didn't take something very expensive or take from the poor.

One time, Sherry took a watch from her classmate Amber. Amber had mentioned to Sherry that she didn't really like the style of that watch, which is why she kept it in her desk in the classroom all the time instead of wearing it. Sherry really liked the watch and thought that since Amber wasn't wearing the watch, she could take it! Later in the day, her best friend Annie said to her, "I was looking for you today during break time. I saw you by yourself in the classroom secretly. Did you

take Amber's watch?!" Sherry was very scared that Annie would tell the teacher the truth, so she denied it and told Annie that she was looking for something else in the classroom during break time. Annie then said to Sherry, "I see. Yeah, I didn't think it was you either. I'm just asking. You are a Christian, and I know that all Christians keep the Ten Commandments. I'm sure you don't steal!" Immediately, Sherry felt very ashamed. She always thought that what she was doing was "no big deal," but she realized that, in God's eyes, she was breaking the eighth commandment. Annie also mentioned to Sherry that Amber was very sad after she realized her watch had been stolen because even though she didn't wear it, she always kept it with her since it was a gift from her late grandmother. At that point, Sherry almost felt like she had stopped breathing. She felt extremely guilty that she had stolen Amber's watch. She thought to herself, "If Grandma passed away, I'd keep everything she gave to me and store them as precious treasures." In fact, Sherry couldn't even imagine what it would be like if her grandmother passed away. To Amber, her watch was like her grandmother. Sherry never realized how blessed she was to still have her grandmother around, keeping her company all the time. Rather, she was greedy for a watch that she thought had no value to Amber.

That night, Sherry prayed for a very long time. In her prayer, she kept repenting to God for all those times she had stolen from others. She only realized how much she had sinned after discovering how much Amber's watch really meant to her. The things she stole that may have been "no big deal" to her were actually very important to others. She was determined not to steal again. The next day, Sherry wrote a letter and gave it to Amber, along with her watch. She had been afraid of telling Amber that she was the one who had stolen her watch, but she prayed for the courage to apologize to Amber and to be honest with her. Thank God, Amber was very understanding, and she didn't get angry with Sherry. She was very happy that she had her watch back and that Sherry had determined not to steal again!

### Fear God, who sees and knows everything in secret.

The Bible tells us, "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num 32:23). Have any of you ever had this experience before? You might have done something wrong, but before you even said anything, Mom or Dad already knew what happened. Well, our parents may know a lot of things, but they don't know everything. However, nothing can be hidden from God's eyes. From above, God sees clearly every little thing you have done in secret. Jeremiah 23:24 says, "'Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?' says the LORD; 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the LORD." As this verse mentions, God's

presence fills both the heaven and the earth. He's everywhere... He's even here with us right now! Nothing can be hidden from His presence.

Not only does God see everything we do, but He also knows every little thought that we have in our hearts. The Bible tells us, "Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart" (Ps 44:21). God doesn't only see what is visible. He can see through our hearts and knows what we are thinking. When it comes to sinning, it is not only what we do that counts, but also what is in our

hearts. Cursing out loud and cursing in your heart are both sinning. Therefore, being a true follower of God begins with the heart. God doesn't only look at who we are outwardly. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." People can hide many things from others, but they cannot hide anything from God. He searches our hearts and knows whether or not we are truly obeying Him. This is why the Bible says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Dt 6:5).

So, how can we follow God closely with all our hearts? The Bible says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Prov 9:10). In order for us to have true understanding of God's wisdom, we must first learn to fear God. To fear God means to love and respect Him. When we love God as our heavenly Father and respect Him as our Creator and Judge, we will try our very best to obey Him. Love and respect come from our hearts; when we truly fear God, we will follow Him with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our strength. There is nothing to hide. There is nothing to be put in secret. When God searches our hearts, He sees our fear and knows that we are His true followers. Let me share a story with you!

One Sunday, Anthony went to Jonathan's house to play video games. Not long after Anthony left, he found out that his watch was missing, so he called Jonathan. Here's their conversation.

**Anthony:** Hi, Jonathan! I'm wondering if you happened to see my watch anywhere in your house. It might have fallen out of my backpack when I was at your house today!

**Jonathan:** No, I haven't seen your watch anywhere in my house. Are you sure it was lost at my house?

**Anthony:** I've had it in my backpack all week, and I just realized that I lost it. I don't know where it is... I looked everywhere in my house and it's not here. It must either be at school or at your place since these are the only places I went to with my backpack this week. I hope that I didn't lose it at school because I wouldn't even know where to start looking!

**Jonathan:** Hmm, yeah, I hope it's not at school either. Well, I'll try to look around for you. If I see it, I'll bring it to school and give it back to you tomorrow. Okay?

**Anthony:** Okay! Thanks, Jonathan.

**Jonathan:** You're welcome!

After they hung up, Jonathan began to look around for Anthony's watch. Suddenly, Jonathan stepped on something... It was Anthony's watch! Jonathan picked it up and realized that Anthony's watch was a limited edition watch that he had wanted for a long time.

Immediately, Jonathan thought to himself: "Anthony said that he didn't know exactly where he lost his watch. If I tell him that I didn't find it at my house, he would probably just think that he lost it at school! This can't be called stealing since he left it at my house... I didn't take it from him!"

That night, Jonathan couldn't fall asleep. Even though his favorite watch was right there next to him, he didn't feel happy. Anthony would probably never find out that Jonathan had kept his watch, but Jonathan knew that God saw everything he did and thought in secret. He also knew that God was most likely very disappointed at him right now for wanting to keep Anthony's watch. Jonathan didn't know what to do... He really loved the watch, but he didn't want to hurt God by breaking the eighth commandment. Therefore, he knelt down to pray. In his prayer, Jonathan said:

"Lord, I'm really sorry that I thought about stealing today. I know that must have hurt You very much. You have given me so much already... I shouldn't have been greedy but thankful for what I already have. Lord, please help me and give me the strength to obey Your commandments with fear. I don't want to go down the path of the wicked and disappoint You. Please help me love You with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength, and be thankful for all that You have given me."

After his prayer, Jonathan knew exactly what he should do. He was able to fall asleep right away. The next day, Jonathan brought the watch to school and gave it back to Anthony. Anthony was so happy that Jonathan had found his watch and that he didn't have to look all over school for it. That day, Anthony called Jonathan after school and said, "My dad actually works for the company that made this watch. He brought two of them home from work, one for me and one for my older brother. But my brother didn't like it and he said he wouldn't mind if I gave it to a friend. Do you like this watch, too? If you do, I can give you my brother's!" In the end, not only did Anthony get his watch back, Jonathan also got a new watch!

Do you think Achan remembered when God said that all the gold, silver, and iron was reserved for the tabernacle? [Pause for students' responses.] He probably remembered, but he chose to disobey God. It was only after he was caught that he said, "I saw it, I wanted it, I took it, and I hid it." Who else in the Bible also took the same steps and sinned against God? Here is your hint—this person is a female who had been created by God. That's right! Eve did the same thing. She saw the fruit, she desired it, and then she took it, ate it, and gave it to Adam. Isn't that the way sin works for every single one of us? We see

something, we want it—even if it's not good for us, even if it's something we're not supposed to have—and we take it. What can we do to change this course of action? That's right, we must be very careful of what our eyes are looking at, and more importantly, what our hearts are focused on. Before we end this session, let's do a quick activity.

**For Teachers:** Pass out a small sheet of paper to the students and ask them to write down "I saw it, I \_\_\_\_\_

it, I \_\_\_\_\_ it, and I \_\_\_\_\_ it." Ask the students to fill in the blanks to turn things around. See if any of the students would like to share their own personal experience of overcoming bad habits such as stealing, lying, etc. **Note:** Most of the students are still young and probably have not actually stolen things. You could explain that even a small act, such as stealing a piece of cake meant for after dinner, is wrong. Taking things meant for another time without prior permission is not right.

### HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; God sees everything.
2. True
3. tent
4. steal
5. C
6. A
7. Answers may vary. Possible answers: disappointed, sad, angry, etc.
8. Achan and his family all died; all his possessions and the things he had stolen were burned to ashes.

### ACTIVITY

1

#### Memory Verse Relay

- Objectives:**
1. To review the memory verse.
  2. To practice finding the memory verse in the Bible.

#### Preparations

1. Write the memory verse in large letters on the board. "*Let him who stole steal no longer.*" (Ephesians 4:28a)
2. Place two closed Bibles on a table at the front of the classroom.

#### Instructions

1. Divide the students into two teams and form two lines. Younger E1 students can be paired up with older ones to look for the verse together.
2. Have the first student from each team walk quickly to the Bibles to find Ephesians 4:28a. Once they find it, they should put their fingers on the verse and show you. Then they will close the Bibles and walk back to their team quickly and sit at the end of the line so the next student can go.
3. Continue playing until both teams are finished. The last student in line should read the verse aloud after locating it.
4. If time allows, rearrange the teams and play a second time.

2

#### Remember the Commandments / Optional

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

#### Instructions

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**8. You shall not steal.**"

## 3

**Ten Commandments Word Search**

**Objective:** To review the Ten Commandments.

**Instructions**

1. Review the Ten Commandments with the students briefly. See if anyone can recite all of them without looking.
2. Divide students into two to three teams to work on this word search together. Give them a set period of time to search. Whichever team finds the most words within the allotted time wins! The words are vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and backward.

P I D E A R R E D R U M N F  
 S T F A T H E R H S T E A L  
 I E H O N O R B L O F K M Z  
 D V T A K E C W M L L A C M  
 O O I E S L A F L E K Y S S  
 L C A H N I M A G E M A H B  
 U W D R E D H M V A B E I E  
 S I U U I S O A T B K N R A  
 D T L O G T H I A W Y N A R  
 R N T Y H B M T S N I A G A  
 O E E E B M H T W D T G N K  
 L S R B O N A M E D O F I E  
 Q S Y C R H U O Y N N G H E  
 D A Y Y T L I N I A V Z T P

adultery  
 against  
 any  
 bear  
 idol  
 commit  
 covet  
 day  
 false

father  
 gods  
 have  
 holy  
 honor  
 image  
 keep  
 Lord  
 make

mother  
 murder  
 name  
 neighbor  
 remember  
 Sabbath  
 shall  
 steal  
 take

that  
 not  
 thing  
 your  
 you  
 vain  
 witness

# E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 8—Do Not Steal

## Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God punishes those who break His commandment and steal.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To understand that stealing is wrong and is a sin in God's eyes.  
 2. To know that God sees and knows everything that we do in secret.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Bible Reading</b>							
<b>Prayer</b>							

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Ephesians 4:28a)

---



---

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## True or False

1. God won't notice a small sin. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Israelites took over the city of Ai successfully after God punished Achan. \_\_\_\_\_

## Fill In the Blank

3. Achan took the stolen items and hid them inside his \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The eighth commandment says, "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

## Multiple Choice

5. \_\_\_\_ : What did Achan steal? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. He stole gold.
  - b. He stole gold and silver.
  - c. He stole gold, silver, and a garment.
6. \_\_\_\_ : How did Joshua know who had stolen from God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. God told Joshua who it was.
  - b. Prophet Nathan told Joshua who it was.
  - c. Prophet Elijah told Joshua who it was.

## Short Answer

7. How do you think God felt when Achan stole from Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What were the negative consequences of Achan's sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 9

## DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY

## BEFORE YOU TEACH

**Lying**

One may interpret bearing false testimony (i.e., lying) to mean giving false evidence or testimony publicly in court or in the presence of elders. But the commandment was certainly not exclusive to false public statements. Lying is to give a false statement with the intent to deceive. The Bible condemns different forms of lying: lying to perpetrate fraud (Lev 6:2-3), lying that leads to a wrongful condemnation (Dt 19:15-16), and lying committed by false prophets (Jer 14:14). The Bible records Cain's evasive answer to God, Jacob's attempt to fool Isaac, Gehazi's misrepresentation of Elisha and the deception of Ananias and Sapphira as lies. The Bible records that all habitual liars forfeit eternal salvation (Rev 21:27).

**Inherited Land**

When the Israelites entered Canaan, Joshua allocated land to each tribe by casting lots. The tribes and families viewed their land as a gift from God. They marked the boundaries of their land by using landmarks, such as a heap of stones or mountains and rivers. The landmarks were not to be moved, because to do so was to alter the gift of God. Since their land was an inheritance from God, the Israelites were not to sell their land. Doing so would mean dishonoring God. This is why Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to King Ahab.

A family may sell their land during extreme financial difficulties. During the Year of Jubilee, which occurs every fifty years, the land is to be returned to the original owner (Lev 25:13-17). If a member of the family that sold the land is able to raise enough money to buy back the land, the land is to be returned to the original family immediately.

## BIBLE TEXT

1 Kings 21:1-28; 22:29-40  
2 Kings 9:30-37

## BIBLE TRUTH

It is a sin to lie.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that it is a sin to lie and to hurt others with lies.
2. To know that God will punish those who lie.

## MEMORY VERSE

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

(Exodus 20:16)

## PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for keeping us safe throughout the week so that we are able to come to church to worship and praise You and to listen to Your words. Thank You for giving us the Ten Commandments. Today, we are going to learn about the ninth commandment, which tells us not to bear false witness against our neighbors. You hate lies. Our lies harm others and they hurt You. We are sorry for the times we have lied. Help us, Lord, to always tell the truth. Give us courage to admit when we have not spoken the truth and forgive us for our weaknesses. Lord, You are the truth and we should also be truthful. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

No one needs to be taught how to lie. It comes naturally to everyone, so it is no wonder that God gave the ninth commandment. Therefore, it is important that your students have a good understanding of the seriousness of lying.

Children lie for a variety of reasons, sometimes with good intentions. They may lie to keep their parents happy, to stay out of trouble, to cover embarrassment or inadequacy, or because they can't make the clear distinction between fact and fiction. Regardless of the reasons, our students should understand that lying is wrong.

However, lying does not only involve saying something that is not true. It also includes leaving something out of a

story, half-truths, and stretching or twisting facts, like gossiping. It is also possible to lie with actions. Most people are guilty of these acts. Remind your students that lies don't stop with just one; one lie usually leads to another. By repeatedly telling lies, it causes us to lose sight of right and wrong and causes our hearts to become dirty and impure. Not only is lying wrong, it also hurts our friends and relatives so that they can no longer trust us. God warns everyone about deceiving others, and He will punish those who disobey Him. Encourage your students to tell the truth even when they are afraid to or even when they will be disciplined. In this way, they will avoid a lot of trouble and their hearts will remain pure and honest before God.

### VOCABULARY

**false witness:** untrue witness or statements under oath

**vineyard:** a place where grapes are grown

**curse:** to wish evil upon someone

### REVIEW

Last week's lesson was about the eighth commandment: "You shall not steal." When Achan stole from God, he was punished with death. God severely punishes those who steal, but He will first give them an opportunity to repent. When Zacchaeus was given the opportunity, he quickly repented. He returned the money he had stolen from the people as a tax collector.

Sometimes, people steal for fun or to gain something they do not have, such as money. None of these are excuses for breaking God's commandment. We must always pray to God and ask for His help. God will always provide for His people.

### BIBLE STORY

#### Naboth's Vineyard

In the land of Israel, there once lived a king and queen named King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. King Ahab was one of the wickedest kings in Israel's history. He made many mistakes in his life. He married Jezebel, who was an idol-worshipper. In turn, both of them led the entire country to sin against God by building altars to their false gods and worshipping them. Ahab was also a cruel king. He didn't care if other people got hurt, as long as he got what he wanted.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel lived in a grand palace located on fertile lands and had a lot of beautiful clothing and jewelry. However, King Ahab was still not satisfied. One day, King Ahab decided that he wanted a vegetable garden. He looked around for some land near his palace that would be good for growing vegetables. He found a good piece of land next to his palace. It was a vineyard

owned by a man called Naboth.

Ahab hurried off and went to see Naboth. Ahab wanted to buy the land from him. When Ahab asked Naboth to sell the land to him, the king didn't get the answer he wanted to hear.

"I cannot sell you the vineyard. This land has been in my family for many generations. It has to remain in my family. God does not allow us to sell our land, and if I do, I will be going against God's commandments," said Naboth.

The king asked again and again, offering money and even a better piece of land in exchange but Naboth refused. So, Ahab went home very sad and upset.

When he returned to the palace, he went straight to his bed and lay there, sulking. When his servants brought him dinner, he refused to eat or drink anything. Queen Jezebel knew something was bothering the king.

"What's wrong?" she asked. "Why won't you eat your dinner?"

"I want Naboth's vineyard," said the king. "But he won't sell it to me."

When the queen heard this, she reassured him.

"You are the king, aren't you? Why should you care about what Naboth thinks? Get up and eat," ordered Jezebel. "Don't worry. I will get you the vineyard."

### Jezebel's Plan

The queen came up with a plan to kill Naboth so that Ahab could have the piece of land. She wrote letters in the king's name to the leaders in the city where Naboth lived. In the letters she asked them to call everyone in town together for a day of fasting. She told them to invite Naboth and seat him with high honor. Then two bad men were to be called to bear false witness against Naboth. This means that they were to lie about Naboth. They would say that Naboth had cursed both God and the king. It was a great sin to curse God and men. Afterward, as punishment, they were to take Naboth outside the city and stone him to death.

When the leaders of the town received the letter, they followed the queen's instructions. They had a special day of fasting and seated Naboth with high honor. The two dishonest men sat before him. Suddenly, the two men stood up and lied that Naboth had cursed both God and

the king. Did Naboth do this? No, they were all lies. Naboth did not do any wrong, but no one cared. The people of the town were so upset with Naboth that they carried him out of the town and killed him with big heavy stones. The leaders of the city then sent messengers to tell Jezebel that Naboth was dead.

When Jezebel heard the news, she was very pleased. She went to King Ahab and said, "You know the vineyard that Naboth wouldn't sell you? Well, you can have it now! Naboth is dead! As soon as Ahab heard this, he went down to Naboth's vineyard and made it his own.

When Ahab and Jezebel were committing this wicked deed, who do you think was watching? Exactly, God was watching. Ahab and Jezebel may have thought that they got away with murder, but God's eyes are everywhere and He saw their wicked deed. God sent Elijah the prophet to give King Ahab a very serious message. When Elijah found Ahab, he said, "I have found you because you have done great evil in the sight of God. God will punish you. You and all of your sons will die or be killed. Your wife Jezebel shall be torn apart and eaten by dogs. All this is because of your wicked deeds."

Not long after this, King Ahab was killed in battle. An archer struck him with an arrow while he was in his chariot and he died. Later, Queen Jezebel and their sons also died, just as the Lord had said.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- Ahab was happy with all God had given him.** False; Ahab was unhappy and still wanted more.
- Jezebel wrote letters to the elders instructing two men to bear false witness against Naboth.** True.
- Naboth did not want to sell his vineyard because the vineyard produced many grapes.** False; his land was an inheritance from God.
- God punished King Ahab and Queen Jezebel for their sins by not allowing them to be king and queen of Israel anymore.** False; He punished them with death.
- How did Ahab feel when Naboth refused to sell his vineyard?** Ahab was so sad and upset that he went straight to bed and refused to eat.
- What lies did the two bad men say about Naboth?** They said that Naboth had cursed God and the king.
- How does God feel when we lie?** He feels hurt and angry.
- What is the ninth commandment?** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

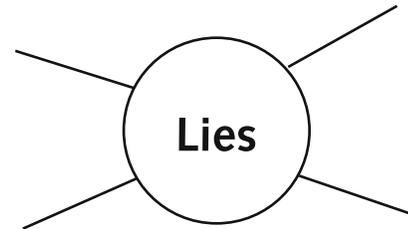
**"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

In today's story, we learned that Ahab and Jezebel did something that was very wicked in God's eyes. They came up with a plan to have a person named Naboth killed. They had two bad men bear false witness against Naboth. What does it mean to bear false witness? [Have students respond.] To bear false witness is to speak lies about a person or event. Queen Jezebel instructed two bad men to say that Naboth had cursed God and the king. To curse someone is to wish for evil to come upon that person. In the Bible, God instructed the Israelites not to curse. God wants us to bless, rather than curse, others. When we bless someone, we hope that good things will come to that person.

As a result of the bad men's lies, Naboth was stoned to death. Why is lying wrong?

**For Teachers:** Draw a circle on the whiteboard and write "Lies" in the center. Draw lines that point outward from the circle, and show how Ahab and Jezebel's lies impacted other people as the following discussion takes place.



### Lying hurts and angers God.

God was angry with Ahab and Jezebel because of their wicked deeds. He was hurt that they did not keep His commandments. The Bible says, "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Prov 12:22). An abomination to the Lord means something that irritates God. Ahab was king of Israel, leader of God's people. But rather than leading them into true worship, Ahab disobeyed God by breaking many commandments. Apart from being angered, God was more hurt than anything else. Today, we're God's chosen people and His children. When we lie, we are willfully breaking God's commandment. How can our heavenly Father not be angry and hurt? The Bible has mentioned many times that the unrighteous, those who disobey God, will not inherit the kingdom of God but shall have their part in the lake of fire (Rev 21:8). God worries for us. He

wants us all to be able to reach His presence one day and live with Him in the kingdom of heaven. But when we sin, He can only be angry and hurt.

Every day, God takes care of us and watches over us from above. When we pray, He listens. When we need help, He offers His all-powerful helping hands. When we feel sad, He comforts us like a friend would. When we are afraid, He gives us peace. God is a wonderful Father. We need His abidance. Therefore, let us not hurt and anger God. We know that He loves us and will always keep His promises, as long as we keep His commandments. At the end of the day, isn't the promise of heaven greater than anything else in this world? Lying only brings us away from the presence of God, so let us not lie.

### Lying hurts others.

How did Ahab and Jezebel hurt others? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] Their lying caused the death of Naboth. It also caused the people of Israel to sin because they stoned a man who was innocent. But they didn't care how much harm they did to others! When Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned to death, she was overjoyed. When Ahab knew that he could finally have Naboth's land, he was overjoyed, too! They were blinded by their joy and nothing else seemed to matter to them, even a person's death.

Sometimes, though our lies may be unintentional, we can unknowingly hurt others. How? Let me share a story with you.

Tiffany is having her piano exam in two weeks.

Therefore, her mom has told her to practice every day from now on until the exam. But Tiffany doesn't really care about this exam. She doesn't want to practice for it at all. So she thinks of an idea... "If I tell Mom that I will practice at school instead of at home, then I won't have to practice at all! She won't find out, even if I don't practice at school." In fact, Tiffany is planning to spend her "practice time" playing games on one of the school computers.

About a week later, Tiffany came home one day and her mom asked her, "How was your practice today? Are you ready for your piano exam?" Tiffany replied, "It's going pretty well. I will be ready by next week!" Tiffany lied again.

Two days later, Tiffany's mom asked her again, "How was your practice today? Are you ready for your piano exam?" And Tiffany told the same lie again. Then, Tiffany's mom became angry. She said to Tiffany, "Why did you lie to me? Your piano books have been here at home all day today. How could you have practiced at school? I didn't pay attention this whole time because I trusted you. Now, tell me, have you practiced at all since that day you told me that you would practice at school?" Tiffany didn't answer. So her mom said, "Can you play the songs and show me how ready you are for the exam?" Hesitantly, Tiffany walked to the piano and started playing. Not surprisingly, Tiffany wasn't ready for the exam at all. She played with many mistakes. When she finished, she turned to her mom and saw that there were tears in her eyes. Worried, Tiffany asked her mom, "Are you okay, Mom? I'm really sorry that I'm not ready for the exam yet. I know I might fail, and if I do, I'd have wasted the money you spent on my piano lessons. I will practice now!" Then her mom said, "I'm not upset because you might fail the exam. Yes, I really want you to be able to pass the exam, but all I ask is for you to try your best. As long as you do your best, I am very happy and proud of you. What hurts me the most is not that you did not practice, but that you have

not been honest with me. You told me that you would practice at school, and I trusted you. I believed in your lies, and your dishonesty has made me really upset."

That night, Tiffany's mom was very upset, and she stayed in her room for a couple hours. Tiffany didn't know what to do but regret having lied to her mom. She thought about what her mom said over and over again, and she realized how much her mom was hurt by her few words. In the end, Tiffany went into her mom's room and apologized to her. She promised her mom that she would spend two hours practicing piano every day until her exam and that she would do her very best.

### Reflection Questions

- 1. Why did Tiffany have to repeat her lie to her mom?** Tiffany had lied about practicing piano; whenever her mom asked her about the same thing, she automatically had to tell the same lie again.
- 2. What made Tiffany's mom feel hurt?** Tiffany's lies hurt her mother. Her mother felt hurt because Tiffany hadn't been honest with her. Tiffany told her that she would practice piano at school, but she didn't. She was hurt that her daughter abused her trust.

### Lying hurts us.

How did Ahab and Jezebel bring harm upon themselves? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] God punished them and their children with death. In fact, they should have known better, especially Ahab. He knew from his many encounters with God's prophets that God hates all kinds of evil. But when it came to his desired land, he didn't think much about God's commandments. Rather, he rejoiced with his wicked wife Jezebel after Naboth had been wrongfully stoned, because he finally got the land that he wanted. His conscience had been completely dulled by the influence of his evil wife.

Today, we know very well that lying is unacceptable in God's eyes. We also know that God punishes those who purposely disobey His commandments. Why take a chance to lie if we already know the consequences? Why bring harm upon ourselves? Some people might think that God is merciful and that He will forgive our sins as long as we repent afterwards. Yes, God is a merciful God. But if we purposely sin against God and think that we can just simply repent afterwards, we are abusing the mercy of God. In other words, God will not have mercy on us when we willingly sin with such intentions. Therefore, when we know what is wrong in God's eyes, we must learn to obey and follow His commandments wholeheartedly.

As a punishment for lying, God said that he would bring calamity upon Ahab's household. Jezebel, being the one

who initiated the lying, even had her dead body eaten by dogs. Today, God punishes those who lie in His ways. Not every liar is put to death like Ahab and Jezebel had been. However, lying is a serious sin that can lead us to a "second death." What does that mean? Revelations 21:8 says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." The lake which burns with fire and brimstone is reserved for those who have sinned against God. As we mentioned earlier, God loves us very much and He wants us all to live in heaven with Him one day. In order to enter the kingdom of God, we need to strive to be sinless because heaven is only for people who heed the truth of God.

### God is truth.

Take a minute and think about your best friends. Why are they your best friends? Do you all share similar interests, like your hobbies? [Give your students some time to think by themselves.] Often, we enjoy doing the same things as our friends do. The Bible refers to Satan as a "liar and the father of it" (Jn 8:44). People who like to lie are friends with Satan because they behave like him and enjoy lying, just like he does. On the contrary, God is truth. He never lies and He enjoys friendship with people who do likewise. Let's turn to a few verses and see what the Bible says!

**For Teachers:** Have your students turn to the following verses and fill in the blanks either by asking them or writing the questions on the board.

1. "*(Lying lips)* \_\_\_\_\_ **are an abomination to the LORD. But those who deal *(truthfully)* \_\_\_\_\_ are His delight" (Prov 12:22).**

Since God is truth, He dislikes all lips that tell lies. On the contrary, telling the truth always pleases Him.

2. **Jesus said that He was "the *(way)* \_\_\_\_\_, the *(truth)* \_\_\_\_\_, and the *(life)* \_\_\_\_\_" (Jn 14:6).**

Understanding Jesus helps us to be honest!

3. **"He who works *(deceit)* \_\_\_\_\_ shall not dwell within my house; he who *(tells lies)* \_\_\_\_\_ shall not continue in my presence" (Ps 101:7).**

God's house is the church. God doesn't want anyone who lies to be in His church; His presence will leave them!

Students, the only way we can befriend our Lord Jesus Christ is to obey His word, that is, the truth, which includes not lying. When we lie, it is as if we are shaking hands with Satan in front of God. Imagine if you were playing a game and one of your teammates went to help the opposing team. How would you feel? Would you think that he was disloyal? Would you want him back on your team? [Pause for students to think and answer.] This is how God feels when we lie or commit any sins. Students, let us not hesitate any longer about which team we want to join and stay on... I want to be on God's team—an honest team! What about you?

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Ahab was unhappy and still not satisfied.
2. True
3. True
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. We hurt God, others, and ourselves when we lie.
9. When we tell the truth, we are like God who is truthful and honest. When we lie, we behave like Satan who is the father of all lies.
10. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

---

## ACTIVITY

---

**1****The Ninth Commandment****Objective:** To reinforce the ninth commandment through singing.**Instructions**

1. Bring a small stone to class.
2. Review the song "The Ninth Commandment" with students.
3. Seat the students in a circle.
4. Select one student to be "Naboth" and have him sit in the center of the circle.
5. While singing "The Ninth Commandment," the students will pass the small stone behind their backs around the circle. Instead of actually passing the stone, students may choose to pretend to pass the stone.
6. When the song stops, the students will show their closed hands. "Naboth" will then guess who "Ahab" (the student with the stone) is. If "Naboth" guesses correctly, "Ahab" will sit out until the next game.

**Alternate Method**

Take a few paper cups with lids. Ask "Naboth" to close his or her eyes. Place a stone in one of the cups. Have the students sit in a circle. As they sing the song, they will slide the paper cups to the rhythm of the song from one student to the next. When the song stops, have "Naboth" guess who "Ahab" is.

**2****Remember the Commandments / Optional****Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: **"9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

# The Ninth Commandment

Soprano

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'You shall not bear false wit - ness 'gainst your neigh - bor' are aligned under the notes. The second line starts with a measure rest of 3 measures, then continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'You shall not bear false wit-ness 'gainst your neigh bor You shall not bear false wit-ness' are aligned under the notes. The third line starts with a measure rest of 6 measures, then continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics ''gainst your neigh - bor This is com-mand - ment nine.' are aligned under the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

You shall not bear false wit - ness 'gainst your neigh - bor

3  
You shall not bear false wit-ness 'gainst your neigh bor You shall not bear false wit-ness

6  
'gainst your neigh - bor This is com-mand - ment nine.

E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 9—Do Not Give False Testimony

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** It is a sin to lie.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To understand that it is a sin to lie and to hurt others with lies.  
2. To know that God will punish those who lie.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Exodus 20:16)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## True or False

1. Ahab was happy with all that God had given him. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jezebel wrote letters asking two men to bear false witness against Naboth. \_\_\_\_\_
3. God saw the evil deed that Ahab and Jezebel had committed. \_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple Choice

4. \_\_\_\_\_ : Why did Naboth refuse to sell his vineyard?
  - a. It was against God's commandment to sell it.
  - b. It produced a lot of grapes.
  - c. He wanted to give it to his children.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : How did Ahab feel when Naboth refused to sell his vineyard?
  - a. He did not mind because he already had a lot of land.
  - b. He went and set fire to Naboth's vineyard.
  - c. He was so upset that he went straight to bed and refused to eat.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ : What did the two bad men say against Naboth?
  - a. Naboth refused to sell the vineyard because he did not like King Ahab.
  - b. Naboth had cursed God and the king.
  - c. Naboth had stolen the vineyard.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : How did God punish Ahab and Jezebel for their sins?
  - a. He said that Ahab, Jezebel, and their sons would all die.
  - b. He took the vineyard away from them.
  - c. He said that they could no longer be king and queen of Israel.

## Short Answer

8. Who do we hurt when we lie?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who are we like when we tell the truth? Who are we like when we lie?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the ninth commandment?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 10

## DO NOT COVET



### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### The Meaning

Coveting is not just seeing something that belongs to someone else and admiring it, or even wishing that you had something like it. Rather, coveting is allowing that desire to invade and pervade your heart. It's letting that desire govern your thoughts and guide your actions.

Our English word "covet" comes from a Greek word meaning "grasping for more." Dictionaries define "covet" as "grasping, greedy, greed of wealth with a view of hoarding it." Covetousness springs from a selfish nature. Because a man is greedy, he covets. Because he covets, he steals, lies, commits adultery, and murders. Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Lk 12:15).

#### Covetousness Is a Form of Idolatry

"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience" (Col 3:5-6).

When we see someone with more than we have, we must beware. The hunger to steal our way into what is theirs may harm us spiritually.

#### God Is Concerned with Our Heart's Desires

All other commandments forbid overt sin, but this one reaches to the inner motives. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jer 17:9). What we covet, whether good or bad, always becomes our goal in life. If we covet the wrong things, we will have the wrong goals, and we may even sacrifice things of great value in our effort to attain what has little eternal value.

#### How Do We Keep from Covetousness?

Here are some suggestions. First, we must recognize it in our hearts and confess it to the Lord through the power of prayer, asking for cleansing and renewal. Second, we must focus on all that God has given us, allowing gratitude to fill our hearts. Third, we must discover freedom in God's word. Remember, the beginning of contentment starts and ends in God (Ps 119:33-48). Fourth, we must be content with what we have and choose not to nurture desires that lead to coveting. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can ask God to empower us and let the Spirit of God take up residence in our hearts. We will then learn to say "no" to our fleshly desires. As we grow in our faith, we learn to be satisfied more and more in the Lord and in His word, and to let God fill our heart completely.

### BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 26:1-25, 36-50; 27:1-10  
John 12:1-8; 13:21-30

### BIBLE TRUTH

It is a sin to covet.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that it is a sin to covet.
2. To realize the importance of guarding our hearts from greed and covetousness.
3. To understand the importance of having a content and thankful heart.

### MEMORY VERSE

"You shall not covet."

(Exodus 20:17a)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, You are an almighty God. You see and know everything. Yet sometimes we do things in secret, thinking that no one will know. That is our weakness. We need to remember that You are always with us. During times when we feel weak, we should pray to You and ask for help and guidance. Please help us to keep Your commandments. We praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Covetousness is not simply the act of saying, "I would like one of those, too!" Sometimes, it can be a good thing if it encourages people to work harder through honest means to reach their goals. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Greed is a part of everyone. People always want more than they have. Covetousness does not just happen overnight. It usually begins with envy or jealousy and may involve hatred or anger.

This commandment is a little different from the others because it involves something that cannot necessarily be seen. Remind your students that sinning can begin in the heart. That is why this commandment was given. God

knows that inner envy, jealousy, or anger can lead to even greater sins.

There will always be something that your students don't have that someone else does. By the same token, they have been blessed with much more when compared to others. Remind them that material possessions are worldly and temporary. God will supply all their needs. Whenever they feel resentment or envy, encourage them to pray to God, to ask God for a heart of contentment, and to count their blessings. When they can develop such an attitude, it will help them control their feelings as they grow up.

### VOCABULARY

**covet:** to desire something that belongs to another; to be greedy

**betray:** to deliver to an enemy or to be disloyal

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the ninth commandment, which is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." We learned how Queen Jezebel came up with a plan to kill Naboth so that King Ahab could have his vineyard. She told two bad men to bear false witness against Naboth, and as a result, Naboth was stoned to death. This act displeased God greatly. Later, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were punished with death.

God does not want us to follow their example. We learned that it is important to always tell the truth. Telling only part of the story or twisting the facts is also considered lying and will hurt God, others, and ourselves.

## BIBLE STORY

### The Tenth Commandment

The last commandment that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai is about being greedy. God knows that it is natural for people to want things that they don't have. They always want more because they are unhappy with what they already own. That is the reason why God gave the commandment "You shall not covet." This commandment teaches us not to desire or want things that don't belong to us. In God's eyes, desiring things that don't belong to us is a sin. When we desire something that is not ours, or when we are greedy for more, we are breaking the last commandment. God knows that when someone covets something, it can lead him to commit more sins. Today, we are going to learn about a man called Judas Iscariot who fell due to his love of money.

### Judas Iscariot, a Disciple of Christ

When Jesus was in the world, He came to preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the people. To help in this important work, Jesus chose twelve men who were called disciples. Do you remember the names of the twelve

disciples? [Give students time to recall.] These men came from different backgrounds and had different kinds of jobs. When the Lord called them, they left their families and their jobs to follow the Lord and spread the good news.

It was a great honor to be chosen by the Lord. The disciples stayed with Jesus for three years. Every day they heard many wonderful teachings about God and they witnessed Jesus performing amazing miracles, casting out demons and healing the sick. The disciples were also given the power to do great things, too. They healed the sick, cast out demons and preached the word of God to the people. But best of all, by knowing the Lord Jesus, they had a chance to go to heaven.

Among the twelve was a disciple called Judas Iscariot, whom Jesus chose to have the important job of taking care of the money box. Jesus and the disciples kept the money used for the ministry in the money box. The money was for their daily needs such as food, lodging, and other expenses. Judas had to safeguard the money. He must have been a responsible and wise person to be chosen for

this important job.

As time went by, however, Judas began to desire the money for himself. His desire grew so strong that eventually he would often take the money that was put into the money box. He thought that no one would find out but Jesus knew that Judas often stole from the money box.

Over time, Judas began to love money more than anything or anyone. Judas coveted money. Do you know what it means to covet? It means to want something that does not belong to us.

He coveted money so badly that he was willing to do anything for it. This gave Satan an opportunity to work in his heart. Judas came up with a very evil plan. It was a plan that would bring harm upon Jesus, the person who loved him the most.

### Judas Makes a Deal with the Leaders

In Jesus' time, the chief priests were the leaders of the people who worked in the temple. These leaders did not like Jesus at all. They were jealous of Jesus because He could perform many miracles and cast out demons. They were envious of Jesus because the people liked Him and believed that He was a prophet of God. The leaders feared that they would lose their power and popularity and that the people would follow Jesus instead of them. So, they looked for a chance to have Jesus captured and killed. They knew they had to do it in such a way that no one would notice.

One day, Judas came to see these leaders. The leaders were surprised by Judas' visit. What could Judas want? Wasn't Judas one of Jesus' disciples?

"How much money will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" Judas asked the leaders.

"We will pay you thirty pieces of silver," they replied.

In those days, thirty silver coins was how much it cost to buy a slave (Ex 21:32). Judas was happy with the offer, so he agreed to help capture Jesus. From then on, Judas began to look for a chance to betray Jesus and turn Him over to the enemies.

### Judas Betrays the Lord

One night, Jesus and all His disciples were eating dinner

together. It was a special meal called the Passover. During the meal, Judas quietly left the group to see the leaders of the town. Judas knew that this was his opportunity to capture Jesus. He went to tell the leaders that the time had come. The leaders quickly ordered many soldiers to follow Judas. In their hands, they carried swords and clubs. Judas told them, "I will give you a sign. You will know which one is Jesus when I go over and greet Him with a kiss. He is the One you are to arrest."

When they arrived at the garden of Gethsemane, they found Jesus and some of His disciples there. Jesus had gone there to pray after dinner. Judas went up to the Lord and said, "Greetings, Master," then gave Him a kiss. Immediately, the soldiers arrested and captured Jesus. When He was taken away into the night by the enemies, the disciples were so afraid that they ran away. For the entire night, Jesus was questioned, and later He was charged with committing a crime and nailed to the cross. We know that Jesus did not do anything wrong. In fact, He gave Himself up willingly. He did this for a special reason—to save us! Jesus knew that we could not go to heaven because of our sins. So, He willingly died on the cross to make a way for us to go to heaven.

When Judas saw how Jesus had been charged with death after His arrest, he was extremely sorry for what he had done. He had betrayed his Master, his Lord, the One who loved him the most. He realized that he had committed an unforgivable sin. He wanted to make things right again, so he hurried back to the leaders with the thirty silver coins.

"I have sinned. I have sold a man for thirty pieces of silver. A man who has done no wrong," Judas cried.

The leaders did not care.

"That is your responsibility. You take care of it yourself!" they said.

They refused to take back the money. Judas knew it was too late. He had sold his Lord because of his greed for money. He took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them onto the floor of the temple. He then ran out and hung himself. In the end, Judas' covetousness not only hurt Jesus, but it hurt him as well. For this reason, God does not want us to covet. Instead, He wants us to learn to be happy with all that we have.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. In the tenth commandment, God told us not to \_\_\_\_\_ (covet).
2. When Judas was in charge of the money box, he often \_\_\_\_\_ (stole) money from it.
3. Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus because he was \_\_\_\_\_ (greedy).
4. Judas was one of Jesus' twelve \_\_\_\_\_ (disciples).
5. We should be happy with what we have. True.
6. Judas received 35 silver coins from the leaders for betraying the Lord. False; he received 30.
7. When Judas realized that he had betrayed an innocent Man, he did not feel at all sorry. False; he was remorseful.
8. Jesus willingly gave Himself up into the hands of the enemies to die on the cross for our sins. True.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“You shall not covet.” (Exodus 20:17a)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

What happened to Judas was very tragic. He did not guard his heart from the love of money. He allowed his greed to grow until he committed a great evil. Eventually, he lost both his life and salvation. Of course, none of us betrayed the Lord like Judas did. But perhaps we have similar weaknesses as Judas. He wanted things that did not belong to him. Do we want more and more of things, even though we already have plenty?

**For Teachers:** Pass out a paper bag and packing peanuts to each student. You may wish to substitute the packing peanuts with cotton balls, socks, ping-pong balls, etc.

I will read aloud a few scenarios. If you think that you would do as the character in the scenario would, take a handful of peanuts and put them into the paper bag.

### Scenarios

1. Your best friend has forgotten to take her toy home. It is a toy you have wanted for a long time. You decide to keep it and play with it for a while. You will return it to her when she asks for it.

2. An advertisement on TV shows a game that all of your friends at school have been talking about. You beg your parents to buy it for you.
3. Mom and Dad give you \$1 a week for allowance. Your older sibling gets \$5. You think it's unfair, so you ask Mom and Dad to give you \$5, too.
4. Dad just bought a watch for your sibling. You don't have a watch of your own. You complain to him that it is unfair and that you want one, too.
5. You have a whole row of dolls/toys that you have collected sitting on your bedroom shelf. However, you pass by the toy store and see the latest doll/toy on display. Even though you already have so many dolls/toys, you still want the newest one badly.

Now, take a look at your paper bag. How does it look? Is it empty or is it almost overflowing? All the examples we have just heard are about coveting and being greedy. The paper bag is like our heart. When we covet, our heart is filled with greed and desire.

### It is a sin to covet.

Why is it a sin for us to covet? Why is it wrong for us to desire for more things? The Bible refers to covetousness as “idolatry” (Col 3:5). As we have discussed earlier in this quarter, worshipping idols means to set our minds on things that distract us from God. When we want something so badly, not only can our desires lead us to sin, but they can also distract us from God. Take one of the earlier scenarios as an example. Your best friend has forgotten to take her toy home. It is a toy you have wanted for a long time. You decide to keep it and play with it for a while. You will return it to her when she asks for it. While wanting something is not always wrong, we must be careful not to set our minds on our desires. What happens when we do? In this case, you decided to keep your friend's toy without her permission. Even though you plan on giving it back, this is still an act of stealing in God's eyes. From this example, we can learn that when our desires become too strong, they can lead us to disobey God. How do we know when our desires have become too strong? It is when we choose to pursue after them rather

than obeying God. In this particular example, it is not wrong for you to want a toy that your friend has. However, by keeping your friend's toy while knowing that it is a sin to keep your friend's toy in secret, you have allowed your desires to distract you from the word of God.

Luke 12:15 says, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Today, we live in a world of material abundance. We all want to live a better life with all the latest and greatest things, whether it be clothes, cars, or electronics. We hate to be bored and not have the things we want. However, the Bible teaches us that our material wealth has nothing to do with how good our lives can be. What does that mean? Clearly, there are two kinds of “riches” here. One is a measure of how much we have in this world, and the other is a measure of how much we have in the eyes of God. One requires us to pursue after the physical things we want, and the other requires us to lay up treasures in heaven and be pleasing to God!

Students, which one sounds more important to you? [Pause for students to think.] Again, to covet is a sin in God's eyes. That is to say, our worldly desires cannot help us enter the heavenly kingdom. We should not set our

minds on such temporary things. Rather, we should set our minds on the truth of the God, since we already know that God will always provide for those who love and obey His commandments.

### Guard our hearts from greed and covetousness.

As we just discussed, our desires can lead us to sin against God. So, how can we avoid greed and covetousness from growing within us? Let's look at what the Bible teaches us. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" All sins begin from our heart. It is our inner feelings that make us want to sin. Why did Judas betray Jesus? It was because of the love of money in his heart. Being a disciple of Jesus, he should have known that money is the root of all evil and that he shouldn't have been greedy for it. However, he did nothing to prevent his love for money from growing in his heart. He only regretted his actions after he had committed a huge sin. Today, we must guard our hearts from greed and covetousness. Yes, it is very natural for us to have desires for things that we don't have. However, if we do nothing to control them, our desires can also lead us to commit serious sins. As you have probably experienced before, desires don't just grow, they also increase in

number. When they grow strong enough, they can easily rule our heart and defy our body, which is the temple of God.

Today, God has sent His Spirit to live in our hearts and guide us in the truth. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will naturally want to pursue after a more godly life rather than other worldly desires. And when we have less of these worldly desires, we will also naturally have less greed in our hearts. It is very important for us to always pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, our Helper and Counselor. We live in a world where temptations are all around us, and it can be very difficult for us to resist them. Our power alone will not be enough for us to guard our hearts from greed and covetousness. Only with the power of the Holy Spirit we will be able to fill our hearts with joy and contentment.

### Have a content and thankful heart.

It is so easy for us to want newer, bigger, and better things, especially when we see that our friends have them. When we think of what we don't have or of what others have, we can easily become discontent. We will always desire for more, even though we do not need those things. The more desires we have, the more we are tempted to sin against God.

God does not want our hearts to be filled with desires for things we don't have. God has provided us with what we need most. He has given us food, clothes, a wonderful home, and a loving family. These are the most important. They are things that we often overlook and take for granted. If you really think about it, we already have a lot. We tend to compare with people who have more than we do. In fact, there are many people right now who don't even know when their next meal is, what it feels like to have a family or to go to school, or whether or not they will live to the next day. Compared to them, we are very blessed. Let's not be deceived by the world around us. We should always remember that God knows our needs and that He has given us everything to live a happy life. Don't agonize over things that we don't have, because if we do that, we will never live a happy life. We should always be content and have a thankful heart.

Now that we know we should have a content and thankful heart, let's talk about what we can do to achieve one. How can we prevent greed from filling our hearts? [Write the

following points on the board.] Next time we find ourselves getting the "coveting bug," let's try doing the following:

- Think of the things that we already have.
- Thank God for what He has given us.
- Pray and ask God to give us a heart of contentment.
- Think about the people who may not be as blessed as we are.
- Think of how we can share what we have with others.

Let me share with you a story of someone who is able to do all these things.

This was Jenna's first time visiting her best friend Yvonne's house. Yvonne's family is very wealthy; their house looks like a castle on the outside and a hotel on the inside. When Jenna first got there, Yvonne took her on a tour around her house. After seeing everything, Jenna began to get a strange feeling in her heart. It felt like a combination of jealousy, bitterness, and dissatisfaction. She thought to herself, "How nice! Yvonne's got her own bedroom, toy room, and her family has their own swimming pool! My house is so small compared to her house. Our backyard doesn't even have space for a kiddie pool. And I have to share my bedroom and bathroom with my little sister! I wish I had a house like Yvonne's!"

After that time, Jenna began to think more about how small her house is. She began to have more and more complaints. One time, her little sister had to stay up late at night to study, so she had to keep the light on in their bedroom when Jenna was already in bed. Jenna got very mad as she thought to herself how it'd be so much better if she didn't have to share a room, and she took her anger out on her little sister, saying, "Our house is too small. We have to share the same bedroom. Don't you know that I'm trying to sleep and shouldn't you be more considerate? I wish we had a much bigger house. Now turn off the lights!"

But soon after this had happened, Jenna went to church one Saturday and she learned about the tenth commandment. In that class, she realized that she didn't have a content and thankful heart. She was very ashamed that, all this time, she didn't realize how much she already had from God and that she had compared her life with Yvonne's. From then on, Jenna was determined to offer a prayer of thanksgiving every day to God. She wanted to stay away from greed and covetousness. Below is a prayer she said one night:

"Dear God, thank You for everything that You have given me: my loving family, a local church, friends, food to eat, a beautiful home, a school to go to, and so on. These are all things that I didn't even have to ask for, because You blessed me with them. You really love me. For that, thank You very much! Lord, please help me always be content with what I have. There are so many people in this world who don't have half of what I have. Many people in third world countries suffer from hunger every day, and many of them don't even have shelter. On the way to school, I always see homeless people on the streets, too. They are also very poor and needy. Compared to them, I am really, really blessed. I should be helping others. God, please give me a content heart so that I won't be greedy and reluctant to help others. Please make me a channel of blessings for others as I have been blessed with so much. Thank You again. May all the glory be unto Your name. Amen!"

Students, to covet is a serious sin in God's eyes. The more love we have for things in this world, the further away we are from God's presence. The Bible says, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (Jn 12:25). Again, things in this world are temporary. There's nothing we can bring with us when we leave this world. Therefore, we should choose to pursue after the truth of God in this life, always obeying His commandments and doing good. That way, we will lay up treasures in heaven, which are eternal. Students, do we lay up treasures in heaven with our good deeds?

### Reflection Questions

- 1. Why did Jenna have a strange feeling when she first saw Yvonne's house?** Because she was comparing her house with Yvonne's and she saw that Yvonne had many more things than she did. She wished she had a house just like Yvonne's.
- 2. What made Jenna change at the end?** Jenna changed because she learned about the tenth commandment and finally understood that she should have been more content and thankful for what she already had. She also began to offer a prayer of thanksgiving every day so that she could stay away from greed and covetousness.

ACTIVITY

**1 Ten Commandments Crossword**

**Objective:** To review the Ten Commandments.

**Instructions:** Fill in the crossword puzzle using the words in the word box. Read each clue carefully.

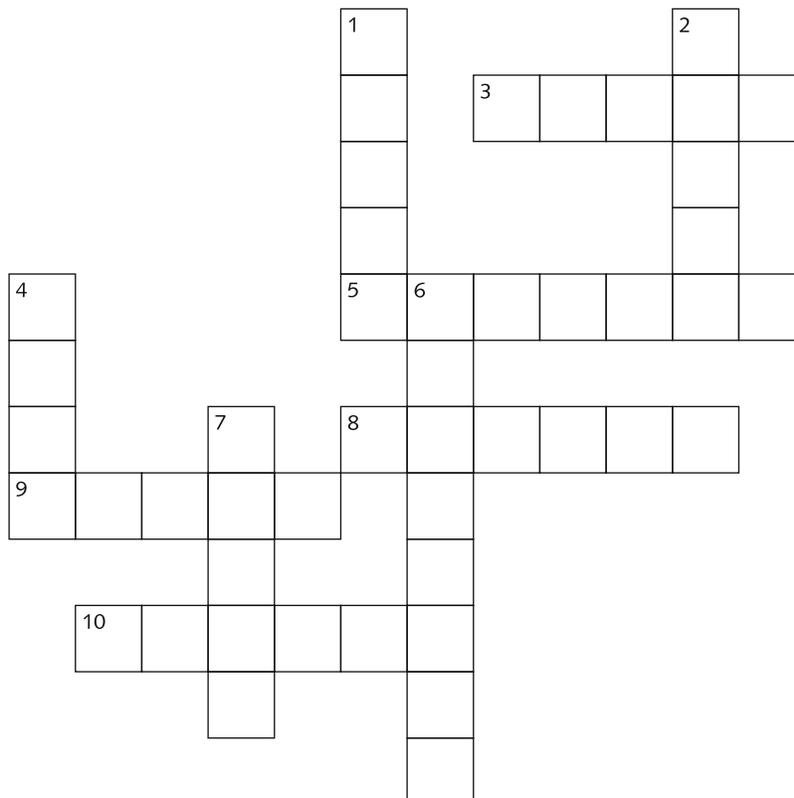
adultery    idols    covet    misuse    false    murder    gods    Sabbath    honor    steal

**Across**

- 3. God's fifth commandment tells us to \_\_\_\_\_ our parents (Ex 20:12).
- 5. The Israelites were commanded to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ day holy (Ex 20:8).
- 8. Cain did this to his brother, Abel. God commanded us not to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 20:13).
- 9. Taking something that does not belong to us is breaking the commandment that tells us not to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 20:15).
- 10. God does not want us to \_\_\_\_\_ His name (Ex 20:7).

**Down**

- 1. We should not worship \_\_\_\_\_ because that would be unfaithful to God (Ex 20:4-5).
- 2. We should not \_\_\_\_\_ things that belong to other people. This is God's last commandment (Ex 20:17).
- 4. We should not have any other \_\_\_\_\_ besides God Himself. He is the only true God in the universe (Ex 20:3).
- 6. Husbands and wives should be faithful to each other. They should not commit \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 20:14).
- 7. God told us not to bear \_\_\_\_\_ witness (Ex 20:16).



## 2

**Remember the Commandments / Optional**

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**10. You shall not covet.**"

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. True
6. False; he was remorseful.
7. True
8. He coveted money and let Satan have a foothold in his heart.
9. Answers may vary.
10. Guard your heart, be content, and give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given you.

E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 10—Do Not Covet

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** It is a sin to covet.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To understand that it is a sin to covet.
  2. To realize the importance of guarding our hearts from greed and covetousness.
  3. To understand the importance of having a content and thankful heart.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Exodus 20:17a)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : When Judas was in charge of the money box, he often \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Gave the money away to the poor
  - b. Lost the money
  - c. Stole the money for himself
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : What did Judas do after he regretted betraying the Lord?
  - a. He returned the money to the leaders and then went out and hung himself.
  - b. He tried to find Jesus to say sorry.
  - c. He brought the other disciples to try to rescue Jesus.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ : Judas received \_\_\_\_\_ silver coins from the leaders for betraying the Lord.
  - a. 25
  - b. 30
  - c. 35
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : In the tenth commandment, God says that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. We should honor our parents
  - b. We should not covet
  - c. We should not bear false witness against our neighbors

## True or False

5. Judas betrayed the Lord with a kiss. \_\_\_\_\_
6. When Judas realized that he had betrayed an innocent Man, he did not feel at all sorry. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus willingly gave Himself up into the hands of the enemies and died on the cross for our sins. \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

8. Why did Judas betray the Lord Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Write the things or people in your life that are very special to you at this time. Do you love these things or people more than Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The next time you find yourself wanting what others have or being greedy, what should you do?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 11



## THE LIFE OF JOB

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Satan

Satan was originally one of the principalities of God. But because of his pride, he rebelled against God and lost his heavenly status. Ever since, he has tried to hinder God's work but he is limited by God's power and can only do what he is permitted (Lk 22:31; 1 Tim 1:1-20; 2 Tim 2:23-26). He is still accountable to God.

#### The Land of Uz

The exact location of the land of Uz is uncertain. It had plenty of pastures and crops and was near a desert (Job 1:19).

It had to be close enough to the Sabeans and Chaldeans for Job's land to be raided. The Sabeans were from Southwest Arabia while the Chaldeans were from the region north of the Persian Gulf. Most scholars believe that Uz was located near Canaan.

#### Book of Job in the Ketuvim

The Jews considered the Book of Job to be a wisdom book and would group it in the Ketuvim, known as "writings," as a poetic book along with Psalms and Proverbs.

Job was from the East, where the people were renowned for their wisdom and dialogue. As we discover through biblical accounts, Job and his friends were learned people.

At this elementary level, it is best to avoid personal opinions about Job's situation and stick to simple teachings for the students: Job was deemed blameless and upright before God, but God allowed him to suffer. His friends offered the wrong advice and simply concluded that Job had sinned, which led to greater suffering for Job. But despite his suffering, Job drew nearer and nearer to God.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

#### Facing Our Own Problems

The scale of Job's suffering is something your students will unlikely be able to imagine. It is hard enough for most adults who have never faced such an ordeal to understand, let alone the young students in your class.

Job felt an intense loneliness after losing all his possessions and children—something that is just as difficult for adults and teachers alike to understand. But today's lesson aim on the life of Job is not to make your students feel Job's pain, but to illustrate how he drew closer to God in the end.

What was the hardest thing you have ever had to do? Or when was the saddest you have ever felt? What did you do at those times? These questions may reveal how your students would react in trials at such

#### BIBLE TEXT

Job 1-2; 42

#### BIBLE TRUTH

God's power and wisdom are far beyond human understanding.

#### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To always thank God in both happy and sad times.
2. To understand that He is always with us no matter what our circumstances are.
3. Not to judge others or think that we are always in the right.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God."

(Romans 8:28a)

#### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord, we thank You for giving us the Ten Commandments to teach us how to be good in Your eyes. We know that sometimes, even when we follow Your commandments, things may happen to us that we do not understand. But You do it for our good, to make us even stronger. Please help us so that we will always trust and rely on You at all times. Help us to always be humble, to put You first, and not to judge others. Hallelujah! Amen.

a tender age. Instead of asking “why” something has happened, we should ask ourselves: “What can we do next?”

At the same time, you can begin to instill the notion of self-examination into your students. Why do people suffer? Think first if you have committed wrong and sinned, and repent of these by asking God for forgiveness.

Children won't fully have the discernment to know if they've sinned or not, nor are they inclined to admit to their own sins. Whether through journal (one-on-one) sessions or private conversations, talk with your students about daily activities and help them point out what is and isn't acceptable to God.

There are a wealth of passages that we can instill in our students' minds for them to remember the next time they feel like they are at a dead end. 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us that God is faithful, and He will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 exhorts us to be joyful, to pray, and to give thanks.

Sharing hymns from the church hymn book (e.g., "I Must Tell Jesus" and "God Will Take Care of You") also helps reinforce to our students that God lets us go through difficulties to perfect us. And during this course of training, He does not abandon us; rather, He gives us passages to recite and hymns to sing when we feel down.

By building this foundation made up of prayer, Bible reading and studying, and hymn singing early on, you are essentially providing them with street lights and sign posts to guide them closer to Jesus when they face challenges or problems.

Finally, your students need to understand that they

should not be easily satisfied with how close they are to God. Instead, they should seize every opportunity, both good and bad, and treat each one as a stepping stone towards being even closer to Him.

### Helping Others Face Their Problems

In Year 3 of the RE E1 curriculum, we hope our students have become close classmates and brothers and sisters.

Though they have been used to turning to their parents for comfort, children in this age group will begin to learn that the value of friendship with their brothers and sisters lies not only in playing and having fun but also in having another pair of ears to listen, another set of lips to read the Bible together, and another pair of knees to pray with. This early level of spiritual companionship will go a long way in guiding them to help one another in the future.

At the same time, they should also learn from the misguidance of Job's friends, who were close and wise friends but offered the wrong advice because they could not put themselves in Job's shoes.

“Judge” is a term your students may not fully understand but probably do on a daily basis. Before jumping to the conclusion that someone is a good or bad person and that they are suffering because of this or that, ask your students to put themselves in the person's shoes, to think about what this person is going through, and, most importantly, to remember not to let their own opinions turn into whisperings and gossip that could turn brothers and sisters against one another.

## VOCABULARY

**righteous:** faultless, blameless, morally upright

**tempt:** to attract and persuade

**sores:** boils; painful cuts on the skin like blisters

**whirlwind:** a forceful funnel of wind that blows through a place very quickly

**judge:** to form an opinion about whether something or someone is right or wrong

**encourage:** to lift up, help, or give someone comfort when they need it

## REVIEW

Children, what have we been learning for the past few weeks? (The Ten Commandments.) Good, now let's go around the class to see if you remember them; we will each recite one! [Use flash cards or the whiteboard to prompt them if necessary.] Well done!

Each week, we've been learning about what would happen if we keep a commandment and what would happen if we break it. And last week, we learned the final commandment, “You shall not covet,” which teaches us that we should not want something that isn't ours.

For the next question, I want you to brainstorm with the student next to you about why God gave us the Ten Commandments. (So we can obey Him, be true Christians, do what is right and good, fear Him, etc.; allow each pair to give a personalized answer.)

## BIBLE STORY

### Job Was Righteous and God-fearing

Today, we will be learning about a man who obeyed and feared God and did what was right. His name was Job, and he lived in a land in the East called Uz. Job was a very good man; God even called him "righteous" [recite with students], which meant that He thought Job always did what was right and pleasing to Him.

Job would wake up early in the morning and make offerings to God in case his children had done something wrong. Does this sound like someone who would obey all of God's commands? (Yes.) Because of this, God blessed Job greatly, giving him seven sons and three daughters. How many is that altogether? (Ten.)

God also gave Job a large number of animals: seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred oxen, and five hundred donkeys. That's ten thousand animals!

Now, do you think Job could have taken care of all of these animals by himself, running around after all of them? (Of course not!) That means Job must have had many servants, too. In fact, he was one of the richest men in the land.

### Satan Asks to Tempt Job

One day, God was with all His angels when Satan came among them. God asked Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered, "From going all over the earth."

God said, "Have you seen My servant Job? There is none like him. He fears God and turns away from evil."

But Satan was not impressed by these words and replied, "Job only trusts You because You have protected him, made him rich, and made sure that everything he does goes well. If things were to go badly for him, he would surely curse You!"

But God was sure that Job was a righteous person and would not curse Him, so God gave Satan permission to destroy everything Job had. However, God warned Satan that he was not allowed to harm Job.

**Suggested Activity:** Prepare four envelopes with the messages from Job 1:14-19. Give four messengers (students) one envelope each and ask them to deliver the news to Job (the teacher). Tell the students to quickly follow one after another, indicating the swiftness of the subsequent tragedy Job experienced by Satan. After the reporting, recap all the bad things that just happened to Job.

### Satan Takes Away Job's Children and Possessions

One day, all of Job's children were eating at their oldest brother's house. Job and his wife were not with their children but resting at their own home, when suddenly a messenger came rushing to Job. He had terrible news to

give to his master.

The servant reported, "The oxen and donkeys were attacked by the Sabeans and carried off while they were in the fields. The Sabeans also killed all the servants, and I alone escaped to tell you!"

While this servant was speaking, another messenger came running in, gasping for air. He said in a hurry, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants who were tending them, and I alone escaped to tell you!"

Barely after he spoke, another servant came rushing in and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and took all your camels and also killed the servants there, and I alone escaped to tell you!"

Job did not even have time to think about what had happened to his animals before another messenger ran into his house.

This fourth servant had the most tragic news to tell.

He said to Job, "While your children were eating and drinking at their oldest brother's house, a big wind suddenly came and shook the house. The walls and roof caved in and collapsed, killing everyone inside, and I alone escaped to tell you!"

When Job heard all the news, he was so anguished that he tore his clothes and shaved his head. Even though he had lost all of his possessions in one day and felt very sorrowful, he prayed to God and said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1: 21).

In all of this and no matter how sad he was, Job did not sin nor blame God for what had happened.

### Satan Strikes Job with Painful Sores

Satan again came before God.

God told Satan how faithful Job was even though he had lost all of his belongings and children. But Satan had something to say about that. Satan challenged God saying, "He only worships You because he was not hurt. If he became sick, I am sure he would curse You." Again, God had great confidence in Job and allowed Satan to test His servant. But God ordered Satan not to kill him.

So Satan struck Job and made him very sick, thinking that this would make Job hate God. He inflicted Job with painful sores all over his body. Sores are like painful boils and cuts on the skin that won't go away. When people get sores, they may get one or two on one small part of their body, but Job had sores from his head to his toe. They were so painful that he had to use a piece of a broken pot to scratch them.

When Job's wife saw how much pain he was in, she told him to curse God and die. But Job answered, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Why should we accept good things from God and not the bad?"

Even though Job was in great pain and suffering, he still did not sin or blame God for what had happened.

### Job's Friends Come to Visit

The news of what had happened to Job spread through all the land. When Job's friends heard about it, they came to visit and comfort him.

When they arrived at Job's house, they could barely recognize him. He was covered in sores. Some had dried up while others were broken and showed his flesh. The friends felt very sad for Job and cried for him. They sat with him for seven days and nights without saying a single word to Job, just sitting there in silence because they saw how pitiful Job was.

After seven days had passed, Job's friends began to speak up. They took turns talking to Job and trying to figure out why all these bad things had happened to him. They concluded that Job must have sinned to deserve all this suffering.

Students, have you learned of any wrongdoing from Job so far in this story? (No, God even said that Job was blameless.)

Job's friends thought that they knew God well and that God, because He was righteous, would only bless good people. They assumed that if something bad happened to anyone, it was because that person did something wrong. But Job could not think of anything he did wrong. He began to think that it would have been better if he hadn't been born so that he would not have to go through so much pain.

Job's friends only understood suffering in terms of wrongdoing and insisted that Job was being too proud to admit his sins. Even though they thought they were being good friends by trying to help Job, they were actually judging him and causing Job more pain. They did not think about putting themselves in Job's shoes.

### God Finally Speaks to Job

After Job's friends finished taking turns analyzing his suffering, God finally spoke up, and He did not like what He was hearing from them.

God appeared in a whirlwind and reminded Job of His wisdom and mighty power in all that He had created. God spoke of His goodness and complete power over evil. He also rebuked Job's friends because they were not saying what was right about God or about Job. God was not punishing Job because he had sinned.

As God spoke, everyone kept silent because they knew that God had power over everything.

Job felt encouraged after God spoke to Him and showed him His greatness. Job finally understood that in all of his suffering, he was able to come so much closer to God. Job felt like he could now see God and knew that God was always with him and that He had His plans.

Job then prayed to God and asked for forgiveness in complaining about his misfortunes. He also prayed for his friends.

Because Job did not give up on God or lose faith throughout his suffering, this major turning point in his life drew him even closer to God and brought him greater blessings than ever before.

Isn't this wonderful, children? God must have been so happy and pleased with His servant Job! God gave him twice as many animals as he had before. Job had seven more sons and three more daughters. God even gave him another hundred and forty years to live so that he could see his great-grandchildren. God truly blessed Job for being faithful and righteous.

Now that we have finished learning about the Ten Commandments and about righteous Job, let us also put these teachings into practice and obey God and His commandments as Job did.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **God allowed \_\_\_\_\_ (Satan) to tempt Job in order to show him that Job was faithful to God.**
2. **Satan thought that if God kept Job healthy, Job would soon forget about God.** False; Satan said that Job remembered God because of His protection.
3. **Job lost all his possessions and children in \_\_\_\_\_ (one) day.**
4. **When Job lost all of his children and possessions, he cursed God and blamed Him for everything.** False; he fell down and worshipped God.
5. **Job's wife was very supportive of him.** False; she told him to curse God and die.
6. **Job suffered because he sinned against God.** False; Satan was testing his faithfulness.
7. **God blessed Job even more afterwards because Job remained faithful to God throughout all his suffering.** True.
8. **Job's friends comforted Job with their words of encouragement, acknowledging that Job was a good person who was suffering for no reason.** False; they thought that Job had sinned and that he deserved his suffering.
9. **We should not judge others and think that every suffering they face is the result of sinning against God.** True.
10. **When we suffer, it is a time when we can draw closer to God.** True.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.” (Romans 8:28a)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### Do not lose faith in God, even when we encounter sadness or difficulties.

From the previous lessons, we learned that God is righteous and just. He blesses those who obey His commandments and punishes those who do not. This sounds almost like a straightforward equation. While this is very true, we learned today that life is a process where both good and bad people will meet suffering and hard times. Job was a perfect example. He was a righteous and God-fearing man—even God Himself thought so. And indeed, Job’s life was filled with God’s blessings. Not only was he one of the wealthiest men in the area with his many servants and animals, he also had many children. Everything in his life seemed to fall into the equation perfectly. However, Job later encountered something that none of us here could possibly imagine—he lost almost everything he had, and what’s worse, all of his children were all killed in one instant. And this wasn’t all of it yet. What happened to him later? [Let students answer.] He got painful sores all over his body!

Many people believe the saying that “good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people.” However, everyone will encounter sadness and difficulties in life, even good people such as Job! But there is one difference among those who encounter difficulties. That is, God will stand behind those who don’t lose faith in Him in times of sadness and trials. He is always there to make sure that those who trust in Him are not in any way harmed. Remember what God said to Satan after allowing Job to suffer? [Let students answer.] He said to Satan, “Only do not lay a hand on his person.” God allowed Satan to attack those in Job’s life, but not Job himself. Today, if we obey the commandments of God, even though we will experience sadness or difficulties, God will take care of us. He will never let us suffer more than we can bear (1 Cor 10:13). The Bible also says, “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you” (1 Pet 5:10). This is God’s promise for those who follow Him.

Now, the next question many people ask is: why does God allow good people to suffer in the first place? Why can’t He only make bad people suffer? Does God still love us

when He makes us suffer? [Pause for students to think about these questions.] Absolutely, God always loves us! In fact, it is because God loves us that He allows us to suffer. How does that work? Let’s look at Job’s life again. At the end, after all the horrible things had passed, what happened to Job’s faith? [Let students answer.] Job had an even better faith! How so? Through all the things that happened to him, he got to experience God even closer, in a way that he had never experienced Him before. Imagine if Job’s life had been smooth and peaceful, do you think that he would be able to draw closer to God constantly? Probably not. In fact, many people fail to remain close to God in times of happiness and peace. They enjoy their lives so much that they forget about God. But God doesn’t want this to happen to us. He allows us to be sad sometimes because He wants us to remember Him. God wants us to experience Him like Job did so that our faith can grow stronger in Him.

Take a minute to think about the times when you experienced God in your life. When was the last time you prayed to Him for help and He answered your prayers? When was the last time He helped your family? When was the last time you heard a testimony that really made you think that God is wonderful? [Give your students a couple minutes to think, and then have some of them share their experiences if time allows.] Students, these are your experiences with God! They are precious. Without them, it would be very difficult for us to truly experience God’s love and care for us. When God sees that we are not happy, it is not that He doesn’t care. In fact, He feels sad, too! But God is letting these things happen to us so that we can be stronger in our faith later on. The Bible says that our faith is like gold, but more precious than gold. When God allows us to encounter something sad and difficult, it is as if He is refining a piece of gold in a fire. When He takes the gold out of the fire, its impurities are gone. Our faith is not perfect; we have doubts here and there. But once we are tested, like Job was, we become better. God is our heavenly Father, and He only wants the best for us. This is why He allows bad things to happen to us and to good people like Job.

Let me share a testimony with you.

Everyone knows that Diana is very smart. Ever since she was young, she always got good grades at school. She also studied at a prestigious top-tier university. After she graduated, she was very sure that she would be able to get a job easily. However, weeks went by and Diana did not hear back from any companies that she contacted. She started to feel anxious because almost all her friends who graduated around the same time as her had already found their first job.

Eight months went by and Diana was still looking for a job. During these eight months, Diana was very sad and frustrated. She often complained to God that it was not fair for her to be the last person out of all her friends to find a job because she had always been the “smartest” among them.

One day, Diana was talking to her friend Amy at church, and she began to vent. She said, “I can’t understand why God isn’t helping me right now. We always learn about how God loves and cares about us, but He’s not doing anything to show me that right now. Did I do something wrong? I’m so frustrated!” Then, Amy said to her, “Don’t feel this way. Everything is in God’s hands. His ways are always perfect. Don’t lose faith... Pray more, and I’ll pray with you! I’m sure God has a beautiful plan for you.” After talking to Amy, Diana felt so much better. As she began to pray more often, Diana also became more hopeful and positive about her situation.

About a month later, Diana finally heard back from a company. It was a very famous company that offered Diana a job. In fact, Diana never thought that this company would hire her. She applied to this company only because she had already applied to all the other ones that she thought would offer her a job. Suddenly, Diana realized that this was all in God’s plan. At the beginning, Diana felt very anxious the whole time about

not being able to find a job. But later on, after she had started praying about the situation, she was able to experience the peace and hope that came from God. She also became much closer to God because she started reading the Bible and praying more. She was able to humble herself and rely on God. And now, Diana had finally found a job. Even though Diana had gone through many sad moments in the past few months, Diana thanked God for this time because she was able to experience Him in a way she had never before.

### Reflection Questions

- 1. Why did Diana feel frustrated at first?** Diana was very frustrated because she wasn’t able to find a job, and she thought that God was not doing anything to help her. She also felt that way because she couldn’t prove to other people that she was smart enough to get a job.
- 2. Why did Diana feel thankful to God at the end?** She felt thankful at the end because she realized that God had a bigger plan for her this whole time. She got to experience God and became stronger in faith after going through much desperation. Ultimately, she also got a job that she was very happy about.

Today, God wants us to understand that when we meet problems and struggles, He is behind all of this and that He has taken care of everything. He doesn’t want us to get frustrated or complain in times of difficulties. Instead, the Bible teaches us to “count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (Jas 1:2). God wants us to stay positive and not lose faith even when we can’t see solutions to our problems. We need to have faith that God will make everything beautiful in His time. Instead of complaining, think about the wonderful things that God has done and believe that He can likewise work miracles in our lives. Job understood this and had great faith that God’s ways are perfect. In the end, not only did he receive more faith and blessings from God, he also got to experience God even closer. Let us all learn from the example of Job and never lose faith in bad times!

### Do not judge others or think that we are always in the right.

Apart from Job, there were also some other people in our lesson today. Do you remember who they were? [Let students answer.] Yes, they were Job’s friends. Do you remember what they said to Job? [Let students answer.] They were very sure that Job had done something wrong, which caused him to get painful sores all over his body. In fact, Job hadn’t done anything wrong. We just learned that God allowed him to suffer because He wanted Job to experience Him and have greater faith.

Today, when we see people going through a difficult time, or see something bad happen to them, what are we

thinking in our minds? Do we think that they had done something wrong and that God is punishing them? The Bible teaches us that we should never judge others. Let’s turn to a passage in the Bible: Matthew 7:1-2. [Have students read it aloud with you.]

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” Imagine if God, our ultimate Judge, were to judge every mistake that we’ve made in the past. Not one of us would be good enough to go to heaven, because we’ve all done

wrong things! But instead of keeping count of our wrongdoings, God continues to forgive our sins and love us. Likewise, we shouldn't judge others, but love and help them. If we cannot do so, how can we expect God to do the same to us? Therefore, let us not learn from the example of Job's friends. Instead of judging their friend Job and thinking that he had done something wrong, what should they have done? [Let students think, and then share their answers. For example, they should have showed more love to him, comforted him with kind words, prayed for him and taken care of him, etc.]

One of the problems Job's friends had was that they were not humble. They thought that they were always right. But in the end, it turned out that they were wrong. How embarrassing! The Bible says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Jas 4:6). Today, we should learn to be humble. Oftentimes, we only view things from our own perspectives and think that we are always right. However, it is always good to humble ourselves, listen to other people, and be more willing to accept others' opinions. If Job's friends had been willing to humble themselves and listen to Job, and be more understanding instead of stubborn, they would have been a lot more helpful around Job during his time of difficulty. Today, God doesn't want us to be self-centered and think that we are always right. When arguments arise, do you always have to "win"? When your parents tell you that something you did was wrong, do you often argue and tell them that they're the ones who are wrong? Let us learn to be more humble and willing to listen to other people, especially to our parents. People who are humble often learn more simply because they are willing to hear more. In the same way, we need to be humble to understand the wisdom of God. The Bible says, "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way" (Ps 25:9).

Students, do you want to be someone God loves with His lovingkindness? Do you want to be someone God is willing to teach and make better? If your answer is "yes" to both questions, remember not to be like Job's friends. We ought to humble ourselves and not think that we are always right. That way, we will be able to judge less, and love more!

---

**ACTIVITY**

---

**1****Job Loses Everything****Objective:** To review the story of Job with your students.**Part A****Instructions:** In the space below, draw some of the things that Job lost that day. Share your drawing with your classmates.**Things That Job Lost That Day****Part B****Instructions:** Fill in the blanks below. The verses are recorded in Job chapter one.

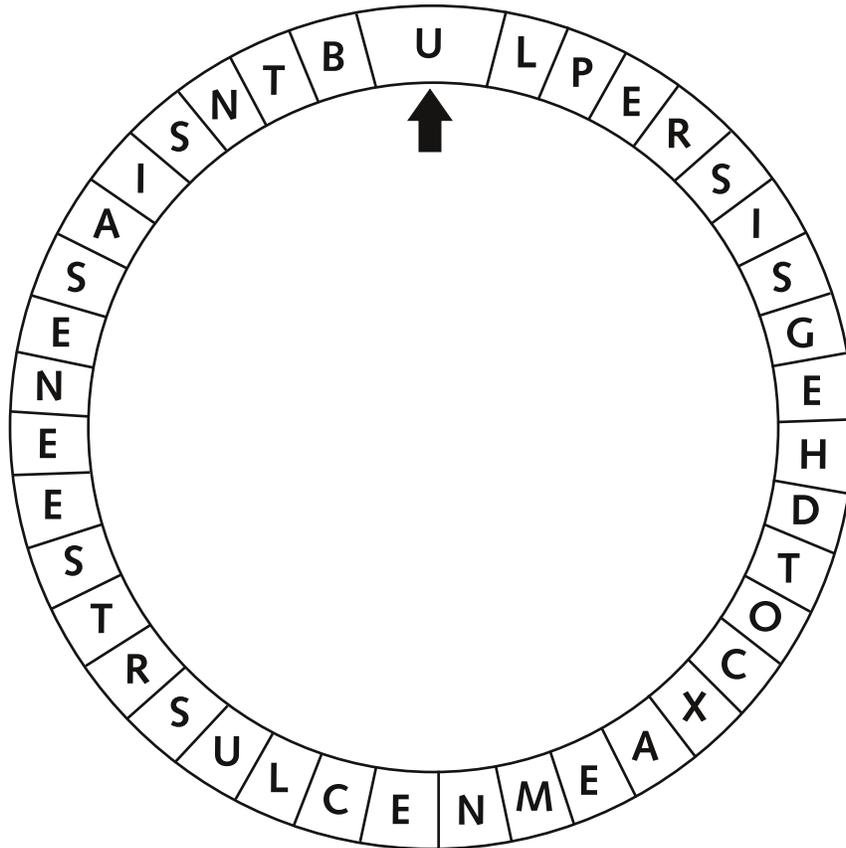
1. Job was the greatest of all people in the \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3).
2. Job had three \_\_\_\_\_ and seven \_\_\_\_\_ (1:2).
3. Job had 500 yoke of \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3).
4. Job lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1).
5. The evil one, the tempter, is called \_\_\_\_\_ (1:6).
6. Even after losing all his possessions and children, Job still did not \_\_\_\_\_ (1:22).

**2** Job Feared God

**Objectives:** To review the story of Job with your students.

**Instructions**

Begin at the arrow with the letter U. Use every other letter in order to complete the blanks for each sentence. Go around the circle twice until all the letters have been used. The circled letters will spell out something that Job had, even when he suffered. Can you find out what it was?



1. Job feared God and was u ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Chaldeans carried away Job's ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Job had ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ children.
4. Job did not ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ even though he suffered.
5. Job said, " ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ be the name of the Lord."
6. The Sabeans took away Job's \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Satan said Job would ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ God.
8. Job was one of the richest men of the ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

Even during his suffering, Job had \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3

**Trust Walk / Optional**

**Objective:** To help your students experience what it feels like to trust by taking the class on a trust walk.

This activity can be done in the classroom if it is a reasonable size. Otherwise, find a larger indoor space or go outdoors to do the activity.

**Instructions**

1. Pair the students up.
2. One student has to shut his eyes while his partner leads him around the room.
3. The student whose eyes are open will hold the hand or arm of the other student and guide him around the room. The student whose eyes are closed should touch objects in the area to see if he can guess what they are.
4. When a few minutes are up, have the students switch. If the students keep opening their eyes, then the teacher can try using blindfolds instead.
5. After the walk, lead a discussion on how it feels to trust another person. Remind the students that God is dependable. They can trust God at all times to lead and guide them in their lives.

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. Job, none, fears, away
2. friends, recognize, head, toe, cried, speak, seven
3. C
4. C, D, A, B
5. False; even though he was covered with sores, he still did not sin.
6. righteous: faultless, blameless, morally upright  
suffering: difficult or hard times that are painful to bear  
tempt: to attract or persuade; to persuade someone to want to do something they are not supposed to do  
judge: to form an opinion about whether something or someone is right or wrong
7. Answers may vary; possible answer: Everything that happens to us is good because it brings us closer to God.
8. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 11—The Life of Job

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God's power and wisdom are far beyond human understanding.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To always thank God in both happy and sad times.
  2. To understand that He is always with us no matter what our circumstances are.
  3. Not to judge others or think that we are always in the right.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Romans 8:28a)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Fill In the Blank

fears Job away none

1. God said to Satan, "Have you seen My servant \_\_\_\_\_, there is \_\_\_\_\_ like him, he \_\_\_\_\_ God and turns \_\_\_\_\_ from evil."

toe seven friends cried speak head recognize

2. When Job's \_\_\_\_\_ saw him, they could barely \_\_\_\_\_ him because he had sores from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_ out loud, sat with him, and did not \_\_\_\_\_ to him for \_\_\_\_\_ days and nights.

## Multiple Choice

3. \_\_\_\_\_ : What did Job say right after Satan destroyed all his possessions and children?
- Why, Lord? I have always been righteous, why did You let this happen to me?
  - Why should we accept good things from God and not the bad?
  - Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.
  - If only I were never born, then none of this would have happened to me.

**Re-arranger:** Put these events in the correct order.

4. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ a. The Chaldeans raided the camels and killed all the servants but one.  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ b. A great wind struck the house and killed all of Job's children.  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ c. The Sabeans took all of Job's oxen and donkeys, killing all the servants but one.  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ d. Fire from heaven fell and burned up all of Job's sheep and killed all of his servants but one.

## True or False

5. After Job had sores all over his body, he listened to his wife and cursed God. \_\_\_\_\_

**Dictionary:** In your own words, describe what each of the following terms mean.

6. righteous: \_\_\_\_\_  
 suffering: \_\_\_\_\_  
 tempt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 judge: \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenger**

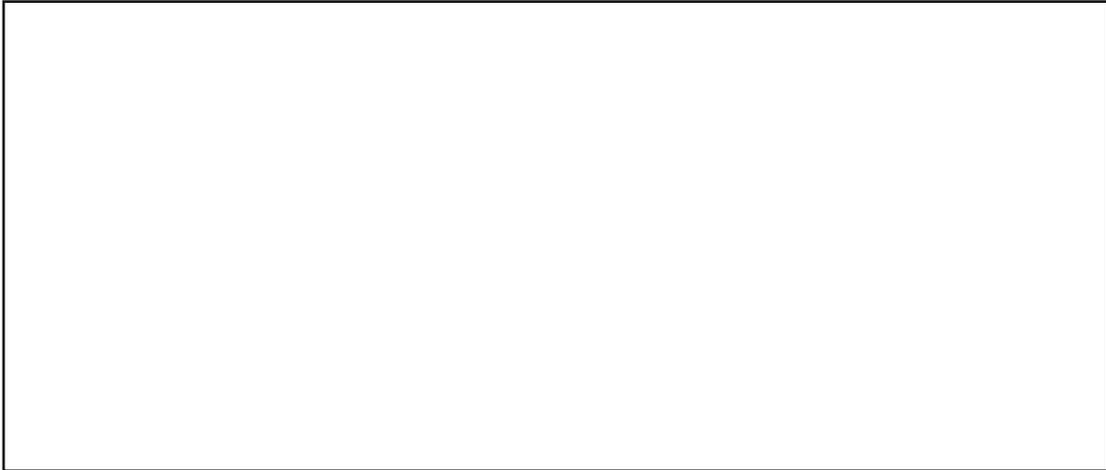
7. In your own words, write down what the memory verse means.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Picture Teachings**

8. Write down two teachings from this week's lesson, and draw a picture to describe each.

1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



# LESSON 12

## THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



### BEFORE YOU TEACH

A tree bears fruit because it has life. In the same way, we can practice righteousness only if we are connected to the living God and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as a good tree would not be fruitless or bear bad fruit, we will be accompanied by good works when we live a Spirit-filled life (Mt 7:16-20).

Whereas the works of the law seek to carry out the letter of the law superficially, the fruit of the Spirit is an outflow of the righteousness of God from the heart (Rom 2:29). In this sense, we are freed from the bondage of the law and mere outward observance. Consequently, we may live out the spirit of the law by faith in Christ and the power of the Spirit.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Young students long to have the approval of their parents, their teachers, and their peers. In their desire to meet others' expectations, some students may gradually become adept at going through the motions of "godly behavior" that are not solidly built on genuine belief or faith.

As teachers, we should remind students that true spiritual character should not be founded on external acts of religious devotion or charity, but rather internal attitudes based on biblical principles.

If students seek to be filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit, doing good will result from the right motivation and will be a natural byproduct that is pleasing to both God and men.

### BIBLE TEXT

Galatians 5:22-25

### BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit can help us bear spiritual fruit that pleases God and helps others.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand the different virtues of the Holy Spirit and what it means to live them out in our daily life.

### MEMORY VERSE

"If we live in the Spirit,  
let us also walk in the Spirit."

(Galatians 5:25)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Dear Lord, we thank You for gathering us to learn about Your Holy Spirit and the virtues He can help us bear. We want to become more like You every day, and we pray that Your Holy Spirit will fill us so that the spiritual fruit we bear in our daily lives will glorify You and be an example to our families and friends. In this coming week, please let our thoughts, words, and actions be guided and taught by Your Holy Spirit. We thank You and praise You. Hallelujah! Amen.

## VOCABULARY

**famine:** when an area or land experiences a mass shortage of food either because of severe climate conditions or as a result of war

**rod:** a sturdy stick; sometimes used to beat or punish someone

**decree:** an official order given by someone in power that everyone must follow

**longsuffering:** patiently enduring troubles or problems with something or someone

**faithful:** trustworthy, reliable, dependable, and loyal

**devour:** to eat hungrily and passionately without self-control

**adultery:** not being faithful and breaking marriage vows

**virtue:** exemplary conduct and behavior that is morally good and desirable

## REVIEW

Last week, we learned about a person in the Bible who remained blameless and upright, even when he encountered extreme difficulties. Do you remember who it was? (Job.) That's right! What happened to Job? (He lost all his children and all his possessions in one day; later, he developed sores all over his body.) Job did not deserve any of this suffering; Satan was only testing Job's faith because God told Satan that Job was righteous. When Job was going through this tremendous suffering, did he sin against God and blame Him for all his problems? No! Not even once! Throughout all his suffering, Job remained as righteous as before. Even when his friends were judging him, he still did not get angry at God and sin. In the end, God blessed Job even more than before since he didn't sin against God during his trials. We learned from Job that even in difficult times, we should still be joyous and remain righteous. Just as Job's suffering brought him closer to God, our suffering can bring us closer to God, too.

## BIBLE STORY

### 1. Love (Genesis 44)

*"Greater love has no one than this,  
than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

(John 15:13)

There was a great famine in the land. Boys and girls, can you imagine how hungry everyone must have been because they could not find any food eat? Their stomachs must have been grumbling with hunger.

Because of the famine, little Benjamin and his older brothers went to see a mighty official who could give them food. When they were on their way home with the food they had received, one of the official's men went after them and said that one of them had stolen the official's silver cup. Whoever had stolen from the official would be punished and become a slave. A slave could not go home and had to do everything his master ordered him to do. How awful! The brothers were sure that none of them had taken anything valuable from the official's house. After searching through their bags, the silver cup was found inside Benjamin's bag. How could this have happened? Poor Benjamin!

The group of brothers returned to the official's house.

The official told the brothers that Benjamin had to stay behind and be his slave because he had stolen the silver cup. Judah, one of the older brothers, loved his father and brother very much. He knew that if they went home without Benjamin, his father would be very sad and might even die because of his great sadness. Even though Judah had not stolen the cup, he was willing to stay behind and take the punishment for Benjamin. He was willing to give up everything so that his little brother could return home safely. The official was greatly moved by the love Judah had for Benjamin and did not punish either of them.

Boys and girls, raise your hand if you remember this story. This story happened in the Old Testament. Benjamin and his brothers traveled to Egypt to buy food from Pharaoh's official, Joseph. Judah showed his love for Benjamin and for his father Israel (Jacob) by offering to stay in Egypt and become Joseph's slave. He would have given up his life, his freedom, and his family for little Benjamin. Judah's love for his brother was very touching.

Love is being willing to sacrifice something important for another person. What are some ways our parents show us their love? How did Jesus show His love for us? What are some ways we can show our love to our brothers and sisters?

## 2. Joy (Acts 16:16-34)

*"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." (James 1:2-3)*

Paul and Silas were on their way to church when they met a slave girl. She worked day and night to make money for her masters. After several days of seeing her, Paul decided to help her.

When the slave girl's masters found out, they were angry. They wouldn't be able to make any more money by forcing the slave girl to work. The slave masters were so mad that they took Paul and Silas to the judges. Because the slave masters lied and said Paul and Silas had done bad things, the judges punished the two innocent men by having them beaten with rods and thrown into jail. What a terrible and painful punishment!

Boys and girls, let's close our eyes and imagine how we would feel if we were Paul and Silas. Someone lied about us and we were unfairly punished. Our whole body hurts because we were beaten. We are now in a cold and dark place. We don't know when we will be able to get out or go home. What would we do if we were in their shoes? What did Paul and Silas do? Did they complain? Did they cry? Did they give up hope?

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. Their cheerful hearts could not be tied down by their chains. They were so joyful they could sing. God showed that He was with them by sending an earthquake. The earthquake opened all the prison doors and all the chains. Instead of escaping, Paul and Silas stayed so they could share their joy with the jailer and his family. Before the morning came, when they would be freed from jail, Paul and Silas preached to the jailer and his family, and then baptized them.

This is a story about Paul and Silas that can be found in the New Testament. Why were they so joyful when others would have been scared or sad? It was because they trusted God. Even in the cold and dark prison, they knew that God was with them and would take care of them.

Joy is being happy from the deepest part of our hearts and it does not depend on what happens around us. If God is with us and we trust in Him, we can feel this joy all the time. If we remember that Jesus Christ sacrificed His life so that we could have the hope of salvation, we can be joyful every day. If we count all the many ways God has blessed us, we will feel this joy. Raise your hand if you felt joyful in the last week? What made you joyful? How do we show we are joyful? How can we help others be joyful?

## 3. Peace (Gen 26:12-30)

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)*

When Isaac returned to his birthplace in Gerar, he needed to find water for his flocks and family. Therefore, he dug wells. God blessed Isaac, so the people of Gerar were jealous of him. They filled his wells and ordered Isaac to leave. Isaac was a peacemaker, therefore he left quietly without any argument. He could have argued and demanded his rights based on his father's work or he could have taken revenge, but he didn't. Later, King Abimelech, who wanted Isaac to leave, came and made peace with him, saying, "We saw clearly that the Lord was with you." Isaac showed that he was a peacemaker by willingly giving up something as important as water to make peace.

God's peace is greater than all the fears in the world combined. We can receive His peace by making a habit of praying to Him with thanksgiving. There are many people in the world who don't know that they can also have this wonderful peace in their hearts. Boys and girls, let's think about someone we have talked to or seen in the last week who seemed worried, frustrated, afraid, or maybe just tired. What are some ways that we can share our peace with them? How do you think God's peace can change their lives for the better?

## 4. Longsuffering (Patience) (Lk 15:11-24)

*"Be patient with all." (1 Thessalonians 5:14b)*

A father had two sons. One day, the younger son decided he wanted to travel to a far off country where he could enjoy a more interesting and exciting life. He went to his father and asked for his part of the family money. The younger son did not think or care about how hard it would be on his father or older brother. The family would have less money and would have less help with all the work that needed to be done. The father loved his younger son very much, so he gave his younger son his allotted share of the inheritance.

A few days later, the younger son left on his adventure. He went to a country far away from home. There were many amazing sights to see, expensive things to buy, and delicious foods to eat. Days turned into months and months turned into years. When famine came to the land, the younger son suddenly realized that he had wasted all of his money on fun and did not even have a penny for food. He needed to find a way to earn enough money to buy food, so he decided to work on a farm feeding pigs. His work gave him a place to stay but no food to eat. He was starving; even the pigs' food looked yummy. Does anyone know what pigs eat? Raise your hand if you think that you would be willing to eat pig food if you were very, very hungry. No, most of us wouldn't be. The younger son didn't want to eat it either.

The younger son started thinking of his father and the wonderful life he had before. Even his father's servants would have more food than he did, now that he had

wandered so far from home and wasted all his money. The younger son decided to go back to his father's house, repent before his father, and humbly become one of the servants.

The father was walking in his fields, looking out toward the horizon. Every day, he walked, watched, and waited, hoping his younger son would return. It didn't matter that he had been heartbroken and sad when his younger son left. It didn't matter that life was difficult for the family because they couldn't count on the money his younger son had taken. All that mattered was that his son come back safely. As the father waited, the days had become months and the months had become years. Time passed and the father still waited patiently for the younger son he had lost.

While the father was taking his daily walk, he saw a figure in the distance. He could not believe his eyes, it was his younger son! The father saw his son and was filled with compassion. He ran as fast as he could towards him, and then hugged and kissed him. While his younger son was still repenting, he was already making plans for a big feast to celebrate his younger son's return. New clothes, new shoes, a new ring, and the best meat were brought out to show how happy he was to have found his younger son again. All his tears, his prayers, and his patient waiting had finally paid off. His lost son was home again.

This was a parable Jesus told about a father and his wasteful son. What helped the father wait so patiently even though he had been deeply hurt? It was his deep love and concern for his son. Although the father did not know when his son would come back or if his son would ever return, he was willing to hope, pray, and spend as much time as was needed.

Longsuffering is waiting patiently even if we need to suffer for a long time. God is patient with us when we make mistakes, and He forgives us whenever we sincerely repent from the heart. Boys and girls, what is something we would be willing to wait patiently for? What makes it hard for us to be patient? Can we think of anyone you know who is very patient? What can we learn from them?

### 5. Kindness (Lk 10:30-37)

*"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*

(Ephesians 4:32)

A man was traveling from one city to another when he was attacked and robbed. The robbers took his clothing and his belongings, and beat him so that he could not chase after them. He lay by the side of the road, bleeding and unable to move. A priest walked down the same road. When he saw the wounded traveler, he crossed to the other side of the road. He didn't know if the man was

dead or alive, but he wanted to stay as far away as possible. Some time later, a Levite walked down the same road. He saw the wounded traveler, but he also crossed to the other side of the road and quickly walked away.

A Samaritan was the next person who came along. He was not as rich, educated, or well-respected as the first two people who walked by, but he had a kind heart. He saw the wounded traveler and had compassion on him. The Samaritan rushed to his side, knelt by him, and cleaned and bandaged the traveler's wounds. The Samaritan then put the traveler on his donkey so that he could be taken to an inn. After taking care of him for the night, the Samaritan left money and instructions with the inn keeper before he left the next day. The Samaritan asked the inn keeper to take care of the wounded traveler and offered to pay for anything else that needed to be done for him. Of the three people who passed by, the Samaritan was the only one who showed mercy to the wounded traveler.

Jesus told this parable about a good Samaritan. This Samaritan did not have religious training like the priest and the Levite who first walked by, and he was not even liked by Jews because of his mixed ethnic background, but he was the only one that was willing to help the wounded stranger. It doesn't take someone with special skills or training to be kind. A willing heart and willing hands are what it takes to make a difference in someone's life.

Kindness is being merciful and proactive in helping different types of people. Someone with a kind heart doesn't need to be told or forced to help; he or she naturally looks for ways to help. How has someone shown kindness to you in the last week? It's usually easier for us to be kind to people we know and like. Why should we be kind to people we don't know or might not even really like?

### 6. Goodness (Acts 9:36-42)

*"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share."*

(1 Timothy 6:18)

Dorcas loved to help those in need. She would prepare food for the poor, take care of the sick, sew clothing for widows, and tell stories about God to the orphans. She always thought about others and put their needs before hers.

One day, she became ill, and soon after, she passed away. Everyone who knew her and loved her was shocked and saddened. How could someone so generous and good be gone? The believers prepared her body and laid it in an upper room. They decided to send two disciples to find a worker of God that was staying in a nearby town, hoping that God would perform a miracle.

The worker of God came back with the two disciples

and went to the upper room. The widows were gathered around Dorcas, tears falling down their cheeks. They showed the worker of God the clothing that Dorcas had made for them and their families when she was alive.

The worker of God asked everyone to leave the room. Then, he knelt down, prayed, and told Dorcas to get up. Slowly, her eyes opened and she sat up. The worker of God helped her stand up and walk out of the room. All the believers were thankful and joyful, praising God for bringing back a sister who had done so much good for them and who would continue to serve them. Because of this miracle, many in the city came to believe in God.

This story happened in the city of Joppa. Dorcas, also known as Tabitha, was a sister who was rich in good works. She made the most of her time by helping those around her. When she died, the believers asked Peter to come and help. Her good works moved God to return her to life so that more people could come to believe.

Goodness is doing what is right before God and serving those around us with love. As human beings, we tend to be selfish, thinking first about what makes us happy. Dorcas was happy when she made others feel comfortable. Even though she may not have had much on earth, all the good she did for others worked to store up treasures in heaven. What are some good deeds that we can do on our own at church, at home, or at school? What are some good deeds that we can do with our brothers and sisters? Can we do good deeds with the wrong motivation? What happens if we don't have any good deeds stored up?

### 7. Faithfulness (Dan 6)

*"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."*

(Matthew 25:21)

Daniel was an excellent worker. He was honest, hardworking, intelligent, and faithful. He believed in God and set a Christian example with his words and actions. He did such a good job that his king put him in charge of other leaders. The leaders were jealous of Daniel and looked for ways to harm him or trap him. The leaders convinced the king to sign a decree that would force everyone to pray only to the chief for one month. Anyone who disobeyed the decree would be thrown into a den and devoured by wild animals.

Boys and girls, what do you think Daniel did when he heard the decree? Did he start praying to God secretly, where no one could see him? Did he start praying to his king? Or did he stop praying to anyone?

Even though his life was in danger, Daniel was brave and faithful to God. He went home and did what he did every day. Three times a day, he knelt down by a window where he prayed and gave thanks to God.

The leaders went and told the king that Daniel had disobeyed the decree. Although the king didn't want to punish Daniel because he was a good and faithful worker, the king could not go against his own decree. Daniel was taken and thrown into a den with lions. In the morning, the king went to check if Daniel was still alive. What do you think the chief found? Had the lions eaten him up?

Daniel came out of the den safe and sound. God had sent an angel to protect him from the lions because he was innocent and had stayed faithful to God. The evil leaders that had tried to trap Daniel were thrown into the den and eaten by the lions.

Boys and girls, raise your hand if you remember this story about Daniel in the Old Testament. He was faithful to God because he continued to pray three times a day even though he knew that he would be punished for it. God saw how much Daniel was willing to risk for his faith and sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions so that they couldn't harm him.

Faithfulness is being trustworthy and loyal even when it is very difficult or even when we may be the only ones doing what is right. How will God bless us if we are faithful? What will happen if we are not faithful? Can anyone share two or three things we should be faithful with at church, at home, or at school?

### 8. Gentleness (Mt 26:36-67; Mt 27:14)

*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*

(Matthew 11:29)

Jesus was a gentle person. He could have called for twelve legions of angels to rescue Him, but He willingly allowed the soldiers to capture Him (Mt 26:52-53). Then they spat in His face and beat Him, while others struck Him with their hands. While this was happening, Jesus didn't seek revenge. When He was being accused by the priests and elders, He did not answer to even a single charge (Mt 27:14). Jesus is indeed a loving and gentle person. He gave Himself up for all mankind. In gentleness, He spoke words of forgiveness for those who had crucified Him.

Gentleness is being thoughtful and kind. It can be seen in the way we do things or even in the way we say things. Being gentle is being soft, warm, friendly, and helpful without expecting anything in return. How do we feel when someone treats us with gentleness? When our parents ask us to do a boring chore or to help with something we don't really enjoy, how can we respond in a gentle way? When someone treats us rudely or roughly, how would gentleness improve the situation?

### 9. Self-Control (Gen 39)

*“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,  
and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”*

(Proverbs 16:32)

Joseph went to work for Potiphar. The Lord was with Joseph, and He blessed Joseph in everything he did. The house was always kept in order and the fields were fruitful. Potiphar was very pleased with Joseph’s work and made him the manager of his house and his business.

Joseph was young and handsome. Potiphar’s wife looked at him and liked him very much. She wanted to tempt him to do evil by sleeping with her. Boys and girls, we know that adultery (sleeping with someone that is not your husband or wife) is against God’s commandments. Joseph knew that Potiphar trusted him and that God blessed all his work. Joseph feared God, and he would not dare to sin against God. He could have anything he wanted in the house, but he had self-control when it came to his boss’ own wife. Potiphar’s wife tried to convince him to sin day after day, but Joseph would not listen to her and did what he could to stay away from her.

One day, Potiphar’s wife trapped Joseph when he was working alone in the house. She grabbed his coat and told him to sin with her. Although nobody else was in the house at that moment and nobody would know, Joseph knew that God would not be pleased if he listened to Potiphar’s wife. He left his coat in her hand and ran outside. She was furious that he would not stay with her. Potiphar’s wife called all the workers back into the house and lied about Joseph. She said that he had tried to take advantage of her, and that she had shouted for help, but he escaped. Potiphar’s wife held up Joseph’s coat as proof of her lie.

When Potiphar came home, his wife repeated the lie about Joseph. Potiphar believed what she said and felt disappointed and very angry with Joseph. He sent poor Joseph to prison. How unfair, right? Joseph got into trouble for doing the right thing and not sinning against God.

Throughout this trial, God stayed by Joseph’s side because he feared God and had self-control. God had mercy on him while he was in prison. The prison caretaker put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. God continued to bless Joseph in everything he did, and he eventually became a prime minister of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.

This is the story of Joseph when he lived in Egypt with Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials. God blessed his work and Joseph had power over everything in Potiphar’s home and fields. He did not abuse his power and think that he could do whatever he wanted with his master’s belongings or family members. He knew when to control his own needs and wants.

Having self-control means knowing when to say no,

even if something seems fun or interesting, or even if no one else will know. When God blesses us and we have plenty, it is easy to take advantage of the situation. We can learn from Joseph’s humility and faithfulness, which helped him to control his thoughts and actions. In your daily life, what is one thing that you find hard to control? Is it eating sweets, watching TV, playing video games, or having a bad temper? Having self-control is like having a brake in a car. What happens if we don’t act with self-control? How does having no self-control affect our loved ones? How does it affect our relationship with God?

Boys and girls, let’s review—what is the fruit of the Spirit? The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each one is a step closer to God’s heart. The more we live by the Spirit, the more we are able to follow in Jesus’ footsteps, obeying God and sharing the good news with our friends and family. By working together to bear the fruit of the Spirit, each believer grows stronger, and the church can grow more and more to be like our heavenly home.

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **How did Judah show his love for Benjamin?** He was willing to sacrifice his life, his freedom, and his family to save Benjamin.
2. **How did Paul and Silas show their joy while they were in jail?** They sang hymns and prayed to God.
3. **What did Isaac do to make peace?** He didn't argue and left the wells that he had dug to the people.
4. **How did the father of the lost son show his longsuffering (patience)?** He waited for his son every day and hoped that he would return.
5. **How did the good Samaritan show kindness to the traveler?** He showed mercy by helping him when no one else would.
6. **How did Dorcas show her goodness to the poor?** She made clothing for the widows.
7. **How did Daniel show his faithfulness to God?** He continued to pray to God three times a day even though his life was in danger.
8. **How did Jesus show His gentleness to those who wanted to crucify Him?** He didn't say a word. He was gentle and lowly.
9. **How did Joseph show self-control when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife?** He left his coat in her hand and ran out of the house.
10. **What are the nine fruit of the Spirit?** Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)**

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Isaac; peace
2. Daniel; faithfulness
3. Judah; love
4. Dorcas; goodness
5. Father of the Lost Son; longsuffering
6. Joseph; self-control
7. Jesus; gentleness
8. Good Samaritan; kindness
9. Paul and Silas; joy
10. Answers may vary.

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Now that we have learned about the fruit of the Holy Spirit, let us apply them into our daily lives. Matthew 7:21 says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." In other words, not everyone who claims to be a Christian will enter the heavenly kingdom. Today, we must also bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit in order to be children of God (Rom 8:16).

Cindy is a true follower of God who bears the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Let me share some of her stories with you.

### LOVE

Ally was an immigrant from China. For a while, she had a hard time looking for a job and lived in very poor conditions. When she first came to church, she was very quiet and didn't want to talk to other members because she only spoke Mandarin. She didn't make any friends, and she had no family members with her at that time.

One Saturday, Cindy saw Ally eating by herself at the back of the fellowship hall. This was her first time seeing Ally. Cindy told her daughter, "Go sit with your friends and eat, okay? I want to sit down next to a new church member." After Cindy's daughter left, Cindy sat next to Ally and started talking to her. Ally felt a little shocked at the beginning, but later she felt very comfortable talking to Cindy. In their conversation, Cindy found out more about Ally's situation and background. She gave Ally her phone number so that she could call her if she needed any help.

The next Saturday, Cindy gave Ally a Bible as a gift. She knew that Ally was so poor that she didn't have money to buy herself her own Bible. Ally was very touched. She didn't expect to meet someone so loving and caring when she was only a stranger. Moreover, Cindy knew that Ally had only brought one piece of luggage with her when she moved from China, so she also gave Ally some extra clothes for the winter and some daily necessities that Ally didn't have.

As time went by, Cindy and Ally became closer friends. Cindy often invited Ally to go to her house for dinner and to join her family for fun activities. Not only did Ally no longer feel lonely, she felt like she had a new family. Cindy also helped Ally find a job in her brother's company. Thinking back, Ally really thanked God for bringing Cindy into her life. Ally could not imagine how life would have been without the love, care, and support that Cindy showed her when she first moved from China.

Now that Ally has a job, a nice home, and her own

family, she never forgets to help those in need around her, extending the love that Cindy had shown her!

### Reflection

The Bible says, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them" (Mt 7:12a). When we feel lonely, we want others' company. When we are in need, we want others to help. In the same way, when other people need us, we shouldn't hesitate but help them with love. "Freely you have received, freely give" (Mt 10:8b). Ally didn't ask Cindy for help, but Cindy offered to help her anyway because she knew that she had received so much from God already. Today, we have so much from God that we didn't even have to ask for. We should also pray to God, and tell ourselves to extend love beyond our immediate family members. There are many people who need love.

### JOY & FAITHFULNESS

When Cindy's daughter was fifteen, she became ill and was immediately hospitalized. It all happened so suddenly that Cindy's family didn't know how to react. At that time, Cindy received phone calls every day from church members, her family, and friends asking about her daughter's situation. They all seemed very worried and were calling to comfort Cindy. However, instead of being comforted, Cindy seemed very positive and was actually the one who comforted her family and friends. Some people wondered and asked Cindy, "How come you don't seem very worried? How's your daughter?" Cindy answered, "Everything is in God's hands. I know that God will take care of my daughter." In fact, not one second went by where Cindy was not thinking about her daughter. She was concerned about her health. But as she said, she knew that everything was in God's hands. Even though she didn't understand why God had allowed her daughter to become ill, she didn't lose faith. Whenever she had time every day, she would pray for her daughter. She had faith that God would listen to her prayers and heal her daughter, no matter what the doctors said.

After a year, Cindy's daughter had fully recovered. Even though it was a long time, Cindy never lost faith. She never complained to God but had joy in her heart knowing that God was watching over her daughter.

### Reflection

Many people fail to see God's presence in their lives when they meet difficulties. But the Bible says, "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (Jas 1:2b). Why? Because we know that even trials are part of God's plan for us. We just need to have faith that God Himself will restore us when the right time comes (1 Pet 5:10). There is nothing too difficult for Him.

**PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, & GENTLENESS**

One time, Cindy's dad wanted to repaint his house by himself. But Cindy was worried that he would hurt himself while painting, so she wanted to hire someone to help him instead. However, Cindy's dad insisted that he paint the house himself in order to save money. After a long conversation, Cindy's dad began to raise his voice and became angry. At that time, Cindy realized that their conversation was leading into an argument. Even though Cindy felt a little misunderstood, she decided that she would stop the conversation with her dad immediately so that the situation wouldn't get worse. Cindy said to her dad, "It's getting late. Why don't we talk about this tomorrow? I'll call you. Have a good night, Dad." So Cindy left and went home. As soon as Cindy got home, she went into her room, locked the door, and started praying. She prayed that her dad would understand her worries. She also prayed for God to give her more patience and gentleness so that she could talk to her dad calmly without having to raise her voice.

The next day, Cindy called her dad back. With a gentle voice, she explained to him her worries and listened patiently to everything that he wanted to say. In the end, Cindy's dad finally agreed that he should hire someone to paint the house for his own safety. He even thanked Cindy for the patience and gentleness she showed throughout their conversation.

**Reflection**

Right from the beginning, Cindy had been right about hiring someone to paint the house. She knew that her father would risk his safety if he painted it himself. However, Cindy did not keep arguing with her dad when she realized that he was getting angry. Instead, she stopped the conversation and went home to pray. She didn't want to make the situation worse; she wanted to be a peacemaker. The Bible says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Prov 15:1). If Cindy also raised her voice and became angry, her dad would only become more and more angry. But instead, Cindy used patience and gentleness, instead of anger and frustration, to talk to her dad. In the end, Cindy and her dad were able to come to a peaceful agreement.

**KINDNESS & GOODNESS**

It was a brisk winter day. Cindy went to get a cup of hot coffee in the morning before she went to work. Since the coffee shop was packed and the parking lot was full, she had to park her car somewhere far from it and walk there. Cindy didn't want to be late to work, so she walked very fast. When she had almost reached the coffee shop, she saw a homeless woman sitting against a cold concrete wall at the corner of the street by herself. Even though this woman was wearing a long

sleeve top, she seemed very cold. She was curled up and her lips were purple. Cindy thought to herself, "This homeless woman probably doesn't have enough warm clothes. She needs more than what she's wearing now for this brutal winter!" Suddenly, Cindy remembered that she might have an extra winter coat in the back seat of her car. So she went back to her car and checked—there it was! Cindy immediately took it out of her car and walked all the way back towards the coffee shop. On the way there, she also took the scarf from around her neck. Finally, Cindy gave her scarf to the homeless woman, along with her winter jacket. When the homeless woman received the scarf and the jacket, she brightened up. As Cindy went back to her car, she said a short prayer for this homeless woman before she started driving to work. She prayed that her scarf and winter coat would bring warmth to her this winter.

**Reflection**

When Cindy saw this homeless woman, there were many reasons for her not to help her. Firstly, Cindy didn't know her. She didn't have the responsibility to help. Secondly, she was in a rush to get to work, and she might be late if she walked all the way back to her car to get her extra winter coat. Thirdly, she wasn't even sure if she had her extra winter coat in her car. But despite all these reasons, Cindy decided to sacrifice her time to help. She went back to her car, found the jacket, and went right back to the homeless woman! Moreover, along with her extra jacket, Cindy also gave the woman her scarf. She took an extra step to help. Oftentimes, we also need to make a sacrifice and take an extra step in order to show kindness and goodness to those in need. It might not be our responsibility to help, but God wants us to go beyond our duties and love others around us. We, too, can brighten up people with our kindness and goodness.

**SELF-CONTROL**

When Cindy was still a teenager, her mom owned a snack shop and Cindy used to help her mom there every day when she would go pick up Cindy's younger siblings from school. Cindy was allowed to pick some snacks for herself after school from the store. Even though her mom had warned her not to eat too many snacks, Cindy didn't listen to her. After her mom would leave, Cindy would indulge in her favorite snacks: chocolates, potato chips, crackers, etc. After a certain period of time, "over-snacking" had become a habit for Cindy. She always felt like eating. Sometimes, Cindy would eat so much that she skipped dinner because she was full from the snacks she had eaten. One day, her mother found out that Cindy didn't have any appetite at dinnertime because of all the snacks she had during the day. So she explained to Cindy, saying, "Our body is the temple of God, and it is our responsibility to keep

it healthy. Right now, you're eating too many snacks each day to the point where you want to skip dinner. When you skip your main meals, you're not getting enough nutrients in your body. You'll become weak and get sick easily. This is not what God or I want to see. I'm sure you don't want to be unhealthy either, right? You need some self-control!"

Cindy understood what her mom said. Ever since then, whenever Cindy got hungry, she would eat some fruits instead of the snacks her mom had in her store. Once in a while, Cindy would pick a snack from the store to eat,

but she always made sure that she wouldn't eat so much that she had no room for dinner.

### Reflection

While snacking is not wrong, the amount that Cindy ate directly affected her health. Snacks almost became like an addiction to her. The Bible certainly doesn't encourage addictions because they can take away our focus on the word of God. In this case, Cindy failed to take good care of her own body, the temple of God, because of her overeating problem. Let us exercise self-control so that we can pursue the truth of God without any distractions!

**The fullness of the Holy Spirit helps us bear spiritual fruit in the form of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

We bring praise to God and are helpful to our brothers and sisters when we show that we bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

#### 1. Of the nine, which do you think is the easiest to bear? Why?

The fruit that may be the easiest to bear is love. There are people all around us who love us (our parents, siblings, close friends), and it is quite natural to respond to their love with love.

#### 2. Of the nine, which do you think is the hardest to bear? Why?

The fruits that may be the hardest to bear are self-control and patience. We live in a world full of distractions (Internet, video games, toys), distractions that take away our time for God. The Bible teaches us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Mt 6:33). We must have self-control over these worldly distractions in order for us to place God first in our lives. On the other hand, patience may also be one of the hardest fruits to bear. We need to have patience and learn always to submit to God's will and His timing. In everything, there's God's wonderful purpose and divine plan. Knowing this, we must learn not to complain all the time but be patient in waiting for God's will to be revealed to us.

#### 3. How does prayer help us bear spiritual fruit?

Prayer helps us bear spiritual fruit because it connects us to the spiritual source of nourishment, the Holy Spirit itself. When the living water of God cleanses our souls from impurities, it also strengthens us so that we can act, think, and feel in God's own likeness.

#### 4. How does reading the Bible help us bear spiritual fruit?

Reading the Bible plants seeds in our hearts so that we can grow in a way that is pleasing to God. The more we learn about God's nature and His magnificent plan of salvation, the more we are motivated to imitate His different spiritual facets in our daily lives.

#### 5. For each person in your family, name one or two fruit of the Spirit that would describe them.

My father bears the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

My mother bears the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

My brother bears the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

My sister bears the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

My uncle/aunt bears the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

My grandfather/grandmother bears the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 6. How can we help others bear spiritual fruit?

We can help others bear spiritual fruit by praying for them through the Holy Spirit and by sowing more spiritual seeds (i.e., sharing the Bible/gospel with them). Moreover, if we ourselves grow strong in spiritual fruit, others can follow in our footsteps and do the same.

## ACTIVITY

### 1

### Fruit of the Spirit Puzzle

**Objective:** To use Bible stories to illustrate examples of the fruit of the Spirit.

#### Materials

- Two large posters
- Pencils
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Glue sticks

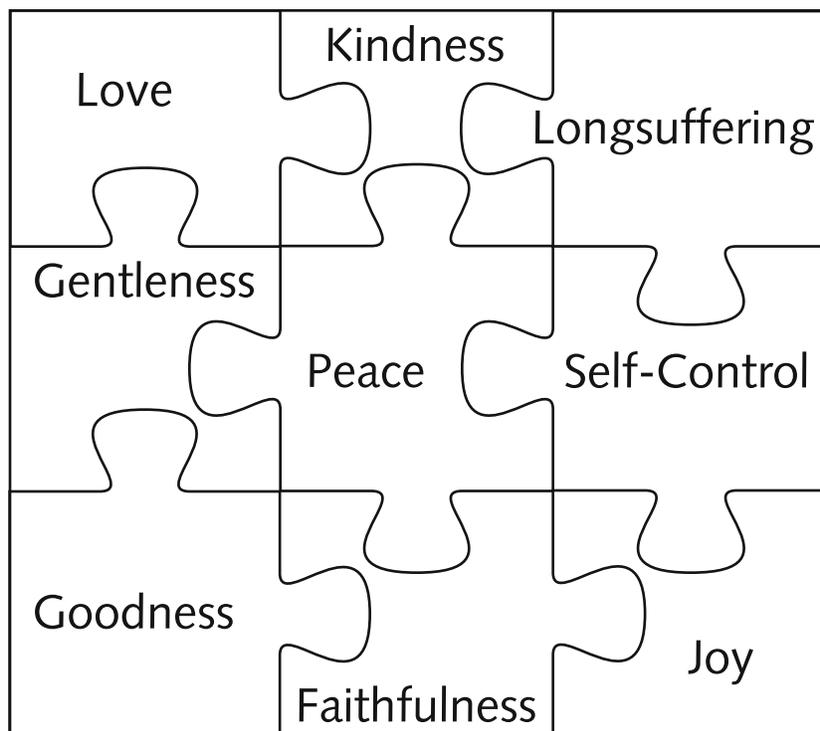
#### Preparations

1. Write the nine fruit of the Spirit on one large poster. Spread out the words so that there is enough space for illustrations.
2. Draw puzzle shapes around each fruit (see the sample puzzle).
3. Cut out the puzzle shapes.

#### Instructions

1. Distribute one puzzle piece to each student. If there are less than nine students, distribute the remaining pieces among the students. If there are more than nine students, then pair up the students, and distribute the pieces evenly.
2. Students will draw and color a scene from the Bible story discussed during the lesson that illustrates their specific fruit.
3. Once the puzzle pieces have been completed, the students will work together to fit the puzzle pieces back together.
4. After the students piece together the entire poster, each piece will be glued onto the second poster.
5. Review the nine fruit of the Spirit as a class. Each student will give a short description of how the Bible story they drew illustrates their assigned fruit.

#### *Sample*



## 2

**Fishing for Fruit**

- Objectives:** 1. To become familiar with the different fruit of the Spirit.  
2. To memorize the sequence in Galatians 5:22-23.

**Materials**

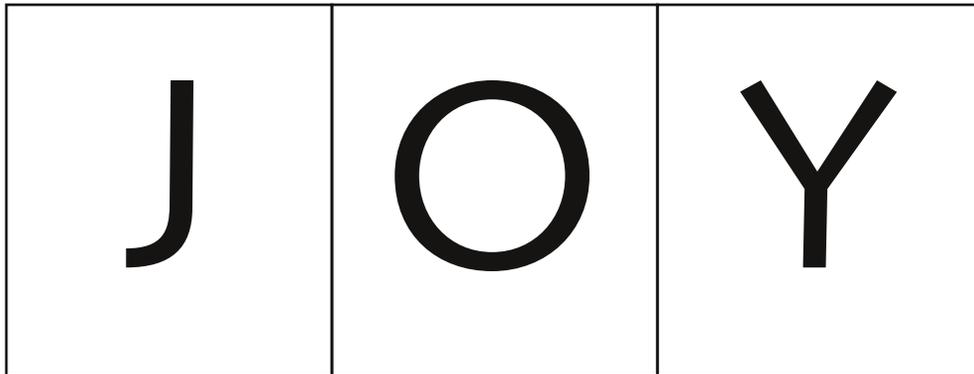
- Paper plates
- Pieces of construction paper in 9 different colors
- Glue sticks
- Magazine cutouts or color printouts of different fruits

**Preparations**

1. Print or write one fruit of the Spirit on each piece of construction paper in large letters.
2. Cut the words so that there is one letter on each piece of construction paper (refer to sample below). Scramble the letters and then place them on a paper plate. Repeat for each of the remaining fruit of the Spirit.

**Instructions**

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four students and divide the plates among them.
2. Students will unscramble the letters on the plate to spell out a fruit of the Spirit.
3. Once the word is unscrambled, the students will glue the letters onto the paper plate. Afterward, they can decorate the plate with magazine cutouts or color printouts of different fruits.
4. After completing one plate, the group can move on to the next plate.
5. When all the words have been unscrambled and glued, the class will work together to place the fruit in the right order. For an added level of difficulty, ask the students to put the fruit in order without talking.

*Sample*

E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 12—The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** The Holy Spirit can help us bear spiritual fruit that pleases God and helps others.

**Lesson Objective:** To understand the different virtues of the Holy Spirit and what it means to live them out in our daily life.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Galatians 5:25)

---



---

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## 1-9. Match the Fruit of the Spirit

**Instructions:** Fill in the missing vowels (a, e, i, o, u). Then, draw a line to match the Bible character with the fruit of the Spirit that character bears.

Bible Character	Fruit of the Spirit
I S _ _ C	love
D _ N _ _ L	joy
J _ D _ H	peace
D _ R C _ S	longsuffering
F _ T H _ R of the L _ S T S _ N	kindness
J _ S _ P H	goodness
J _ S _ S	faithfulness
G _ _ D S _ M _ R _ T _ N	gentleness
P _ _ L and S _ L _ S	self-control

10. The fruit of the Spirit comes in nine different forms. Pick two of them and describe how you would like to bear them or put them into practice before the next Sabbath.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 13

## REVIEW



This lesson is meant for review purposes. There are many ways to conduct a review. Here are some ideas for you.

1. It can be in a standard test format. Elementary 1 students should be able to answer the following types of questions without much difficulty: true or false, fill in the blank, and short answer. Depending on your class' needs, feel free to create your own test by selecting questions found in the **Check for Understanding** section of each lesson. Alternatively, you can look through some of the **homework assignments** for ideas. Be sure to think about **life application questions** in addition to the knowledge-based ones. Never forget to ask the students to remember the **memory verses** that they have learned.
2. The review can be done as a game. Playing games is a fun way to share information. It can be a simple game, such as Jeopardy, or a race to the finish line (moving spaces as students take turns to say the correct answer). Students can also create their own questions and quiz each other. The possibilities are endless!
3. You can think of this class as a brand new lesson. You can select certain characters to study and compare, or themes to look at to review the whole quarter. Look at the memory verses and see how they can be a springboard into a review. These require a little bit of work on your part, but it can be a rewarding way to tie up the past twelve weeks.

*Finally, remember to soak in the words of God. After reviewing God's wonderful teachings, have a small snack fellowship. Sing hymns, or go outside and enjoy His creations. You can do a play that sums up the learning that has taken place. And don't forget that you work with a wonderful group of teachers. Brainstorm with your fellow RE workers for fantastic ideas to end your quarter. May God remember all your labor for Him.*

For those teachers who have great ideas as to how to review all twelve lessons, we welcome you to email USGA with all the details. We can upload your ideas to the RE link and let other teachers share your creativity.

---

**REVIEW ANSWER KEY**

---

**Number the Commandments**

From top to bottom: 8, 3, 1, 4, 6, 2, 7, 5, 10, 9

**Name the Commandment**

1. You shall not steal.
2. You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them.
3. Honor your father and your mother.
4. You shall have no other gods before Me.

**Retell the Story!**

1. Story of Cain and Abel; any relevant sentences are acceptable.
2. Story of King Ahab and Jezebel taking Naboth's vineyard; any relevant sentences are acceptable.

**True or False?**

- |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. True  | 2. False | 3. True  | 4. False | 5. False |
| 6. False | 7. True  | 8. False | 9. True  | 10. True |

**Finish the Word**

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-Control

**Which Fruit of the Spirit?**

1. Faithfulness; Daniel
2. Goodness; Dorcas
3. Gentleness; Rebekah
4. Joy; Paul and Silas
5. Self-Control; Joseph

**Match the Memory Verse**

1. Isaiah 44:6b
2. 1 Corinthians 8:6a
3. Colossians 4:6a
4. Ephesians 6:1
5. Luke 6:27b
6. Psalm 51:10
7. Exodus 20:16
8. Romans 8:28a

**Number the Commandments**

Put the Ten Commandments in order using the numbers 1 to 10. The first commandment has been numbered for you.

You shall not steal. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall have no other gods before Me. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall not murder. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall not bow down to idols nor serve them. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall not commit adultery. \_\_\_\_\_

Honor your father and your mother. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall not covet. \_\_\_\_\_

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. \_\_\_\_\_

**Name the Commandment**

Judas Iscariot was a disciple of Jesus Christ. He loved money so much that he wanted money that belonged to other people. He was even willing to receive money from the chief priests in exchange for betraying Jesus. This story teaches us about the commandment: **You shall not covet**. Which commandments do the following stories teach us about? [Note: Teachers, please read these to the first graders and have them write down the answers.]

1. Achan was an Israelite soldier who fought in the battle for Jericho. God commanded the Israelites to destroy almost everything in the city. Achan saw some beautiful and expensive things and instead of destroying them as God had commanded, he secretly took them for himself.

This story teaches us about the commandment: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, refused to obey the king of Babylon when he ordered them to bow down before a giant golden statue. The king threw them into a fiery furnace, but an angel protected them and they were not harmed.

This story teaches us about the commandment: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Naomi had a daughter-in-law named Ruth. When Ruth's husband (Naomi's son) died, Ruth would not leave Naomi. She followed her mother-in-law back to her homeland, cared for her, and obeyed her like she was her own mother. In the end, Ruth was blessed with a wonderful marriage to Boaz.

This story teaches us about the commandment: \_\_\_\_\_

4. When Moses was up on Mount Sinai speaking to God, the people of Israel got tired of waiting for him and made a golden calf. They worshipped this golden calf as though it was their god. They made the true God so angry that three thousand people were killed.

This story teaches us about the commandment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Retell the Story!**

Think of some stories that you have learned this term. Can you recall the stories from the Bible that teach us about the following commandments? Briefly retell each story in three to four sentences. For 1st graders, one to two sentences is enough.

**Clues:** Cain    hate    King Ahab    vineyard    Abel    Naboth    lie    Jezebel

1. You shall not murder.

The story of \_\_\_\_\_.

Retell:

---



---



---

2. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The story of \_\_\_\_\_.

Retell:

---



---



---

**How Do You Remember God?**

How do I keep the Sabbath holy?	A time I've done this is when...
I remember God's creation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
I remember God's salvation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	

**Draw the Story**

In the story of Job, we learned that he lost many things in only one day. In the box below, write or draw four things that Job lost on that terrible day.

**True or False?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : God allowed Satan to tempt Job in order to show him that Job was faithful to God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : Satan thought that if God kept Job healthy, Job would soon forget about God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ : Job lost all his possessions in one day.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : When Job lost everything, he cursed God and blamed him for everything.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : Job's wife was very supportive of him.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ : Job suffered because he sinned against God.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : God blessed Job even more afterwards because he remained faithful to God.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ : Job's friends comforted Job with their words of encouragement, acknowledging that Job was a good person who was suffering for no reason.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ : We should not judge others and think that every suffering they face is the result of sinning against God.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ : When we suffer, it is a time when we can draw closer to God.

**Short Answer**

How would you help a friend who is in trouble and needs God's guidance?

---

---

---

---

**Finish the Word**

Finish the words by writing one letter on each blank.

**The nine fruit of the Spirit are...**

- 1. L \_ \_ \_ \_
- 2. J \_ \_
- 3. P \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4. L \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 5. K \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 6. G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 7. F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 8. G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 9. S \_ \_ \_ \_ - C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Which Fruit of the Spirit?**

Read each verse and write down which fruit of the Spirit it is describing. Write a Bible character that bears that fruit of the Spirit.

**Clues:** Paul and Silas, Dorcas, Joseph, Daniel, Rebekah

Bible Verse	Fruit of the Spirit	Bible Character
1. Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. (Matthew 25:21)		
2. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share. (1 Timothy 6:18)		
3. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29)		
4. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith process patience. (James 1:2-3)		
5. He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)		

**Short Answer**

Explain how reading the Bible and praying can help us bear spiritual fruit.

---



---



---



---

**Match the Memory Verse**

Draw a line to match the memory verse on the left to the correct Bible reference on the right.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.                    | Exodus 20:16       |
| 2. Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him. | Colossians 4:6a    |
| 3. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt.                        | Ephesians 6:1      |
| 4. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.                      | Isaiah 44:6b       |
| 5. Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.                                | Romans 8:28a       |
| 6. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.       | Psalms 51:10       |
| 7. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.                          | 1 Corinthians 8:6a |
| 8. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.        | Luke 6:27b         |

**Apply the Memory Verse**

Pick one memory verse from above and explain what you think it means in your own words.

Memory verse:

---



---

What I think it means:

---



---



---



---

"I am the First and the Last; Besides Me there is no God." (Isaiah 44:6)

Y3 Bk1



The Ten Commandments

General Assembly of the True Jesus Church

21225 Bloomfield Avenue

Lakewood, CA 90715 U.S.A

Printed 2014