

Lesson 1

Do Not Steal

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: John 12:1-8

MEMORY VERSE: He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need. Ephesians 4:28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

CATECHISM:

The Seventh Commandment: Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God does not want us to take other people's possessions.
- God is our Provider and gives us what we need.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Bible lesson is the story of Mary washing Jesus' feet with an expensive perfume which was her way of showing her love and honor for Him. To relate this to the Seventh Commandment the lesson looks at the response of Judas to this act. Judas was thinking about what he could gain/steal from the money the perfume could have earned if sold and given to Jesus and his followers to care for those in need as he was the "treasurer" for the group. Even though Judas did not outwardly steal anything tangible here, his thought life made him guilty of breaking this Commandment. (this may be a new idea to students)

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What does it mean to steal? Who showed love and honor to Jesus? How did Mary do this? What did Judas say about what she did? What did Judas think? What do we learn about God? What does it mean to steal? (I repeat the question to see that students grasp the idea of sin in our thought life) (I don't know what the activities are but some discussion about what students might steal)

ACTIVITY 1: Who Did What? Jesus (2, 6), Mary (1, 4, 8), Judas (3, 5, 7). Student's will have various responses for the questions.

ACTIVITY 2: "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Eph. 4:28. And drawing activity.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☒ Think back on your own life and your relationship to possessions and money.
- ☒ Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight(s) that will help the children as you study.

Prepare Materials

- ☒ Activity sheets
- ☒ Lessons
- ☒ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to work in each child's heart.
- Pray for your lesson preparation so you can make the lesson real to your students.
- Pray that you may show the love of Christ to your class.

Bible Background

John 12:1-8 Do Not Steal

Feasts like this one were common on those days. Life was hard with much toil and labor and gathering for a feast was a welcome time for celebration, a “break” from the daily routine.

This feast was especially joyful because it was a celebration of the raising of Lazarus a few days earlier. He was now with his family and friends again at the table, and was probably still “dazed” or amazed at where he was and why. He must have looked at Jesus with an even greater joy and gratitude than before.

This gathering was also dangerous for Jesus. After raising Lazarus a few days before, John says that “from that day on they planned together to kill Him. Therefore Jesus no longer *continued* to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the region near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples” (Jn 11:53-54). For the feast there was a large crowd around the house, and the chief priests were planning to kill Lazarus because so many people were believing in Jesus (12:9-11).

Part of that deadly and evil plan was already present in the house. This event presents a sharp contrast between Mary who delights to give her best to Jesus, and Judas who delights to take her gift for himself.

Judas was already a thief as John notes (12:6) so he is acting in character. In this case he tried to “steal the show” from Mary and Jesus. It seems that Mary's great display of praise meant nothing to him (what did Jesus really mean to him now and later?). His greed is especially sinful in the very presence of holiness.

And that is what stealing is. Every commandment is designed to protect the holiness of God among His people by “defining” what a righteous life should look like. Breaking any commandment is crossing into the darkness of sin and leaves a dark stain of sin on God's people. Stealing from another person violates the sanctity of life and property that God has provided for another person.

Stealing takes more than a person's money or property. We can steal a person's name or ruin his reputation with rumors and false accusations. We can even steal a person's "glory" by taking credit for good things he has said or done. Judas "stole" Mary's praise by demeaning her gift, and he stole the "glory" that belonged to Jesus. Stealing is taking for ourselves what God has given to someone else, and like all sin is really against God.

What Judas said about selling the perfume and giving the money to the poor was really a "mask" to hide his real intentions. He was a hypocrite, a person who puts on a false front to appear virtuous or religious. John and the others, and Jesus, already knew Judas was a thief and he was doing what thieves do (Jn 12:6).

Jesus highly values Mary's gift. Even with the Cross now so close, Jesus was not indifferent to Mary's sacrifice of love to Him, and even ties it to His own coming burial (12:7).

Jesus' comment about the poor (v.8) should not be used as an excuse to not care for them. Withholding our "gifts" from the poor is in itself a form of stealing, keeping for ourselves what God has given us to share with others. Caring for the poor and orphans and widows was really a hallmark of the early church (Acts 6:1-6; Jam 1:27).

Jesus' words also reveal a universal truth about man's sin. Poverty is one of the unfortunate results of our sinful human nature, of man preying upon man and often discarding him. Judas was right about the proper use of the money, but he himself had no intention of using it for the poor, but in fact was stealing it from those who needed it. Judas would end his life tragically, unable to deal with the guilt of his greed (Mt 27:5). But there was also another thief who met Jesus on the cross who with godly sorrow found mercy and forgiveness in the last moments of his life.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

stealing: taking something that belongs to somebody else. It could be money or toys. Sometimes in school they look at someone else's paper and find the answer to a test question. No matter what a person takes, it's stealing if it belongs to someone else.

Judas: One of Jesus's disciples. His job was to take care of the disciples' money. He took some of the disciples' money and kept it for himself.

Martha: one of Jesus's friends who loved Him. She lived in Bethany with her sister, Mary, and her brother, Lazarus. Jesus visited them often.

Mary: Mary was Martha's sister. She loved Jesus very much and listened when He talked about His Father.

Lazarus: Mary and Martha's brother, and Jesus' friend. All three loved Jesus and trusted Him as their Savior. Jesus loved them and liked to go to their house.

possessions: things that belong to a person.

expensive perfume: This was something used to make things smell beautiful. It could cost a lot of money. Just a little perfume could cost quite a lot of money. (You may want to show a small bottle of perfume.)

honest: We are honest when we tell the truth, don't take other people's things, and help other people keep their own things. God wants us to be honest.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands

what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need. *Ephesians 4:28.*” Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

We have finished three lessons about the Sixth Commandment, See if the students can remember the Sixth Commandment, before we begin to focus on the Seventh Commandment, “Thou shalt not steal.”.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Most people have things that belong to them. We should use our belongings well. We should get our belongings in good ways, like as a gift or by buying them with money we earned. We are to respect the rights and property of others and not take what belongs to them for ourselves.

Read the Lesson

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph.

SAY: Stealing means taking something that doesn’t belong to you. People don’t like it when someone takes what belongs to them. Stealing is always bad. It is not bad to want something—wishing isn’t a sin. But planning to take something that isn’t yours is wrong. Stealing, like other sins, begins in the heart. Coveting and lusting for things can lead to stealing (taking things by force or trickery).

ASK:

- Where do we learn that God tells us not to steal? (The Ten Commandments)
- Is it stealing if we take something small, like one piece of candy? (Yes)

Help the students find John 12:1-8. Read these verses or ask a volunteer to read them. Move to the next 2 paragraphs telling the story

about Judas and about Mary’s anointing of Jesus’s feet. Emphasize the following points:

- Jesus loved to visit the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in near the city of Bethany.
- Judas was a thief, even though he was one of Jesus’s disciples.
- Judas had a selfish heart. He liked money too much and wanted to steal it.
- Judas wanted money that belonged to all the disciples and instead of guarding it and keeping it safe, he snuck money out of the box they kept it in and kept it for himself.
- Judas liked money too much.
- Mary loved Jesus because He had forgiven her sin. Jesus was her Savior. She showed her love by washing Jesus’ feet with expensive perfume and wiping them with her hair.
- Judas said Mary was wasting money on Jesus, because he really wanted to take that money for himself.
- Jesus knew what Judas was thinking. He knew Judas wanted to take the money.
- Jesus was pleased with Mary. He told Judas that Mary had done a good thing.
- Jesus was sad about Judas’ sin. Jesus wanted Judas to be sorry for his sin and

ask God to forgive him. But Judas wasn't sorry. He didn't ask Jesus to forgive him.

according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Tell them we do not need to steal because God will give us what we need. Like Jesus, we can trust God, our Father.

Remind the students of the challenge memory verse, *Philippians 4:19* and say it together, "And my God will supply all your needs

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Who Did What?

Activity 1

Fill in the blank activity and draw lines connecting the person to their actions and questions for the students to answer

Activity 2

Find the missing words for the memory verse and write them in the blanks and drawing activity.

Activity 1
WHO DID WHAT?

What are the names of the three people in our lesson? Write their names on the lines below. Draw a line to match each character with his or her actions.

Jesus
 Mary
 Judas

- Used expensive perfume to wash Jesus' feet.
- Was in a house having supper with His friends.
- Was a disciple of Jesus.
- Loved Jesus very much.
- Did not care about poor people.
- Had a friend named Mary.
- Had stolen money from the money box.
- Honored and worshiped Jesus.

Have you ever stolen from someone?
Have you ever thought about stealing something?
What should you do if that happens to you?

Confess your sin. Ask God to forgive you for your sinful thoughts and actions.

Activity 2

Find the missing words for the memory verse and write them in the blanks below.

He who steals must steal no longer, but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

Ephesians 4:28

good steals need steal
 hands share labor

Draw a picture from the story about Jesus, Mary, and Judas. Tell others about your drawing.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses

and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 2

A Forgiven Thief

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need. Ephesians 4:28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

CATECHISM:

The Seventh Commandment: Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God wants us to give to others and not take from them.
- Jesus came to the world to save sinners.
- Changed hearts lead to changed lives.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson focuses on Zaccheus, a tax gatherer and his encounter with Jesus which changed his life. This story will help understand the word "fraud" in the Seventh Commandment meaning. Zaccheus as a tax collector cheated people by collecting more money than was owed. He hears Jesus is coming and wants to see him. Jesus knows about Zaccheus and invites Himself to Zaccheus house. Jesus led Zaccheus to see his sin, confess it as sin and Jesus changed his heart. Zaccheus went to those he defrauded and made things right. Jesus knows and loves us just as much which is why He died on the cross to pay for our sins and we could be forgiven.

Possible questions: Who was Zaccheus? How was Zaccheus stealing? Why did Zaccheus climb a tree? What did Jesus do when He saw Zaccheus? What did Jesus do for Zaccheus? What did Zaccheus do to repay the stealing he had done? What can we do if we have stole from another person?

Activity 1: Collector, thief, money, tree, Jesus, house, house, money, heart, salvation.

Activity 2: 1: He who steals 2: must steal no longer; 3: but rather he must labor, 4: performing with his own hands what is good, 5: so that he will have something to share 6: with one who has need. Ephesians 4:28

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☑ Thank God for His work of grace in your heart and in the hearts of the children in your class.
- ☑ Pray for insight into today's lesson.

Prepare Materials

- ☑ Activity sheets
- ☑ Lessons
- ☑

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class. Ask Him to prepare their minds and hearts to learn.

Bible Background

Luke 19:1-10 A Forgiven Thief

Judas was a thief, pure and simple. He stole money from the disciples that was to be used for charity and possibly other expenses. They all knew what Judas was doing and apparently did nothing about it.

Zaccheus was also a thief, but in a more subtle way. He took money from the people when they paid their taxes. He charged more than he legally should, sent the tax money to Rome and kept the rest for himself. Just as the disciples knew Judas was a thief, so all the people knew that most tax collectors were thieves, but the people could not do anything about it

This kind of theft has been present in state and government business as long as government has existed. People are by nature evil and the sinful heart seeks its own good first. When evil people rise to power, they can exercise that power over people to satisfy their greed. This kind of theft is also seen in kickbacks or bribery. No level of authority is immune to this when the people in authority have no godly or moral conscience.

What is needed to change this kind of behavior? Investigations and reforms might expose the problems and help for a time. But the sinful nature is not changed by "reforms." It can only be changed when confronted and convicted by the Law and forgiven by the grace of God. This is what happened with Zaccheus, and the change was real.

Jesus put this event and his whole ministry into perspective when He said that "the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk 19:10). Jesus brought salvation to one man. He wasn't in a stadium asking 3,000 people coming forward to pray the sinner's prayer. He went to one man waiting in a tree and invited Himself to the man's house. Luke gives no indication that Jesus and Zaccheus actually went into the house. It was on their way to the house that Zaccheus stopped and made his confession (Lk 19:8).

We prefer crowds and saving many souls at once. But how many “one man” in those crowds might go home without Christ? The “one” might be found in a large or small church, a small group, a Sunday school class. Jesus looks for and finds that “one” who needs to “come down” and go with Him and one day bring him to His Father’s house.

What happened “on the way” that brought such a change of heart? It is only safe to say that when Jesus called to Zaccheus, the man saw his sin, he was convicted of his sin, and he was “saved.” Salvation had come to one man, but it always starts with one. And that one is called to go and make disciples (note Mt 28:19,20; Lk 24:46-48; Acts 1:8).

Why did Jesus say that salvation had come to this house? Because He knew, of course, but also by the fruit as seen in the words of Zaccheus. We don’t see him running down the street waving his arms and praising God. He doesn’t run into the crowd preaching. But he reveals the real fruit of God’s saving grace, the fruit of repentance: “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much” (19:8). (Note the law in Leviticus 5:5, Numbers 5:6,7)

Jesus had said, “Everything [everyone] that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I certainly will not cast out” (Jn 6:37). Here He received one whom God the Father had given Him.

Wherever Christ comes He opens the heart to receive Him. A person like Zaccheus who has a mind and desire to know Christ, shall be known by Him. Those whom Christ calls must humble themselves and “come down.” Zaccheus gave public proof that salvation had come to him when his heart was changed. He would not be justified by these works, but his good works now are works that God has prepared for him to do (Eph 2:10), and show the fruit of his faith and repentance. Now because of that faith, Jesus calls him “a son of Abraham” (19:9).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children by name as they arrive.

Let the children know you are glad to see them.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need.” *Ephesians 4:28*

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Seventh Commandment. The previous lesson showed that sinning begins in our hearts and our thoughts. See if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson. Show the picture of Mary, Jesus, and Judas and to help them recall what each one did. Review by asking, “What does God say about stealing?”

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask, "Was Judas from last week's lesson sorry?" **Say:** "Today we'll learn about another kind of thief. Let's find out if he was sorry and wanted to be forgiven."

Read the Lesson

Read the first paragraph.

Ask for a volunteer to read the second paragraph.

SAY: Zaccheus was a thief. What he did was fraud. He lied to the people when he told them they had to pay more money to the government than they really had to pay. Zaccheus kept the extra money for himself.

A crowd gathered in Jericho when Jesus came to town. Zaccheus wanted to see who the crowd was so excited to see, but he was not tall enough to see over their heads. Help the children find Luke 19 and follow along as you read verses 1-4. **ASK:** Did you find out why Zaccheus climbed a tree? (he was small, there were too many people, he wanted to see Jesus). **Read** (or ask a volunteer to read) verses 5 and 6 of Luke 19.

Read the third paragraph of the lesson.

ASK: What happened? (responses)

SAY: Something wonderful happened to Zaccheus when Jesus came to him. Let's read what Jesus says about what happened. Read the fifth paragraph.

ASK: Why did Jesus say He had come to Zaccheus's house? (responses).

SAY: When Jesus came, everything changed for Zaccheus. Now he was sorry for his sins. Now he wanted to give back what he shouldn't have taken.

ASK: Why did Jesus come down from heaven? (He came to save everyone who sins, He came to save us.)

Go back to the meaning of the Seventh Commandment from the Catechism and read it

together with the children. "We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living." Explain that the words "bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud" means to take them for ourselves. The commandment means that we should not steal anyone's property, and we should not cheat or lie to get anything that belongs to someone else.

Discussion: What does the Seventh Commandment say that boys and girls who love Jesus should do? What kind of situations can you think of where you could ask God to help you keep this commandment?

Words to Talk About

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

fraud cheating someone. Fraud is stealing.

unfair dealing Tricking someone to get more money than we should. Unfair dealing is stealing.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Backwards Scramble

Activity 1

Unscramble the words in green and fill in the blank.

Activity 1
BACKWARDS SCRAMBLE

The words in green are backwards. Can you fix them and write them correctly in the blanks? Then read the story.

1. Zaccheus was a tax collector
rotcolloc

2. and a thief
feint

3. Tax collectors got rich by stealing money
yenom

4. Zaccheus climbed up high in a sycamore tree
eert

5. to see Jesus
susej


6. Jesus said, "Hurry and come down. Today I must stay at your house"
esuoh

7. Zaccheus was glad Jesus came to his house
esuoh

8. He was sorry for stealing money
yenom

9. Jesus had changed his heart
tresh

10. and brought him salvation
notavias



Steal No Longer

Activity 2

Number the phrases in the correct order, draw and color a picture.

Activity 2
STEAL NO LONGER

Number the memory verse phrases in the correct order. Take turns reading the verse. Draw Zaccheus in the tree trying to see Jesus. Color the picture.



4 performing with his own hands what is good.

1 He who steals

6 with one who has need. Ephesians 4:28

2 must steal no longer.

3 but rather he must labor.

5 so that he will have something to share

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 3

Protect Your Neighbor

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 14:11-24

MEMORY VERSE: He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need. Ephesians 4:28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

CATECHISM:

The Seventh Commandment: Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God promises to take care of us.
- God wants us to help others keep what belongs to them.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: When Abraham and Lot had too many animals to graze together, Abraham gave his younger nephew first choice of the land. He trusted God would give him everything he needed. When enemies attacked Lot's city, they captured the people and stole their precious belongings. Abraham took 318 men to rescue them. God helped them to win the battle, free the captives, and get back what was stolen. When the king offered Abraham a reward, he wouldn't take it. Abraham told the king to keep the reward—he didn't rescue them for money. Abraham helped Lot because he loved him. God wants us to love our neighbors by helping them.

Possible questions: What land did Lot choose? What land did Abram settle in? What happened to Lot? What did Abram do? What did the king of Sodom want to give to Abram? What did Abram know about God? What has God promised to do for us? What does God want us to do for others?

ACTIVITY 1: News from Canaan: student's name, student's town, Abram, Lot, animals, land, best, army, property, God, best, loved, Abram, student's name.

ACTIVITY 2: Why Not Steal?: fear, love, God, rob, neighbor, money, property, possession, unfair, fraud, improve, protect, property, living. Fill in crossword.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read through both the student and teacher's manual lessons.
Read and study Genesis chapter 14

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for heavenly treasure given to those who trust in Christ.
- Pray that the children will see Jesus as their treasure and will trust their lives to Him.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year and ask Him to bless these children.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Genesis 14:11-24 – Protect Your Neighbor

We are to fear the Lord so that we do not rob our neighbor of his property, nor cheat him or treat him unfairly. That is part of the "second great commandment" to "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37-39). If that is hard for some people to do, the other side of that "coin" can be even more difficult, which is to "help and befriend him in every time of need." Sometimes "loving" your neighbor is hard enough without having to actually help and assist him. But these are all human emotions coming from a sinful heart. This love that God asks of us here must come from the love of God which is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5), and that comes with our position of being justified by faith (Rom 5:1).

The Bible includes many examples of people hating and hurting their neighbors, but there are also examples of people going out of the way to help someone in need. One of those was Abraham who rescued his nephew, Lot.

Lot was Abram's nephew, so in that time and place it might have been Abraham's tribal duty to rescue a relative. But even relatives fall under the definition of "neighbor" and are deserving of our love and help. It is apparent that Abram did love Lot and tried to provide for him.

When they separated their families and possessions, Abram had the right to take the best land for himself, but instead he offered Lot first choice (Gen 13:8-18). Lot chose the rich land east of the Jordan and Abram went west. Abram settled in Canaan, which centuries later would become the Promised Land for Israel. Lot received good land, but ended up in Sodom, and the "men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked sinners against the Lord" (Gen 13:13). When God later told Abram that He was going to destroy the city, Abram prayed that Lot might be delivered safely (Gen 18:22-33).

Now Abram has an opportunity to help his "neighbors" in Sodom and also rescue Lot from his captors. Here is an account of the first war that is described in Scripture arising from a revolt of the five kings under the government of Chedorlaomer. It's hard to keep a "score card" of them all, but

there were nine kings—"four kings against five" (Gen 14:9). This war between these "kings" or tribal princes of ancient Canaan is exactly the same as the frays and skirmishes between Arab chiefs in the present day.

They took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply and departed (v.11). "They also took Lot and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom" (V.12).

When Abram heard that Lot had been captured (v.13, also the first time Abram is called Hebrew), he took 318 of his men and went in pursuit. He defeated the enemies and brought back to Sodom all their possessions, "and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the other people" (v.14).

Abram helped his relative Lot, but he also helped and befriended his neighbors in Sodom (even though he would have very likely known their spiritual condition even at this time). After this victory the king of Sodom goes out to greet Abram and thank him for his help. The king said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the possessions for yourself." To this day it is the rule among Arabs that if a camp is plundered, anyone who recovers the spoils gives up only the people and takes the rest for himself.

Abram refused to take anything for himself. With a generosity unknown in that part of the world, Abram replied, "I have sworn to the Lord," and with strong words common to the region, said "I have lifted up my hand" [that is, I have sworn to the Lord] that I will take nothing lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich" (vs.21-23) 23]. This attitude is common when people help their neighbors today. When offered compensation, they most often refuse because they are not doing it for the money.

In the middle of all this is the appearance of Melchizedek, king of Salem, or Jerusalem, which lay on Abram's route homeward, and was within a reasonable distance of Sodom. Melchizedek seems to be a person who foreshadows the Christ to come. He is identified as king and priest, and he brings out bread and wine (a normal refreshment for travelers at the time).

Melchizedek blessed Abram from God, and he blessed God from Abram (vs.19-20). We ought to give thanks for other's mercies as for our own. Abram gave him the tenth of the spoils (Heb 7:4). When we have received great mercy from God, it is fitting that we should express our thankfulness by some special act of charity.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

treasure: A treasure is something that is worth a lot. It is something special or precious to you. You might be careful to take care of your treasure.

man of God: This is a man who loves God and lives for God

Lot: Lot was Abraham's nephew

valuable: Something that is valuable is usually worth a lot of money (you could remind them of Mary's expensive perfume from last lesson)

reward: Something given when someone has done something special. It could be money or a gift.

diamond: A valuable sparkling jewel.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students to think of something that is a treasure to them.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need.” Ephesians 4:28

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Seventh Commandment: Thou shalt not steal. Review the main ideas from the previous two weeks. We are not to steal what belongs to someone else like Judas did. We are not to deal unfairly or defraud others to get what belongs to them like Zaccheus did. Not only should we avoid stealing, but we should help others improve and protect his property. We are our brothers’ keepers and helpers.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. **ASK:** What does God want us to do? (Help others keep things that are theirs).

Move on to the next paragraph. Read (or ask a volunteer to read) Genesis 13:1-13.

ASK: What did Abraham do? (*He gave his nephew, Lot, first choice of the land.*)

SAY: Let’s find out what happened next. Read the third paragraph of the lesson or tell the story of Abraham’s rescue of Lot, emphasize the following points:

- An army took Lot, his family, and all their things.
- Abraham wanted to help and rescue Lot.
- God helped Abraham win the battle and set Lot and all the people free.
- The king of Lot’s city wanted to give Abraham a reward.
- Abraham didn’t take the reward. He just wanted to help the people be safe and keep their things.

- Abraham didn’t want the king to make him rich. God was Abraham’s treasure and God would give him everything he needed.

SAY: Abraham loved God best. His treasure was in heaven.

ASK: How did Abraham help the people keep what belonged to them?

Help the class find Genesis 14. Ask them to follow along as you read verses 21-24. Then read Matthew 6:20-21: “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

ASK: Are treasures in heaven better than treasures on earth? When our treasures are in heaven, where will our hearts be? (responses). **SAY:** That means we will love Jesus best. When Jesus is our Savior and we live for Him, we will love Him more than things. God will help us love Him best of all. Abraham knew God was his treasure and would give him everything he needed. God will give us

everything we need if we belong to Him and live for Him.

Repeat the Memory Verses

Discussion:

ASK: If you helped someone and they wanted to pay you, could you say, “I just wanted to help you because I love Jesus”?

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

News from Canaan!

Activity 1

Fill in the news article, with details from the lesson.

Activity 1

NEWS FROM CANAAN!


This is (Student's Name) reporting live from (your town).

You are not going to believe what happened to the man of God called Abram and his nephew Lot. They had been sharing their land, but decided to move apart because their animals needed more space. Abram let Lot choose the land he wanted, and Lot picked the best land. One day an army attacked Sodom where Lot lived. The army captured Lot and his neighbors and stole their valuable belongings. Abram came with 318 men, and God helped Abram rescue them.

The king of Sodom wanted to reward Abram by giving him all his property, which was a lot! I think most people would have taken it. But do you think Abram did? No, he did not! Abram told the king, “You keep your money and property.” Abram had promised God he would not take anything, not even a sandal strap.

Abram trusted God to take care of him. Abram let Lot have the best land. Then he helped protect that land too, all because he loved Lot and wanted what was best for him. Today Abram showed us all his love for God and his love for his neighbors.

Goodnight, friends! Signing off now, this is your trusted reporter, (Student's Name)



Why Not Steal?

Activity 2

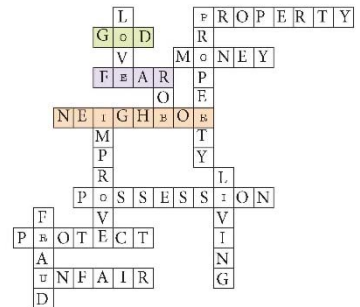
Write the missing words for the meaning of the Seventh Commandment and fill in the missing letters to the crossword puzzle.

Activity 2

WHY NOT STEAL?

Write the missing words for the meaning of the Seventh Commandment. Then fill in the missing letters in the word puzzle. One of the words is used twice.

We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.



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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 4

Tell the Truth

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

MEMORY VERSE: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: A trustworthy witness will not lie, but a false witness utters lies. Proverbs 14:5

CATECHISM:

The Eighth Commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not deceitfully belie, betray, backbite, nor slander our neighbor, but apologize for him, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all that he does.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God wants us to tell the truth always.
- God will help us tell the truth.

MATERIALS: Lessons, Activity sheets, Bible

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson focuses on the Eighth Commandment. A witness tells what he knows about something he saw happen. A witness should always tell the truth. A witness who lies is a false witness. Telling lies causes all kinds of trouble. A false witness sins against God and against other people. The young man, Stephen, was such a good witness that many people believed in Jesus when they heard what Stephen said. Some men didn't like this. They lied about Stephen, saying Stephen was the liar—about God, the temple, and God's Word. They took him before the High Priest, where Stephen told all about God's plan for Jesus to come to be the Savior. Stephen looked up into heaven before he died and saw Jesus. The people were so angry they threw stones at Stephen until he died. Stephen prayed for his enemies, asking God to forgive them for killing him.

Possible questions: 1) What is a witness? 2) What is a witness? 3) What should a witness do? 4) What should the people have done? 5) What should we do when we say mean things or try to make trouble for someone?

ACTIVITY 1: Stephen; we are all sinners and need to ask Jesus to forgive us; Tell the Truth, do not bear false witness, ask Jesus to forgive; he was not telling the truth about God; would not listen and stoned Stephen.

ACTIVITY 2: Draw lines to first or second line for the correct ending. Lines 2,1,2,1,1,2,1,2

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read through the Bible verses and lesson.

Pray that you will wait upon the Lord as He guides you through this Sunday School year.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the children who will be in attendance and those who may be absent.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year.
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Prepare Materials

- Activity sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60 Tell the Truth

The commandments reveal God's Law which "points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin, makes us anxious to seek Christ, and shows us the fruit of faith should be" (Cat, Q 16). The Commandments (Law) show us how to live and describe what a "righteous" life should look like. Ever since God handed them to Moses, people have tried to avoid them or re-define them. People will do anything to not have to face God's Law and see their need for a Savior. A common reaction people have is that they might be a "little guilty" in some cases, but not so bad over all. Even Christians fall into that lie. Jesus exposed these lies when he said that the Law is directed, not at behavior as such, but at the thoughts of the heart (Mt 5:28, 15:19,20). Confession must also begin in the heart (Ps 51:10).

Of all the commandments, the one that seems to afflict people the most is "lying," or bearing false witness against a neighbor. Lying might be the "oldest" of the sins, first spoken by the devil to Eve in Eden: "You will not die." (Gen 3:4). Since then our lies have deceived us so as to indulge in all the other sins. Even though we know that "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23a), we also need to know that "the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23b).

God has spoken clearly about the need for truth and the dangers of lying. In bearing witness against an accused person, God says "On the testimony of two witnesses or three witnesses, the condemned shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of only one witness (Deut 17:6, 19:15; Num 35:30). This is true even in (or especially in) the matter of church discipline (Matt 18:16).

Perjury, or lying under oath, has severe consequences in our courts today. Witnesses used to take an oath to "tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me, God." In many cases today the last part is omitted—to keep God out. Oddly enough it has been shown that witnesses to a crime are notoriously unreliable. They seldom agree on shapes, sizes and colors with respect to a suspects or evidence. (Look at person across the table from you, then look away and describes the clothing and colors they are wearing.)

Lies and false witnesses were part of Jesus' trial: "For many people were giving false testimony against Him, and so their testimonies were not consistent" (Mk 14:56). Later at Stephen's trial "They

put forward false witnesses who said, “This man does not stop speaking against this holy place and the Law” (Acts 6:13).

Lying seems to be a “natural” human response when accused of some crime, great or small. The murderer will say, “I didn’t do it.” A child who has clearly shaved the dog and is covered with hair will say “I didn’t do it.”

God is truth, Jesus is truth (Jn 14:6). Without truth there can be no real morality, justice, equality, unity, freedom, love security, peace. If all these are left to one’s own definition, then who is right? God alone is the standard by which these qualities can be measured and achieved. And that goes back to Genesis where we see that God is the designer and creator and sustainer of the universe. To say that God is truth is to acknowledge that truth itself proceeds from the nature of God.

Paul also stresses the relationship between righteousness and truth and between unrighteousness and falsehood. He refers to people “who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, He will give wrath and indignation.” (Rom 2:8). And he highlights the equality of unrighteousness and lies and righteousness and truth in Romans 3:5,7. From this we learn that God’s moral attribute of truth is also tied to His attribute of holiness.

Truth is also essential as mentioned in Ephesians 4:15 where we are told to “Speak the truth in love.” We must confront people and their sin, but do so with a gentle and reverent spirit. The truth might hurt, but it will also lead to forgiveness, healing and deliverance, and when you know the truth, the truth will indeed set you free (Jn 8:32).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

witness: someone who tells what he or she has seen or heard.

false witness: A false witness is someone who does not tell the truth about someone, or someone who says thing to cause trouble for someone else.

Stephen: the man we read about in today’s lesson who loved Jesus and told others about Him.

court: A place where people are taken to find out if they have done something wrong.

High Priest: The High Priest was the man who served God in the temple.

gnashed: to bite the teeth together in anger.

bear false witness: to bear false witness means to lie.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Be enthusiastic to see each of the children as they arrive. Make a note of absent children to pray for and possibly contact. Pray that the children will understand the lesson about Stephen and that we will be careful to say good and true things about each other.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Hand out the books, telling the students that this will be the last book about the Ten Commandments.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”
Luke 6:27-28.

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Seventh Commandment.

See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 3 lessons as we will be moving on to the Eighth Commandment.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: Can anyone read the title of the lesson? (Tell the Truth). In the Bible God tells us about what we should and shouldn’t say about our neighbor. God will help us say true things about our neighbors.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the first three sentences:
“Choose your words carefully! That is what the Eighth Commandment teaches us. What we say about others is important.”

SAY: Before we can understand our Bible lesson we need to know what God means in the Eighth Commandment. **ASK: What is a witness? What should a witness do? What do we call someone who doesn’t tell the truth?** (a liar.)

SAY: Another way of saying “liar” is a “false witness.” **ASK: Who do we sin against if we are a false witness?** (God and other people). Move on to the next paragraph. Questions to ask, **who was Stephen? How did he show his love for others?** (served others, told people about Jesus).

ASK: What happened because Stephen was a good witness? (Many people believed in Jesus. Some people got angry because they didn’t want to hear the truth).

SAY: A good witness helps others believe in Jesus by what he/she says and does.

Read (or have volunteers read) the third and fourth paragraphs. Ask the students to tell in their own words what happened.

ASK: What did the people do when Stephen told the truth? (Became angrier, refused to repent).

ASK: What should the people have done? (repented, listened to Stephen).

SAY: They didn’t repent. While Stephen was dying, he kept praying for the people who were throwing stones at him. Stephen asked God to take him to heaven and forgive the people for the sin of killing him. (*Teachers’ Manual Note: That Stephen would intercede with God in prayer on behalf of the people in the act of killing him is an example of putting the most charitable construction on the behavior of the people in the crowd.*)

ASK: What should we do when we say mean things or try to make trouble for someone? (Ask Jesus to forgive us.) **ASK: Will he forgive us?** (Yes—if He is our Savior). **ASK: What does Jesus want to do for us?** (forgive our sin, come into our hearts, be our Savior). He wants to help us keep from sinning—and to tell the truth.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Story Review

Activity 1

Add details of the story to finish each statement.



Activity 1
STORY REVIEW
Add more details from the Bible lesson to finish each statement.

ACTIVITY CENTER

The main character is Stephen

Stephen told the people we are all sinners and need to ask Jesus to forgive us.

THE MAIN IDEA
Tell the truth
do not bear false witness
ask Jesus to forgive

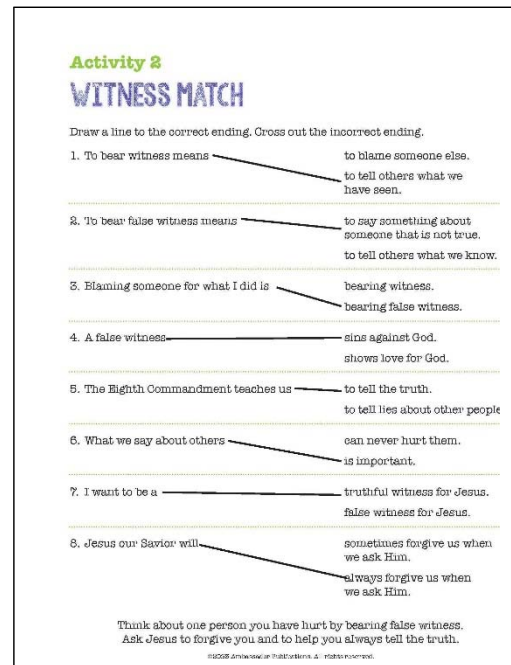
Men who lied about Stephen said that he was not telling the truth about God

Angry men gnashed their teeth and Would not listen.
stoned Stephen

Witness Match

Activity 2

Draw lines to the correct endings.



Activity 2
WITNESS MATCH

Draw a line to the correct ending. Cross out the incorrect ending.

- To bear witness means to tell others what we have seen.
to blame someone else.
to tell others what we have seen.
- To bear false witness means to tell others what we know.
to say something about someone that is not true.
to tell others what we know.
- Blaming someone for what I did is bearing false witness.
bearing witness.
bearing false witness.
- A false witness shows love for God.
sins against God.
shows love for God.
- The Eighth Commandment teaches us to tell the truth.
to tell lies about other people
to tell the truth.
- What we say about others is important.
can never hurt them.
is important.
- I want to be a truthful witness for Jesus.
truthful witness for Jesus.
false witness for Jesus.
- Jesus our Savior will always forgive us when we ask Him.
sometimes forgive us when we ask Him.
always forgive us when we ask Him.

Think about one person you have hurt by bearing false witness. Ask Jesus to forgive you and to help you always tell the truth.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 5

The Peacemaker

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: I Samuel 25:2-35

MEMORY VERSE: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

CATECHISM:

The Eighth Commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not deceitfully belie, betray, backbite, nor slander our neighbor, but apologize for him, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all that he does.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God made peace with us through His Son Jesus
- God will help us to be peacemakers.

MATERIALS: Bibles, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson tells how Abigail became a peacemaker between her foolish husband, Nabal, and David the future king of Israel, who was on the run from King Saul. The lesson focuses on the positive behavior in the Eighth Commandment. When David asked Nabal for food and water after protecting his herds and servants, Nabal refused, insulting David, and making him very angry. Abigail intervened, sending David and his men food and drink. She apologized for Nabal and begged David not to sin by retaliating for her husband's refusal. David listened to Abigail and did not sin.

Possible questions: 1) Who was David? Where were David and his men? Who was trying to kill David? Why? 2) What did David and his men do while they were hiding? 3) How do you think David felt when he heard what Nabal said? 4) Who did God send to be a peacemaker? What did Abigail do? 5) How does Jesus help us to be peacemakers?

ACTIVITY 1: Fill in the blank- answers may vary. Connect the story- top left to top right to middle right to middle left to bottom left to bottom right

ACTIVITY 2: Missing vowels coded message: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Jesus

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- Faithfulness in preparation and memorization
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Prepare Materials

- Activity sheets
- Lesson Sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the children in your class and yourself for:
 - Faithfulness in preparation and memorization
 - That the children will want to identify with David and other Godly characters in the Bible

Bible Background

Samuel 25:2-35, Colossians 1:20, Matthew 5:9, Romans 5:1

Abigail is not the only wife who has had to apologize for a foolish and ungrateful husband, nor a husband for a wife. This story is highly unusual in the Bible because a woman is the main character and her speech in verses 24-31 is one of the longest by a woman in scripture.

David and his men have been staying in the wilderness near Nabal's flocks and they freely helped to protect the man's flocks and servants (v.7-8). At shearing time, David sent messengers asking Nabal for a little something in gratitude for their effort (v.8).

Nabal should have been grateful for the unsolicited help, but his reply is ungracious, selfish, tactless and disrespectful (vs.10-11). When David is informed about Nabal's answer, he is angry and feels insulted, disrespected and unappreciated, and orders an attack on Nabal's home (v.13).

When Abigail steps in as the peacemaker, David graciously accepts her apology for Nabal and further harm is avoided.

When unchecked, one sin can lead to another, and the results can be fatal, and in this case could have gone from insult and hatred to murder. David is known as a man "after God's own heart." (I San 13:14). But like all the saints, he was a sinner who could lead himself into dangerous places. When he felt disrespected, as he did here, he was ready to go on a killing spree, but Abigail's efforts avert his anger. When David committed adultery with Bathsheba, it led him to murder her husband. With Nabal, David's motive was for revenge; with Uriah it was for his self-protection and reputation. It is no different today.

One of David's servants goes to Abigail and tells her the story; she immediately grasps the seriousness of the situation and takes action. She gathers a lot of food, loads it on donkeys and sets out (v.18). She knows how Nabal would react to this, so she does not tell him. When she finds David (v.20), he is still pouting about how he was treated (vs.21-22). Abigail intercedes on behalf of her husband who she describes as a "worthless man," and "stupidity is with him" (v.25). She knows her husband well.

Abigail credits God with restraining David from shedding blood (v.26) and offers food for the men as David had first asked (v.27). Only then does she ask forgiveness for her husband from David (v.28). David graciously accepts her gifts and blesses her (v.32-33).

Abigail is the only person in contact with all the other characters, and saves her household by using her good sense, wisdom, and courage. David sees her as acting for and speaking for God and reminds her that she came at just the right time (v.34). Her generous gift and wise words (vs.24-31) changed David's mind. He accepted the gifts and said to her, "Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request" (v.35).

[Include if you want: Nabal did not fare so well (vs.36-38). When Abigail told him about this matter later, "his heart died within him" (v.37). "About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died" (v.38). "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Rom 12:19).]

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Peacemaking requires taking the initiative to get involved in conflicts with the intention of reconciling the opposing parties.

Sin separates us from God and from each other. What did God do even while we were enemies of God? Did He not have the right to punish us when we offended Him by defying and disobeying His word? Instead, He sought us out and sent His Son as the "peacemaker," (at the right time). Jesus offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sin and reconciled us to the Father. Instead of facing God's wrath and eternal death, we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because God reconciled Himself to us through Christ, He now calls us to be "ambassadors for Christ" by giving us the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

apologize When we say or do something mean to someone and are then sorry for it, we apologize and say, "I'm sorry I said that," or, "I'm sorry I did that."

Abigail a Jewish lady married to Nabal. She loved and served God. When her husband did something foolish, she apologized for him. God used Abigail to help David do what was right.

peacemaker This is someone who helps others get along and not fight.

Nabal Nabal was a rich, foolish shepherd who was quick to get angry. He was Abigail's husband.

David David was the man God had chosen to be the next king of Israel, but before he became king, he was hiding in the desert from King Saul, who wanted to kill him.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet each child by saying the Eighth Commandment and letting them say it back to you.

Open the class with prayer,

- Thank God for the opportunity to worship Him and gladly hear and learn His Word.
- Ask for His help as you continue to memorize verses and commandments
- Ask God for His presence to be in every part of your class time together.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” *Luke 6:27-28.* Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Eighth Commandment in the previous lesson. Divide the longer meanings so the children will not be overwhelmed. A suggested break is after the word “neighbor”. Explain that this part of the meaning reminds us of what we should not do. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

In our Bible lesson we read about David. (The children may be able to tell you some things about David such as, he was a shepherd, he killed Goliath, etc.) In this lesson, David was hiding in the desert. We will learn who was a peacemaker for David.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. Be sure the children understand the word apologize—you might ask them if they have ever apologized to someone.

Move on to the next paragraph. **SAY:** God’s Word tells us about some interesting people. One was wise and one was foolish. **ASK:** What can you tell me about Nabal? (responses) *(Listen and accept the answers of the children. This is not a test for the right answer, but a way for you to determine what their understanding is of wisdom and foolishness.)* **SAY:** Foolish also means we do and say things without thinking of what will happen. It means forgetting all about what God wants for us and for others. God is not pleased with that kind of behavior. **ASK:** Do you think Abigail was foolish?

Read or have a volunteer read paragraph four. **ASK:** Who was David? Where were David and his men? Who was trying to kill David? Why? (Saul was trying to kill David because he was jealous of him. Saul knew that God had chosen him to be the next king. David

would not fight back against Saul because he was still king and God’s anointed.

ASK: What did David and his men do while they were hiding? (They helped protect Nabal’s sheep and his servants.) David asked for some food and water. Nabal new David had protecting his sheep and his servants. Nabal should have been happy to share food and water with David and his men. That would have been helping David and serving God. But Nabal said, “NO!”

ASK: How do you think David felt when he heard what Nabal said? (responses)

Read the first two sentences of the fifth paragraph and the first sentence of I Samuel 25:13. There was going to be trouble now because Nabal was foolish and stubborn, and David was angry.

Finish reading the fifth paragraph

ASK: Who did God send to be a peacemaker? What did Abigail do? (Abigail sent food and reminded David of God of what God wanted. Abigail apologized for Nabal and was even willing to take the blame for Nabal’s bad behavior. Abigail probably was afraid because it was a dangerous situation. Abigail was risking her life, but she went in the strength of God because it was the right thing to do. If she had done nothing, David would have killed Nabal in anger.

Read the Sixth paragraph. **ASK:** Did David listen to Abigail? (yes) When Abigail told David not to sin, David listened to her. David was sorry for his anger against Nabal and repented. David responded very

differently from Nabal who never saw his foolishness and did not repent.

Read the last two paragraphs. **ASK:** What is God asking us to be in this lesson and in the Eighth Commandment? (peacemakers)

ASK: How does Jesus help us to be peacemakers? (Learning about Him in the Bible in Sunday School, and worship service, and then telling Him we need His love and strength to do what is right because we don't always want to do what is right.

Repeat the Memory Verses

Discussion:

Have the children think of times when they should apologize for themselves and/or for others.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

David and Nabal

Activity 1

Fill in the blank activity and draw lines to put the story in order

Activity 1
DAVID AND NABAL

Write three words that describe David and his men:
good honest helpful

Write three words that describe Nabal:
rich foolish bad temper

Draw arrows connecting the story boxes in the correct order. The first box is in the top left corner.

David and his men protected Nabal's sheep and servants. One day David sent men to ask Nabal for food and water.

Nabal became angry. He had a bad temper and said, "Why should I give David food?"

Nabal's wife, Abigail, took the blame for Nabal's bad behavior. She asked David not to kill him.

When David, the future king, heard what Nabal said, he wanted to kill Nabal and his men.

David thanked God for sending Abigail. David said he would not hurt Nabal.

David told Abigail, "Go home. There will be peace."

Vowel Code

Activity 2

Fill in the missing vowels with the code given.

Activity 2
VOWEL CODE

All the vowels are missing. Can you decode this important message?

♪ = A ♡ = E ♫ = I ♪ = O * = U

B _ U _ T I S _ A _ Y T _ O Y _ O _ U W H _ O H _ E _ A _ R ,
* ♪ ♫ ♫ * ♫ ♫ ♪

I _ O _ V _ E Y _ O _ U _ R E _ N _ F _ I _ H _ S , fire
♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

D _ O G _ O _ O _ D T _ O T H _ O _ S _ E W H _ O
♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

H _ A _ T _ E Y _ O _ U ,
♫ ♫ ♫ *

E L _ F _ S S T H _ O _ S _ E W H _ O C _ U _ R _ S _ E Y _ O _ U ,
♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

P R _ A _ Y F O _ R T H _ O _ S _ E W H _ O
♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

M _ I _ S _ T _ E _ F _ A _ T Y _ O _ U ,
♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

Who spoke this important message in the Bible? JESUS

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Dear God, forgive us when we are not peacemakers. Help us remember to apologize when we do something wrong. Help us to apologize for someone else when they have done something wrong. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Lesson 6

The Power of the Tongue

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: James 3:1-12, Genesis 1:26-27

MEMORY VERSE: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: From the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. James 3:10

CATECHISM:

The Eighth Commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God so that we do not deceitfully belie, betray, backbite, nor slander our neighbor, but apologize for him, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all that he does.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- understand how our words can hurt or help others.
- know God will help us to use kind and helpful words when speaking with and about others.

MATERIALS: Lessons, Bibles, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Eighth Commandment teaches us to choose our words carefully. Jesus taught His disciples to live a life that honors God and is helpful to other people. Jesus said, "Love one another," as He has loved us. (John 13:34, paraphrased).

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What do you think it means to speak well of your neighbor? 2) Do you know what it means to "Put the most charitable (or loving) construction on all that your neighbor does"? Ask students to give examples of this. 3) Who will help us control our tongue? 4) What should we do when we say something that hurts another person?

ACTIVITY 1: Words Like Fire – fill in the blank: (date), (name), fire, flame, tongue, mean, fire, hurt, words/tongue, control, (name).

ACTIVITY 2: Break or Keep – fill in lists from Eighth Commandment and meaning: Break- bear false witness, lie, betray, backbite, slander; Keep- fear and love God, defend, speak well of, put charitable construction. Circle: Speak well of others, Say good things about others, Control my tongue; Cross out: Use mean, angry words, Speak lies about others, Hurt others with my words.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Pray that God will lead you to be an example of one who trusts God only.
- ☐ Pray that you will wait upon the Lord as He guides you through this Sunday School year.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Lessons
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board
- ☐

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year and ask Him to bless these children.
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

James 3:1-12, Luke 6:27-28

A wise teacher once asked his students to bring him the best part and the worse part of an ox. Student brought back various parts of the ox, but one student brought only one part—the tongue. According to James, that one small part of the body can speak both good and evil, can both bless and curse (Jam 3:10). Then James says the obvious: “Christian, such a thing should not be.” So why does it happen? Why is the tongue so hard to tame? The tongue speaks from both the fleshly man and the spiritual man and that is part of the battle between the flesh and the spirit.

James gives a special warning to teachers (3:1), which is good. A teacher should certainly know more, or know better, than the student, so as to give proper instruction and guidance. With greater responsibility a teacher will be held to a higher standard and judged more severely.

Jesus severely judged the scribes and Pharisees who saw themselves as teachers of the Law by calling them hypocrites: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves” (Mt 23:15).

That is a stinging rebuke for false teachers. It should be a “wake-up call” for all teachers, whether in Sunday school, Bible classes, or whenever they teach God’s word with the intent of leading a person to saving faith. Some of the greatest harm to students has come from teachers who either interpret scripture according to their own devices (like the Pharisees), or do not teach “the whole counsel of God.” They are offering houses built on sand, and the students are not given the firm foundation on which they must build their lives.

The writer of Hebrews implies a lack of good teaching because the people haven’t grown in the faith: “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food” (Heb 5:12). There are basic teachings that need to be repeated for our own good (Heb

6:1-2), but we are also to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18; also Col 2:6-6).

The meaning to the eighth commandment says that we must not lie against a neighbor, but rather “put the most charitable construction on all that he does.” Doing that requires Godly wisdom and self-control, which is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:23). When people hear rumors or lies, they tend to assume the worst and spread them. It is at such times that we have to “bite our tongue,” to hold it from saying what we think. Children and adults do this when they don’t like someone, then make up or exaggerate some minor flaw and spread it. Such actions hurt the person and separates friends (which is often the intent). It happens in families, school, workplaces and even in congregations.

When hearing lies about a neighbor, we are to “put the most charitable construction on all that he does.” At the very least that means checking out why such things are said. Often the truth will come out and with that comes understanding, and maybe we won’t be so quick to judge. If we have lied to or about someone there is only one right thing to do, and that is humble ourselves and ask forgiveness. Then we can honestly pray “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtor” (Matt 6:12). [trespasses?] Also “Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).

God asks us to honor and respect Him as our Creator and Redeemer and Sanctifier. To respect ourselves and others is to respect and honor God.

The tongue cannot be gamed by man, it is “full of deadly poison” (Jam 3:8). The tongue, like all flesh, must be crucified with Christ so that it will speak words of grace. “Do not lie to one another, since you stripped off the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it” (Colossians 3:9-10).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

charitable construction: charitable contains the word charity, which means love. Charitable means loving. Construction is another way of say “a possible explanation”. A charitable construction would be the best possible reason you can think of for what someone has done.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students to think of a time that someone said something that made them feel good or happy.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do

good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. *Luke 6:27-28*” Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Eighth Commandment. The last 2 lessons have focused on the words we say. See if the students can remember something from the last 2 lessons as this will wrap up the focus on the Eighth Commandment.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

You can probably think of a time when someone's words made you bad. The words *we* say can help other people or hurt them. Lies hurt people, but even true words can be unkind. We want God to help us use kind and helpful words whenever we talk with or about others.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph.

SAY: Jesus taught His followers to live a life that honors God and helps other people.

ASK: What do you think it means to speak well of your neighbor? **SAY:** We can always say good and true things, and not tell stories about someone that could hurt their feelings or made them look bad. **ASK:** Do you know what it means to "Put the most charitable (or loving) construction on all that your neighbor does"? **SAY:** Putting the most charitable construction on your neighbor's behavior is to think of or imagine the best explanation for what he is doing. Maybe he is helping someone or doing something God wants him to do.

Read the second paragraph of the lesson (or ask a volunteer to read it).

Help the students find Genesis 1:26-27. Read these verses.

God wants us to use kind and respectful words when we talk with other people and when we talk about them too because God created us in His likeness. Even though we know this is how God wants us to use our word, sometimes we don't. Sometimes we use mean and angry words to hurt other people. Remember how you felt when someone else's word made you feel bad.

Read the third paragraph. **SAY:** Just like an out-of-control fire can burn down a forest, our out-of-control words can cause great damage. None of us can control our words without God's help.

Read the last paragraph. **SAY:** Telling lies or hurting people with our words is sin. This breaks the Eighth Commandment. God promises that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). If you ask God to forgive you, He will. God will make us strong and help us (Isaiah 41:10).

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Words Like Fire

Activity 1

Write a letter by filling in the blanks to tell what you are learning.

Activity 1
WORDS LIKE FIRE

Write a letter to a friend or family member about what you are learning.

Date _____ (today's date)

Dear (insert name) _____,

Have you ever seen a blazing forest _____ fire _____? Do you think it sounds scary? I do. Today we learned that even the smallest _____ flame _____ can turn into a blazing fire and burn down a forest. Once the fire starts, it can spread quickly, destroying everything in its path.

Did you know that the _____ tongue _____ can be like a forest fire? When we say _____ mean _____ or false words about someone, they can spread quickly like a _____ fire _____.

Our words may _____ hurt _____ others deeply. Just like it is hard to control a fire, it is hard to control our _____ words/tongue _____.

I do not want to be like a forest fire! I am asking God to help me _____ control _____ my tongue and speak well of others. God promises to help me. He will help you too if you ask Him.

Love,

(insert student's name)

Break or Keep

Activity 2

Write action words in each column from the Eighth Commandment and its meaning that break or keep God's commands. Circle words at the bottom that keep God's commands, X ways that don't.

Activity 2
BREAK OR KEEP?

Some words break the Eighth Commandment. Some words keep the Eighth Commandment. Write action words from the Eighth Commandment and meaning in the correct columns below.

Break God's Commandment	Keep God's Commandment
_____	_____
bear false witness	fear and love God
deceitfully lie about	defend him
betray	speak well of him
backbite	put the most charitable construction
slander	_____

Draw an X across ways we break the Eighth Commandment. Circle words that show how we keep God's commandment.

Speak well of others (circled)
Use mean, nasty words (crossed out)
Speak lies about others (crossed out)
Hurt others with my words (crossed out)
Say good things about others (circled)
Control my tongue (circled)

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Pray for God to help us use our words in a way that pleases Him and hurts no one.

Lesson 7

Be Content

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: I Kings 21:1-20, 27-29

MEMORY VERSE: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. Philippians 4:11b

CATECHISM:

The Ninth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not seek by craftiness to gain possession of our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor obtain them He under pretense of a legal right, but assist and serve him in keeping the same.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God provides for us and our neighbors.
- God wants us to be content and thankful for all He provides.

MATERIALS: Lessons, Bibles, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: King Ahab and his wife Jezebel weren't content. He wanted his neighbor, Naboth's vineyard for a garden. Naboth wouldn't sell it because God gave his family that land. King Ahab was furious. He coveted that vineyard and couldn't be happy without it.

Jezebel told the king she'd get him that vineyard. She wrote letters and had liars say Naboth cursed God and the king. The queen ordered the rulers to stone Naboth to death and they did just that. Naboth was dead and Ahab got Naboth's vineyard. One sin led to another: coveting, lying, murder and stealing. Ahab and Jezebel weren't content and didn't protect their neighbor's property.

The Ninth Commandment teaches us to be satisfied or content with what God has given us. God wants us to be thankful for what He provides for us and for our neighbors. God says not to covet. When we covet, we aren't thankful for what God has given us.

Ahab became sorry later and asked God to forgive his sins. God forgave him. God forgives us too when we confess our sins and ask forgiveness. When we break God's commandments, we sin. Jesus came to forgive sin. His death on the cross made the way for sin to be forgiven.

- a) POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Have you ever wanted something so much that you were unhappy? 2) What does it mean to covet? 3) What did Ahab want? Why? 4) Do you think you could have said no to a king because you wanted to obey God? 5) What did King Ahab do when Naboth said no? 6) What do we do when we sin or covet?

ACTIVITY 1: Story Report: Answer the questions based on the lesson's story.

ACTIVITY 2: Covet or Be Content? Covet, Property, Inheritance, Thankful, Home, Ninth, Want.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Study the Bible Background.
- ☐ Become familiar with the Teachers' Manual and consider highlighting the places where it is suggested you make a statement or ask a question.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Lessons
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that each child will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He convicts of sin.
- Pray that your students might be happy in what God gives, especially in knowing Jesus as Savior.

Bible Background

I Kings 21:1-20, 27-29 Coveting leads to even more sin

Contentment does not come easily to us human beings because we are not always satisfied with what we have. Think, for example, of our ancestors who lived in sod huts along with children (and even animals). Advertisements tell us not to be content. They get us to think that we really “need” that new car, the latest fashions, and more “conveniences” to be content. Some people are not content until they have the latest cell phone or computer or gaming system.

Paul's statement is quite profound: “For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am” (Philippians 4:11b). Of course, he lived in a different world with different needs, but from his dangerous travels, from fears for his own life, from health problems and other experiences, he learned to be content with what God provided for him. Contentment is a learning process and might be even harder for us who live in a very comfortable world.

King Ahab had a very comfortable life according to the standards of his day, but he coveted his neighbor's vineyard which was next to the palace. Ahab seemed to act fairly and asked to buy it, offering Naboth very generous compensation (v.2).

But Naboth wouldn't sell, not because he was stubborn but because “The LORD forbid me that I would give you the inheritance of my fathers!” (v.3). This was based on the Law of Moses (Lev 25:23, Num 36:7).

“The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me” and “So no inheritance of the sons of Israel will be transferred from tribe to tribe, for the sons of Israel shall each retain possession of the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.”

King Ahab goes home and pouts (v.4b). This rage and childish sulking are seen in a weak and selfish nature that is accustomed to getting what it wants.

But Ahab has a “good wife” (21:5-16) who asks him what is wrong, and Ahab tells Jezebel about his visit with Naboth (leaving out Naboth's reason for not selling). Jezebel has a unique sort of wickedness. She is evil and strong. She takes charge and scornfully asks Ahab “Do you now reign over Israel?” (v.7). She is telling Ahab he is weak, so she will get the vineyard for him (but not legally, which is of no concern to her).

Jezebel makes her plans (vs.8-10) and “seeks by craftiness to gain possession of her neighbor’s inheritance and home, and to obtain them under pretense of a legal right.” She has no intent of helping Naboth keep his property.

Her plan has the appearance of legality. She sets up a feast for Naboth and arranges for witnesses to accuse him of treason, saying that “You cursed God and the king” (v.10). To do that she needed two “worthless men” to bear “false witness against their neighbor,” Naboth (v.10). If that charge were true, it brought capital punishment according to the law of Moses, and she made it clear that Naboth was to be stoned to death (v.14).

The elders and the nobles of the city did just as Jezebel had told them and sent word back to her saying, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead” (v.14). Jezebel then tells Ahab to go and take possession of Naboth’s vineyard (v.15).

Then the Lord sends the prophet Elijah to Ahab with a strong message: “The LORD has also spoken of Jezebel, saying, ‘The dogs will eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel. The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs will eat; and the one who dies in the field, the birds of the sky will eat’” (vs.23-24).

Ahab apparently still had a conscience because “when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently” (v.27). Because Ahab humbled himself, The Lord said, “I will not bring the disaster in his days; I will bring the disaster upon his house in his son’s days” (v.29).

Our discontent, even in the midst of abundance, will trouble us and can cause us to act rashly. We must humble ourselves and confess the sin of discontent, which is really a lack of trust in the Lord. For that we must begin at the cross where Jesus made full satisfaction for all our sins, and then thank God for providing abundantly for us according to His riches in Christ Jesus.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

King Ahab: One of many evil kings over the nation of Israel.

Jezebel: King Ahab’s wife and queen, who was very evil. She was not an Israelite, but a princess of a nation who worshipped false gods.

Content: Happy, a satisfied feeling.

satisfied: a happy or pleased feeling, because of something that happened to you or something that you did.

covet: wanting something very much, especially something that belongs to someone else.

seek by craftiness: using trickery

under pretense of a legal right: using the law to cheat

keeping the same: keep the things what already belong to someone

interests: a person’s rights or claims towards real property or things they own.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive and talk with them about the good things that have happened to them. **SHARING:** Ask them to share some of these good things.

Lead the class in a prayer of thanks, encouraging them to offer a sentence prayer of thanks, if they like. Include: Thanking God for His loving care, for working things out for our good, for Jesus who takes away our sins, and that God will teach us to trust Him and be happy because He is our Savior.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 6:33". Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Eighth Commandment, which focused on our right use of words, our responsibility to our neighbors, and our heart attitudes towards them. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 3 lessons. Ask questions such as:

- Who asked God to forgive the people who lied about him and threw stones at him?
- What peacemaker apologized for her husband and stopped David from doing a very bad thing?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: How do you feel when a friend gets something new that you want and don't have? Have you ever wanted something so much that you were unhappy? Did you go to your room and pout about it? Today's lesson tells us how God wants us to feel at a time like that. God wants us to be happy with what we have.

Read the Lesson

SAY: God says, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house." God tells us we should not want anyone else's house or land. The meaning of the Ninth Commandment tells us that we should not want anything that belongs to another person. Teacher **READ** the opening paragraph. (TM NOTE: When God gave a family property in Old Testament times, it had to stay in their family. By Law, they could lease it out, but not permanently sell it. (Leviticus 25:12-28).

ASK: What does it mean to covet? How does God want us to feel when a friend gets something nice? (we should be happy with what we have and happy that our friend has nice things).

Ask a student to read the second paragraph and another the third.

Discuss the following:

- b) What did Ahab want? Why?
- c) Did King Ahab really need the vineyard?
- d) Did Naboth sell his vineyard to King Ahab? Why not? (God had told His people not to sell their land but keep it for their children and grandchildren.)
- e) Do you think you could have said no to a king because you wanted to obey God?
- f) Can you imagine a king pouting because he couldn't have something? King Ahab was being greedy and

coveting the vineyard. He broke the ninth Commandment.

- g) How did Queen Jezebel get Naboth's vineyard? (getting people to lie about Naboth, who then was killed.)

Read the fourth and fifth paragraphs. When Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard, he sinned. That wasn't a small thing—it led to other sins. His wife and the other rulers lied, breaking the Eighth Commandment and when they killed Naboth, they broke the Fifth Commandment. Sin might seem like a small thing, but it is always serious. God hates sin.

SAY: Let's see what God did. God loved Ahab and wanted him to be sorry for his sin,

God sent His prophet, Elijah, to tell Ahab that he had sinned. Elijah said all that God told him to say, even that God would punish him for his sins. **ASK:** What do you think happened next? Read the sixth paragraph and then sum up: Ahab was sorry, he confessed his sin to God, and God forgave him. **ASK:** What do we do when we sin or covet? Yes, we must confess our sin to Jesus right away. We can tell Him what the sin was and ask Him to forgive it. We should confess all our sins this way. **PRAY:** "Dear Jesus, forgive me when I want what others have. Please help me be happy with what you give me. Amen"

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Word Swap?

Activity 1

Cross out the wrong word and write the right one on the line.

Activity 1
WORD SWAP

Change one word in each sentence to make it correct. Cross out the incorrect word. Write the correct word on the line. Then read the new sentence.

1. Jesus talked to His ~~angels~~ about how God cares for the flowers and birds.
disciples

2. God takes care of the birds and gives them ~~grass~~.
food

3. The birds do not worry about who will ~~like~~ them.
feed

4. The flowers do not worry about what they will ~~eat~~.
wear




5. Jesus reminded the disciples that they are more important than ~~trees~~.
birds and flowers

6. Jesus did not want His disciples to ~~sing~~.
worry

7. God ~~says~~, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by ~~number~~; you are Mine!"
name

8. God will provide all that I ~~want~~.
need

9. Being content means being ~~mad~~ about what God gives me.
happy or satisfied



Flying Maze

Activity 2

Help the bird fly through each maze, write the message from each maze on the line.

Activity 2
FLYING MAZE

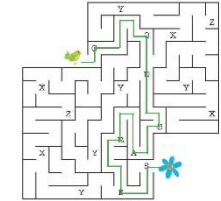
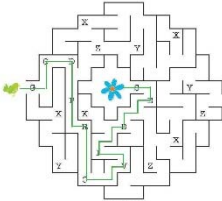
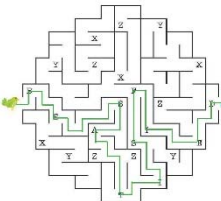
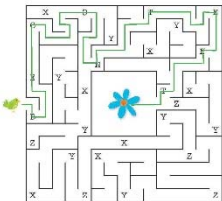
Help the bird fly to the flower in each maze. Avoid X, Y, Z. Write the secret messages on the blanks under each maze.

MAZE 1
be content

MAZE 2
be satisfied

MAZE 3
God provides

MAZE 4
God cares



CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 8

God Cares for You

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 6:19-33

MEMORY VERSE: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: "But they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing." Psalm 34:10b

CATECHISM:

The Tenth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not estrange or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but seek to have them remain and discharge their duty to him.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God provides everything we need to live.
- We can be content with what God has given us.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: Jesus talked to His disciples about how His Father loves them. Jesus had them look around them at the birds and flowers. The birds need shelter, food, and water to live. The flowers need air, sunlight, soil, and rain to grow. God provides these things. The birds do not worry about who will feed them. The flowers do not worry about what they will wear. God Himself cares for the things He created.

Jesus reminded the disciples that they are more important than birds and flowers. Jesus didn't want them to worry. They were children of God, and God takes care of His children.

Even though we sometimes want more than we have or forget God has given us all we need, we can be content. We can be happy with what God gives us.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Have you ever thought that you are valuable to other people? 2) What are some things you need to live? What things has God promised to supply for us? 3) Do you ever want more than you have? Do you sometimes wish you had something another person has?

ACTIVITY 1: angels/disciples, pizza/food, like/feed, eat/wear, trees/birds and flowers, sing/worry, number/name, want/need, mad/happy or satisfied.

ACTIVITY 2: be content, be satisfied, God provides, God cares

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Pray that God will help you to trust Him to supply all your needs.
- ☐ Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study His Word and the lesson this week.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

☐ Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children in your class this year.
- Ask Him to prepare their hearts to receive what He intends through His Word and the lesson.

Bible Background

Matthew 6:19-33

When God saw all that He had made, it was very good. After Adam and Eve sinned against God, He pronounced a curse on all that He had made that brought thorns and thistles, hard labor, pain and suffering to animals and humans (Gen 3:14-19). In that sense the earth is not “beautiful” anymore because it is corrupted by sin and evil. But creation still reveals the glory of God and serves as evidence of His creation (Rom 1:20).

When God saw the hearts of men become even more evil (Gen 6:5), He sent the global flood that destroyed all mankind except Noah and his family. The flood waters burst from the heavens above and from the earth beneath, altering the earth’s geography. The earth is still beautiful, and even more remarkable is the fact that God still preserves it and provides for every living being in spite of our sin.

Jesus opened the eyes of His disciples to the beauty of creation right before them by pointing to little things like birds and flowers (Mt 6:19-33). He tells us that God provides for common needs like food and clothing, things we tend to take for granted. We do that because of our sinful cravings that are not satisfied but always want more. That leads us to covet as in wanting a neighbor’s husband or wife or possessions.

We should not covet because God will supply all our basic needs like food and clothing (Mt 6:25), and all that He graciously allows us to possess. That doesn’t mean the food will appear on the ground each day like manna, but He will provide by some means at the right time. “The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing” (Ps 145:15,16).

Why doesn’t God feed every hungry person in the world? A simple answer would be that the Church should be doing that, like the early Church provided for widows and orphans (Acts 6). But in a large part of the world there is no Church, no Christians, no belief in God. Only God supplies food, idols don’t. God works within the world order in that place (or wherever he wills), but that order is broken by sin, and hunger, famine, disease are all consequences of that sinful order. We do what we can and should do more. Why do we not? Maybe because of our own sinful wants that keep us from sharing our abundance with others. Also, no matter how great it would be to feed the world, Jesus

reminded us that the poor will always be with us. Those words are not meant to excuse our inaction, but they are a reminder of a sinful world that will always need the Bread of Life.

People also worry about what to wear, not just for covering but for how they will look before others, as to whether they are “in fashion” or not. In the eastern countries, clothing fashions did not change as they do for us with every season. Clothing, especially of the rich, was meant to be a public display of their wealth. It was natural for people to look to the gold-embroidered robes of kings and emperors. Jewish traditions as to the glory of Solomon describe even his attendants as clothed in purple, and with hair glittering with gold-dust. Jesus, the true Son of David, saw in the simplest flower a glory greater than them all. It was said: “The lily shames the king.”

Without banks or other secure places, the people displayed their wealth in clothing, jewelry, utensils, etc. These were their treasures, and treasure will possess the heart and affection with serious results: “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 Jn 2:15).

Anxiously seeking all these things makes us no better than the Gentiles, because God even supplies their needs. We must stay or “return” to our first love, to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you” (v.33).

The treasures of this world will take our eyes off the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. There we find Jesus, our “priceless treasure,” through Whom God offers what is our greatest need: His forgiveness for sin and His perfect righteousness by faith. Contentment comes as we grow “in the grace and knowledge of God” (2 Peter 3:18), and learn to trust Him for all our needs.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

Remind: to bring someone’s thoughts back to what they already know.

contentment: to be happy or satisfied with what God has given you.

provides: gives, takes care of

remember: to come back to a thought or an idea again. This can make the idea stronger and easier to think of when you need it to help you.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Ask the children what they saw outside on their way to church. Open the class with prayer, thanking God for his wonderful world.

Read the Memory Verse

Read it together aloud — “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. *Matthew 6:33*”

Read it. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Tenth Commandment. See if the students can remember something they learned in last week’s lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: When was the last time you played outside? Have you ever walked in a park or hiked in a forest? Have you ever camped outdoors? What did you see?

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about what the students saw in God's beautiful creation, remind them of those things now.

Read (or have a volunteer read) the second paragraph. Help the students find Matthew 6:19-33 in the Bible. Have volunteers take turns reading the Bible verses out loud.

ASK: Have you ever thought that you are valuable to other people, like your parents, brothers, and sisters? God cares about the birds and the flowers, the plants and the animals. God gives (or provides) them with everything they need. God cares for the things He created.

Jesus told the disciples that God, the Father, cares even more for them even more than that. Jesus didn't want His disciples to worry about what they would have to eat or drink or where they would rest for the night. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that God loved them and would take care of them. They are God's children and God takes care of His children.

Read the third paragraph.

SAY: You too are a child of God. In the Bible, the book of Isaiah Chapter 43, verse one, God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine." **TM Note:** A child could ask about baptism in the context of how he or she became God's child. A simple answer from the catechism could be that baptism gives God's grace through water and God's Word. Most

children may not remember their baptism but could ask their parents to tell them more about it.

ASK: What are some things you need to live? (The children may say food, water, a home.) Remind them that Jesus said that His Heavenly Father already knows what you need. God knows everything!

SAY: You don't need to worry about these things. You can be content.

Read the fourth and fifth paragraphs. **ASK:** Do you ever want more than you have? Do you sometimes wish you had something another person has? Most people do, no matter what their age. Ask God to help you remember how much He loves you. You can use birds or flowers to remind you that God cares for you as much and even more than them. He loves you and has promised to take care of you.

TM note: Children may ask questions about kids who are hungry, poor, or abused. Prayerfully prepare for this. The effects of sin in this world causes situations like these. Consider people and organizations who help people like these, in the name of Jesus. The world isn't perfect, and life isn't always fair. Suggest telling parents, your pastor, or people in authority about someone who needs help.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Word Swap?

Activity 1

Cross out the incorrect word and write the correct one on the line.

Activity 1
WORD SWAP

Change one word in each sentence to make it correct. Cross out the incorrect word. Write the correct word on the line. Then read the new sentence.

1. Jesus talked to His ~~angels~~ about how God cares for the flowers and birds.
disciples

2. God takes care of the birds and gives them ~~meat~~.
food

3. The birds do not worry about who will ~~like~~ them.
feed

4. The flowers do not worry about what they will ~~eat~~.
wear




5. Jesus reminded the disciples that they are more important than ~~these~~.
birds and flowers

6. Jesus did not want His disciples to ~~sing~~.
worry

7. God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by ~~number~~; you are Mine!"
name

8. God will provide all that I ~~want~~.
need

9. Being content means being ~~mad~~ about what God gives me.
happy or satisfied



Flying Maze

Activity 2

Get the bird to the flower, avoiding X, Y, and Z. Use the letters in the path to fill in the blank below each maze.

Activity 2
FLYING MAZE

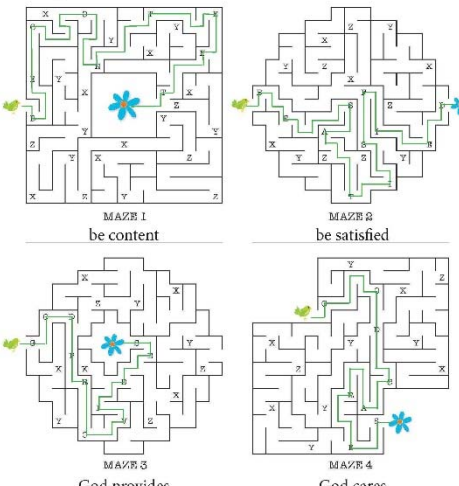
Help the bird fly to the flower in each maze. Avoid X, Y, Z. Write the secret messages on the blanks under each maze.

MAZE 1
be content

MAZE 2
be satisfied

MAZE 3
God provides

MAZE 4
God cares



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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 9

Protect Your Friends

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: I Samuel 18:1-15; 19:1-7

MEMORY VERSE: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

CATECHISM:

The Tenth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not estrange or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but seek to have them remain and discharge their duty to him.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God desires contentment, not coveting.
- God wants us to look out for others and protect what God has given them.
- Jesus died to protect us from the punishment for sin.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The unselfish devotion of Jonathan and David is one of the most touching stories in the Bible. Jonathan was devoted to David even though he knew David was God's choice to be the next king of Israel. Jonathan was heir to the throne but was willing to step aside for David. Jonathan made a covenant with David, giving him his own robe and armor. Although King Saul tried to kill David, Jonathan helped him. The Lord was with David. Jonathan, a true friend, was content.

Jesus is the ultimate example of a friend looking out for the interests of others. Jesus is the greatest friend we can ever have.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How do you make a friend? Have you ever been happy for a friend when something good happened to them? Did David ever give King Saul a reason to hate him? Does God want us to care about the interests of others? Why?

ACTIVITY 1: When, Who, What, Why, Where, What, Why, How

ACTIVITY 2: Word Find and fill in the blank: first, His, things, you, 6, 33

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☑ Read I Samuel 18-20
- ☑ Study the lesson several times this week.
- ☑ Consider the friends who have had an impact on you throughout your life, with a special emphasis on the early elementary years, when you were the age of your students.

Prepare Materials

- ☑ Lessons, Activity sheets
- ☑ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that God will give your students understanding as they learn God's truth.
- Pray for wisdom and understanding as a teacher.

Bible Background

I Samuel 18:1-15; 19:1-7 Jonathan Protects His Friend

What is true friendship? How does it begin? Friendship is important to each of us. God created us for friendship with Himself and others. We can enjoy fellowship when things are right with God and other people.

The Bible defines friendship in I Samuel 18:1 where it says "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself". They were bound together, inseparable. The friendship of David and Jonathan was a covenant relationship that was stressed throughout the story. In some ways it was an unusual friendship, since they came from very different backgrounds. Jonathan was a prince, the oldest son of the king of Israel, while David was the youngest of many sons, who worked hard for his family as a shepherd. They had something in common, though. David was a man after God's heart. Jonathan was also a man of faith. He asked God to guide him in battle and followed through with God's guidance in battle. Moreover when Jonathan's father, King Saul, turned against David, Jonathan defended David (I Samuel 20:22-23). Jonathan did what was right, protecting David even though it was against his own interests. Although Saul was jealous of David, Jonathan was not.

Jonathan was a faithful intercessor. Jonathan's friendship revealed itself in action. He made a covenant with him sealing it with his robe and armor. Jonathan warned David and interceded on David's behalf with his father.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

own interests: things that matter to a person

interests of others: Things important to other people that may not matter much to someone else

protect: To keep safe, to actively do something to make another person safe

Saul: a disobedient king who wanted his own way more than what God wanted

David: a shepherd boy, musician, and warrior who loved God more than anything. A man after God's heart.

Jonathan: David's friend. Who trusted God's plan to make David Israel's king

jealous vs. content: Always wanting more or wanting your own way instead of trusting whatever God wants to be the best.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Ask them to think about their friends. What makes a person a friend?

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students How do you make a friend?

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, "But

seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. *Matthew 6:33*" Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Tenth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Today we will learn about David in the Bible. Do you remember who David is? David had a very good friend named Jonathan. Jonathan was the King's son, but God wanted David to be king. That could have turned them into enemies, but it did not. They stayed the best of friends.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about how they became friends with someone, that may not be needed here. Have you ever been happy for a friend when something good happened to them? Sometimes the joy on someone's face can make us joyful too.

King Saul wasn't David's friend. People sang songs about David's great victories in battles. King Saul hated David because he was jealous of him. Jonathan was not jealous of David. Jonathan loved his friend, David. Jonathan trusted God. Jonathan was happy with David being the next king.

Read the second paragraph. **ASK:** Did David ever give King Saul a reason to hate him? No, he tried to protect himself when King Saul tried to hurt him, but David did not fight against King Saul, because he knew better that to harm the man who was king. Jonathan protected David from his father. Jonathan was happy for God's plan for David to be king. Jonathan even gave his robe and his armor to David In the Tenth Commandment , God tells us to look out for the interests of other people, like Jonathan did for David. God wants us to

pay attention to what other people need and not just what we want. We can do that by protecting our friends like Jonathan protected David.

interests of other people. The Bible says Jesus laid down His life for His friends. Jesus did that when He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins.

Read the last paragraph. **SAY:** Jesus is the best example of a friend looking out for the

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

WWWWWH?

Activity 1

Write Who, What, Where, When, Why or How for each question.

Activity 1
WWWWWH?

Read each question below. Then write Who, What, Where, When, Why, or How on the blank lines, using matching colors for your answers.

WHEN was it?

WHO are the main characters?

WHERE did it take place?

WHAT happened?

WHY did it happen?

HOW did it happen?

_____ when _____ 1. A long time ago.

_____ who _____ 2. Saul, David, and Jonathan.

_____ what _____ 3. Saul disobeyed God and tried to kill David.

_____ why _____ 4. Because Saul was jealous of David and did not want him to be king.

_____ where _____ 5. In Israel.

_____ what _____ 6. Jonathan protected David from his father.

_____ why _____ 7. Because Jonathan trusted God and was David's friend.

_____ how _____ 8. By doing everything Jonathan could to make sure David got to be king.

Word Find

Activity 2

Find the words and fill in the blanks.

Activity 2
WORD FIND

Circle the 13 hidden words found in your lesson.

U J O F H J R Y G P A
S D R G O I Z E T E
A A E I F N N O A W P
U V N E X A G O L D R
L I T N X T Y V O M O
V D H D B H F E U E T
G W A N T A J T S E E
C H E L P N K E D D C
C O M M A N D M E N T

commandment
covet
help
protect
king
Jonathan
David
tenth
jealous
Saul
friend
want
need

Write what is missing from your memory verse. Say the verse three times.

"But seek _____ first _____ His kingdom and _____ His
righteousness, and all these _____ things _____ will be added to
_____ you _____." Matthew 6 : 33

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 10

Don't Go There

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 119:9-11

MEMORY VERSE: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." Romans 7:7

CATECHISM:

Luther's Small Catechism Question 16: Of what benefit, then, is the Law?

1. It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin. (Romans 3:20b For through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.)
2. It makes us anxious to seek Christ. (Galatians 3:24a The Law has become our tutor *to lead* us to Christ.)
3. It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear. (Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.)

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- The Law acts as a curb and protects us from sin.
- The Law shows us our sin, but Jesus died to save us from our sin.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson teaches the first use of the Law. The Law is like a curb. A curb keeps us from going where we should not go. Curbs helps bicycles and cars stay on the roads. The curb is a line we should not cross. The Law is a line like that too. The Law stops us from dishonoring God or hurting other people. When your bicycle tire bumps against the curb, it is a warning that you are about to go somewhere you are not supposed to go. It would be dangerous if drivers drove wherever they wanted. Just like a curb helps cars stay away from people on the sidewalk or children playing in the park, God's Law protects us and the people around us from sin. The bump from hitting the curb warns you to pay attention and stay where you should. The curb keeps you and the people around you safe.

It's important to know when you are heading the wrong way or doing the wrong thing. Without God's Law we wouldn't know when we do something wrong. God's Law *tells us* what is right or wrong. When we do something wrong, we break God's Laws. We need to know that, so we can be sorry, repent, and confess. When we confess our sin to God, He promises to forgive us. God will help us follow and obey His commandments.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How can we know what is right and what is wrong? Why is it important to know when we have sinned? What will God do when we confess our sins?

ACTIVITY 1: red: b, b, a, b, b, a, b, a. green: a, a, b, a, a, b, a, b.

ACTIVITY 2: Points, sins, God, sin, anxious, seek, points, believer, fruits, faith

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- Read the section on the uses of the Law in your Small Catechism or The Book of Concord.
- Bring a copy of the Small Catechism for each child to handle and see.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Lessons
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for wisdom to teach this lesson in a way that helps your students understand why we need God's Law.
- Pray that God will help you to be an example for your students.

Bible Background

Psalm 119:9-11

The psalm begins with the universal theme: "Blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the Law of the LORD" (119:1). There was only one way of safety and peace for an Israelite, and that was "the law of the Lord (Yahweh)." Walking in "the law of the Lord" would bring God's protection and blessing; any other way would not. God's way and God's law have limits or "edges" within which we must walk. In that sense the Law would act like a "curb" on the street to keep us from going off the road. The words here would apply especially to young men with their youthful inclinations, who need Godly instruction to restrain their natural tendencies.

Many parents have asked this question concerning their children: "How can they (or we) keep their ways pure?" Even for non-Christians, this attitude reflects the law written in the heart so they try to raise their children to be good, but even God's own people have children who stray from the path of life. Samuel appointed his sons as judges over Israel, but they "did not walk in his ways but turned aside after dishonest gain, and they took bribes and perverted justice" (1 Sam 8:3). David could have asked this question regarding his own dysfunctional family. His son Amnon showed an alarming lack of self-control and great selfishness. Absalom tried to take over the kingdom from his father, yet David instructed his generals to "deal gently" with Absalom in spite of his treason (2 Sam 18:5).

"How...?" (vs9). The Hebrew suggests "with what" or "by what means" can he keep his way pure? The answer points to one way: "according to Your word." The deeper question is: How shall a young man cleanse his way? Or, how may I live a pure and righteous life? Where will I find true purity when I am so sinful and evil? Is there forgiveness for past sins, for evil thoughts, words, and deeds? These questions (raised by the law) should point us to the One Who is pure, to Jesus Christ and His blood that cleanses from all sin.

The words "Do not let me wander..." (vs10b), are similar to "Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil." The psalmist is asking God not to withdraw His grace or take His Holy Spirit from him because they are the means that keep him from wandering off the way. The words

also indicate a lack of trust in self. These are the words of a heart that is conscious of its own weakness and its inclination to stray, even though it desired to do right (Rom 7:15-20).

Our intentions might be good, but intentions do not lead us in the way of righteousness because we are distracted and misled by our sinful nature. Only a new heart, by the “washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5) can give direction in God’s way and the power to walk it. If a pilot is flying in a dense fog, he must trust his instruments to be the means of reaching his destination. If he goes by is “gut feeling” he is very likely to fly into the ground.

“Therefore I have treasured your word in my heart” (vs11). The Old Testament word for “heart” is much broader than our modern understanding which limits it to being the seat of love, affection, or emotion. In the Old Testament the “heart” is the vital center or core of a person’s entire being. When the Psalmist says he has “hid Your word within my heart,” he means “I have buried it deep in the very core of my being and put it down at the very roots of myself where it can be incorporated with the very substance of my soul.” Only then can God’s word have full influence on our thoughts, words and deeds and produce fruit in the Christian life.

Remember the writer is referring to God’s written word itself (Bible). No literature will ever take the place of the Book. No religious literature, sermons, magazines or other print and periodicals, will do what the Bible (Word alone) will do for us. It is a serious mistake to read only what other people think and say about Scripture. They are helpful and insightful, but they are not meant to replace Scripture itself. Only Scripture points us to Jesus (Jn 5:39) to know that “He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach” (Col 1:22), or “pure.”

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

catechism: Luther’s Small Catechism and Explanation contains the Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, Sacraments, with Explanation.

benefit: something good that results or happens

tutor: a teacher or student’s helper

dishonoring: to not treat someone (God, in this case) with respect or honor

astray: going astray is wandering away from where one should be

confess: admit what we did wrong

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.
Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students if they’ve ever bumped into the curb while riding a bike.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalm 119:105.*” Be sure to read it

together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Ten Commandments, with the last three lessons being about the Tenth Commandment: Thou

shalt not covet. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last three lessons (King Ahab coveting his neighbor's vineyard, being content because God gives us what we need, and looking out for the interests of other people, like Jonathan did for David.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Show the students the Small Catechism

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about running into curbs with their bicycles, ask them what a curb is meant to do.

Move on to the next paragraph, either reading it or having a volunteer do so. Just like a curb draws a line to keep drivers in the road and not driving past the boundary of the curb, the Law draws a line or limit on our behavior (and to a certain extent, on society's behavior), helping us and the people around us safer.

Read the third paragraph. The Law acts like a curb by reminding us to stop doing wrong things or hurting other people. Knowing the difference between right and wrong can give us a chance to do the right thing instead of the wrong thing. We can find out what is right or wrong by what the Bible says. Ask a volunteer to read the fourth paragraph.

ASK: How can we know what is right and what is wrong? The students may answer that their parents tell them or that their teacher does. Lead the conversation back to how those authorities who God has placed over them know right from wrong because of the Law God gave people—first the Ten Commandments to Moses for the people of Israel, but also that God's law is written in the Bible for all people. The apostle Paul said he wouldn't have known he was a sinner without

the law. Knowing that we are sinners is a very important thing for all of us to know.

We know what is right or wrong because God's Word tells us, just like a curb tells drivers they are going where they shouldn't.

Read the fifth paragraph. **ASK:** Why is that so important for us all to know when we have sinned? Because when we know that we have broken God's Law, we can be sorry and repent. We can confess our sins and God promises to forgive us because Jesus died to save us from our sins.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.


Red No, Green Go









Activity 1

Color the stoplight green if the statement is true and red if the statement is false.

Activity 1
RED NO, GREEN GO

Color the stoplight green if the statement is true and red if it is not true.



-  a. God's commandments are like a curb.
b. God's commandments are like a car.
-  a. God's commandment or Law tells us to help people around us.
b. God's commandment or Law tells us to hurt people around us.
-  a. Like a curb, the Law keeps us from doing what we should do.
b. Like a curb, the Law keeps us from doing what we should not do.
-  a. God's Word teaches us what is right and wrong.
b. God's Word does not teach us what is right and wrong.
-  a. When we do what we want instead of what God's Word teaches, we are like drivers not obeying the rules.
b. When we do what God's Word teaches instead of what we want, we are like drivers not obeying the rules.
-  a. When we break God's Law, we should avoid talking to God.
b. When we break God's Law, we can confess our sins.
-  a. God promises to forgive us if we confess our sins.
b. God does not promise to forgive us if we confess our sins.
-  a. God will not help us follow and obey His commandments.
b. God will help us follow and obey His commandments.

The Law is Good

Activity 2


Fill in the missing words in the boxes using the words at the bottom of the page.

Activity 2
THE LAW IS GOOD

The Bible and our catechism tell about three ways the Law benefits us. Review these three ways by filling in the blanks.

Hint: Counting the blank boxes will help you discover the correct words. One of the words will be used two times.

- The Law **P O I N T S** out to us our **S I N S** and the wrath of **G O D** toward **S I N**. (Romans 3:20b)
- The Law makes us **A N X I O U S** to **S E E K** Christ. (Galatians 3:24a)
- The Law **P O I N T S** out to the **B E L I E V E R** what **F R U I T S** his **F A I T H** must bear. (Psalm 119:105)



God's commandments are His instructions to us in the Bible. They teach us to understand right and wrong. When we sin by breaking God's commandments, we can ask Him to forgive us, and He will! We obey God's commandments because we love Him and want to honor Him.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray out loud if they choose. Tell them they can pray silently if they need to confess a sin. Remind God will hear these prayers and forgive. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 11

See the Truth

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: James 1:23-25

MEMORY VERSE: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24a

CATECHISM:

Q. #16 Of what benefit, then, is the Law?

1. It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin. Romans 3:20b For through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.
2. It makes us anxious to seek Christ. Galatians 3:24a The Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ.
3. It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear. Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know that the Law is meant to show us our sin and need for Christ.
- understand that we can never please God by keeping the Law.
- Learn that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

MATERIALS: Lessons with activity sheets. Have the memory verse written on the blackboard.

LESSON OVERVIEW: The second use of the Law is to show us our sin. God uses His perfect Law like a mirror that shows us our sin. Without a mirror we may think we look good, but we may not know if our faces are dirty, or our hair is a tangled mess. It is easy to think that we are doing just fine if we don't see our sin. We won't be sorry for sin if we don't see it. Being sorry is important because being sorry leads us to repent. When we repent, we will be forgiven. We can't fix our sin problem by trying harder never to do anything wrong again. We are sinners and can't be perfect by trying harder.

God knew we couldn't help ourselves. We needed a Savior who is *not* a sinner, someone who never sinned even once. That's why God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to be tempted to do wrong things, but never, ever sin.

Jesus did just that. He never sinned. Our sins deserved to be punished so Jesus took the punishment for our sins upon himself. Jesus loved us enough to give up His life to pay for our sin.

When we believe in Jesus, His obedience is counted as ours. Jesus died to pay for our sins. He cleaned up the mess we made. Jesus is the One who saves us.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Ask the students when they last looked at themselves in a mirror. Ask them if they were ever surprised by what they saw when they looked at their reflection? Have you ever made a mess that was too big for you to clean up by yourself? What shows us our sins so we will know we are sinners? What do we do when we see our sin?

ACTIVITY 1: 1.+ + - 2.- - + 3.+ - - 4.- + + 5.- + - 6.- + + 7.+ + - 8.+ + + +

ACTIVITY 2: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalms 119:105

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☑ Pray that God will help you to be an example of someone who uses the Law as a mirror.
- ☑ Pray that you will trust in God's grace whenever you're tempted to think your good works affect how you appear to God and other people.

Prepare Materials

- ☑ Activity sheets
- ☑ Lessons
- ☑ A mirror hung or placed at a height appropriate for the children.
- ☑ Write memory verse(s) on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about your personal needs.
- Ask him to show you yourself as if in a mirror. Take a good, honest look at your thought life and your actions. Repent and/or ask for help as needed.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children in your class by name. Ask God to help you be sensitive to each one's needs and to be used by God to help meet those needs.

Bible Background

James 1:23-25

We normally look in a mirror to see if we are "presentable." Maybe we want to cover some spots or smooth out some wrinkles to touch up our appearance. A mirror will only tell us what is on the outside—or how we appear to ourselves and the world. If that outward appearance is all we see, we haven't seen anything of lasting value. But mirrors do tell the truth, whether we like it or not.

James uses a common mirror to describe how God's word reveals our true nature. The scripture describes how a child of God should act and live, and the commandments were given to show the people how a righteous person should live, or how he should appear to the world. Some people look at the Law or other descriptions of Christian character and try to change their behavior to appear more Christlike, loving, kind, virtuous, holy, or whatever they think God wants to see. But the scripture first describes the deceit and evil of the human heart, things we cannot change. The Law must expose our "inward parts" so we can confront our sin and ask God to give us a new heart and a right spirit.

We often miss what we should see because first, we see our "natural" face. The Law reflects who we are and it is not pretty. We can't add make-up to cover the blemishes of our sinful nature or change the evil within the heart. When we only glance into the scripture we don't see all that we should see, or we see ourselves in a superficial way. We can glance through the scripture and think we look fine on the surface and don't need to make any major changes.

Second, we look away and are distracted. We can sit through a Bible lesson, then go out to work or play and forget what we've heard. A quick glance at the newspaper can tell us what is going on in our world, but we move on and forget what we read a minute ago. With God's word, a quick glance just will not do. If we are going to see our real selves there, we must take a good, hard, long look. A quick daily reading might satisfy our conscience and we might let it go at that. We need to

approach Scripture with the intent of seeing ourselves and our sin so that we also see the savior and God's grace for the sinner. It is the difference between looking at a picture versus an X-ray.

Third, we forget what we see. The less we think on a topic, the more easily we forget it. That is why we must keep God's word always before us. This is why we want to memorize scripture as a way of storing it up in our hearts so it is there to warn us when tempted or straying off the way of life. Even if we forget the words sometimes along the way, they are there when needed to be a light to our path. We tend to substitute reading for doing, and even talking for doing. When we are an active doer, James says, then we will be blessed.

People who are hearers only will deceive themselves, and self-deceit will lead to a bitter end. Looking at ourselves in God's word will set before us the corruption of our nature, the disorders of our hearts and lives; it will tell us plainly what we are. God's Law reveals the spots of our sins; the Gospel shows us that Christ's blood washes away and cleanses us of all sin.

A person can be looking at the perfect law of freedom and even have faith in Christ as savior, but cannot find assurance of salvation. He will continue to dwell on his spots and blemishes and impurities and be weighed down by guilt instead of receiving the true peace of forgiveness and resting in Christ alone. The Law will do its work to point out or sin, but it will also point us to Christ who has made atonement for all our sins so that we can live as a forgiven sinner because "having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God" (Rom 5:1,2; see also Eph 2:8).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

guardian: a person who helps teach and/or protect someone who is in their charge

justified: Jesus paid for our sins since we could not. He took the punishment we deserved so we could be made right with God.

wrath: God's anger at sin

anxious: concerned or worried about something that is happening or might happen.

tutor: A teacher who usually helps one or a few people understand what they need to know. A guide.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.
Open the class with prayer.

SHARING: Ask the students when they last looked at themselves in a mirror. Ask them if they were ever surprised by what they saw when they looked at their reflection. You can give an example of your own if they don't have anything to share yet.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalm 119:105*" Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Ten Commandments. Last week we learned about the Law being like something we see

every day. See if anyone remembers what that “something” was. (Answer: a curb). Ask them how God’s Law, the Ten Commandments, is like a curb.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

For fun, put a fake dirty spot on your face before the students arrive. Act normal as you greet the children. If any of the children comment on the dirty spot on your face, say, “Oh, I don’t think so!”, as if they are kidding or playing a trick on you. Use your judgment about how long to keep protesting that your face is clean—“I washed my face this morning” and “I’m sure I look just fine” are two possible responses. At some point say, “Maybe I should check to see if my face looks the way it should.” Use the mirror to see the spot and use a wipe or wet finger to clean it away.

Then, begin the lesson.

Read the Lesson

Read the opening paragraph. You can call back to your dirty face that you could deny until you saw it in the mirror.

Ask a student to volunteer to read the second paragraph.

God knows the truth about our sin, even when we don’t. We might think we are living a great life. Feeling good about ourselves does NOT mean we are doing well and obeying God. God’s Law shows us we are not good people living good lives. Trying to do better *does not* make us perfect. God said ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (paraphrased from Romans 3:23).

Read the third paragraph. **ASK:** Have you ever made a mess that was too big for you to clean up by yourself? **Say:** I know I have.

Say: God didn’t show us our sin so that we could clean up our lives. He knew we couldn’t clean up our lives. God showed us our sin so

we would turn to Jesus for forgiveness. Jesus is the one who washes away our sin. Jesus did what we could never do. **ASK:** Why? (because He loves us.)

Jesus has never sinned. He kept the Law perfectly. The Bible says when we believe in Jesus, His perfect obedience counts as our own.

ASK: What shows us our sins so we will know we are sinners? (The Law, The Ten Commandments, God’s Law). **ASK:** What do we do when we see our sin? (Ask Jesus to forgive us.) We can rejoice because Jesus forgives us. Jesus came to save sinners.

SAY: Let’s look at God’s Word says about that. Help the students find 1 Timothy 1:15 and ask if there is a volunteer to read it. “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among I am foremost of all.” Luke 19:10 says, “...the Son of Man (that’s Jesus) has come to seek and to save that which was lost. That was us. Sinners that God loves.

Let the Law show you your sin, so you can repent and be forgiven. Jesus wants to forgive.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Add (+) or Subtract (-)

Activity 1

Add the correct ending to each sentence. Put a + by correct endings and – by wrong ones. Some sentences may have more than one correct answer.

Activity 1
ADD (+) OR SUBTRACT (-)

Add the correct endings to each sentence. Put a + in front of the phrases that correctly complete the sentences. Subtract or take away the answers that are not correct by crossing them out. Some sentences may have more than one correct answer.

1. God's Law is like a
 curb.
 mirror.
 game.

2. God's Law helps us
 blame others when we do something wrong.
 obey God perfectly.
 see ourselves as we really are.

3. We break God's Law
 every day.
 about once a week.
 only once a year.

4. God's Law shows us
 we are good people.
 we do not need Jesus to save us.
 we are sinners.

5. I sin with my mouth when I
 praise God.
 make fun of a classmate.
 say kind things about others.

6. I sin with my actions when I
 help with chores at home.
 steal something that does not belong to me.
 hit someone when I am mad.

7. I sin with my mind when I
 hate someone and want to hurt him or her.
 feel jealous and want to steal a friend's toy.
 am thankful for God's gifts.

8. Worst of all, we all
 sin with our actions.
 sin with our minds.
 sin with our mouths.
 have sinful hearts.

Turn the Light On!

Activity 2

Follow the directions to decode the message and write it on the line.

Activity 2
TURN THE LIGHT ON!

Follow the instructions to discover a message from the Bible.

- Change each q to o.
- Change each x to m.
- Change each z to a.
- Change each k to t.
- Write the correct message on the lines.

Y q u r w q r d i s z

Your word is a _____

l z x p k q x y f e e k z n d

lamp to my feet and _____

z l i g h t k q x y p z k h.

a light to my path _____

P s a l m 1 1 9 : 1 0 5

Psalms 119:105

What is the light that teaches and guides us? _____

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Lesson 12

Follow the Word

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 119:102-105

MEMORY VERSE: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

CATECHISM:

Luther's Small Catechism:

Q. #16 Of what benefit, then, is the Law?

1. It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin (Romans 3:20b). For through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.
2. It makes us anxious to seek Christ (Galatians 3:24a). The Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ.
3. It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear (Psalm 119:105). Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- learn that God's law points out the fruits our faith will produce. God will always keep His promises.
- learn that God's Word lights our path.
- Learn that God's Law teaches us how to love God and how to love our neighbor.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: Have you ever been in a place so dark you could not see your hand in front of your face? Did you trip or bump into something? Or did you stay in one spot until a light came on? Maybe someone helped you. Maybe someone took you by the hand and led you to a place where there was some light. Sometimes the world seems like a dark place. There is sickness and sadness. Many people need our help. How do we know how to help them? How do we protect people and keep from hurting them? We do not have to figure this out on our own. God has given us a gift to help us. That gift is the Ten Commandments.

The First Table of the Law (the first three commandments) are about our relationship with God and the last seven commandments (The Second Table of the Law) are about how to treat other people both by helping them and by not hurting them. We need to know these things. The Law shows us how God wants us to lead our lives. The Ten Commandments are a guide to show us the way.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How do we know how to help people who need help? How can we keep from hurting other people? Does obeying the Ten Commandments make us Christians? What or Who does?

ACTIVITY 1: Drawing/writing activity- they will vary by student

ACTIVITY 2: Commandment order: 8, 4, 9, 7, 2, 10, 1, 6, 5, 3. Statement order: 3, 2, 9, 6, 1, 7, 4, 10, 8

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Read the Bible passages and the Bible Background as early in the week as possible.

☐ Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Lessons
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Wait upon the Lord in silence for a while.
- Then, talk to God about your personal needs. Lay them out before Him.
- Finally, thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class. Ask Him to bless each one, by name.

Bible Background

Psalm 119:102-105

When we travel to unknown and exotic places, it is often required that we have a guide, someone from that place who knows the way. There are many physical dangers found in nature all around us, but there are greater spiritual dangers that are not seen. If one drives off a new road in the dark, or steps into a small pit, some means of rescue might not be far away. But when stumbling blindly through the murky darkness of sin, there is greater danger—unless we have the “true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man” (Jn 1:9). God’s word is our light and our guide in the darkness.

The writer begins this section with a profound declaration: “O, how I love Your Law!” (119:97). Have you or anyone you know ever said that—with enthusiasm? His love for God’s word will guide him through the day, and all his ideas and decisions are considered in the light of God’s word, which is truth. The word of God enlightens him, making him wiser than his enemies (v.98). It is noted of David in 1 Samuel 18:14 that “David was successful in all his ways, for the LORD was with him.” As we grow and move on in life, schoolbooks and teachers are usually left behind for someone else to use, but through the scriptures we will become wiser than any of them (v.99). The Rabbinical writers disliked the idea of a scholar professing wisdom above his teachers, but God’s word has given him greater understanding and has restrained him (kept him) from evil ways (v.100,101).

God’s word keeps him pure for he has not turned away from the God who has taught him (v.102). He has not turned away from Godly wisdom which keeps him in check so that he does not fall into temptation and sin. A good example of this is Daniel who “made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank” (Dan 1:8). To the psalmist, all of God’s word becomes “sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Ps 119:103).

“From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way” (v.104). The more we meditate on God’s truth, the more clearly we can identify and define what is evil. The more we love the truth, the more we see the lie (of the devil). When we are surrounded by the moral and ethical corruption in our society, the more we hate it. We know God hates sin, therefore we must hate it. But the people who are being led into the darkness need to be loved and delivered through the gospel, the “power of God unto salvation” (Rom 1:16). That is done by God’s people walking in the light and the truth. Why should we not love Him and His word for that?

Through God’s precepts the writer gets understanding, a correct view of things. That would include a knowledge of God and of man and knowledge about the character of each, and knowledge of the destiny of man and of the way of salvation.

Having Godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding, he can say “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (v.105). Here “light” is another synonym for God’s word. Christians know where they are going and how to get there because God has shown them the way (see John 14:6). The “lost” are lost because they do not know the way and do not have the Light. They need God’s word to bring them out of darkness into light. Our study and meditation on God’s word are what keep us in the light, so we do not stray. As a lamp, it gives light to our feet, to each step. As a light it shines brighter and farther down the path so we can see where we are going. Even under grace, the Law shows us how to live and what fruit should be seen in our life. This becomes evident through the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Gal 5:22,23). This is possible only because only “those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal 5:24).

When the psalmist speaks of light for our path, it is not meant as merely convenient guidance for one’s career or direction of life. It speaks of God’s word, of truth and light, as the basis for our moral choices when faced with evil and darkness. The classic example of light from Scripture being used in a place of such choices is Jesus’ temptation (Mt 4) where He meets and defeats the devil using only the light and truth of God’s word.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

anxious: worried. To be uneasy or maybe a little bit scared about something

fruits: the outcome or results of someone’s work or actions

First Table of the Law: the first three Commandments, that are about our relationship with God.

Second Table of the Law: the last seven Commandments, which are about our relationships with other people

rightly: correctly, properly, justly

trusting: relying on, believing in, or placing our confidence in someone—in this case, God.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Ask them to think about any trip they may have taken.

Open the class with prayer.

SHARING: Ask what the children's families do when the power goes out.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105.” Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the uses of the Law, the previous 2 lessons have focused on The Law as a Curb and The Law as a Mirror. See if the students can remember two things The Law is compared to and why.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: Have you ever been in a place so dark you could not see your hand in front of your face? Did you trip or bump into something? Or did you stay in one spot until a light came on? Maybe someone helped you. Maybe someone took you by the hand and led you to a place where there was some light.

Read the Lesson

Begin by reflecting on the stories the children may have shared about the power going out or the very dark place they were in.

ASK: How do we protect people and keep from hurting them? Listen to the children's thoughts/ideas about this. Then, read the first paragraph.

The Ten Commandments can be thought about in two parts. The parts are called Tables and the Commandments stand on one of the two tables.

Read the second paragraph, or have a volunteer read it. **SAY:** The First Table of the Law is made up of the first three Commandments. All three of them tell us how we should relate to God. The Second Table of the Law is made up of the fourth through the tenth Commandments. These Commandments show us how to help people. We can help people by doing good and kind things for

them. We can also help people by not doing mean and hurtful things to them. **ASK:** How do we know how to help people who need help? Can you think of some of the kind things we can do for others? How about some of the bad things we should not do to other people? What could those things be?

Here's a question to think about—does keeping the Law/the Ten Commandments make us Christians?

Read the third paragraph. Being good, nice, and helpful is important. Your family is doing well to teach you how to behave, but no matter how hard we try, we can't be perfect. We are not saved by trying very hard to be good. We are saved because Jesus died to pay for our sins. We are saved by trusting in Jesus for our salvation. The Holy Spirit helps us follow Jesus and obey the Ten Commandments.

Read the last paragraph. We aren't lost and stumbling around in the dark. Jesus, our loving Savior, is the Light of the world. God's Word is a light unto our path. God loves us. He gave us the Ten Commandments so we could know right from wrong and He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us live a life that pleases Him.

Let's bow our heads and thank God for these wonderful gifts.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Word Web

Activity 1

Write or draw in each box what the Ten Commandments teach us.

Activity 1
WORD WEB

The Ten Commandments are a gift from God to teach us His will. Write words or draw pictures in the shapes around the center that describe what the Ten Commandments teach us.

God's Gift of the Ten Commandments

Ten Commandments Review

Activity 2

Number the commandments in the correct order, and draw a line to match each commandment with the best statement.

Activity 2
TEN COMMANDMENTS REVIEW

The Ten Commandments are all mixed up. Number them in the correct order. Draw a line to match each commandment with the best statement at the right.

8 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Go to church and hear God's Word.

4 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Respect God's name.

9 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Be content and thankful for what God has given you, including your home.

7 Thou shalt not steal. Husband and wife love and honor each other.

2 Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain. There is no one like the LORD our God.

10 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. Do not harm your neighbor, but help and befriend him.

1 Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Protect your friends and remember God will provide what you need.

6 Thou shalt not commit adultery. Obey your parents and do not talk back to them.

5 Thou shalt not kill. Do not take what belongs to others. Help your neighbors keep what belongs to them.

3 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Tell the truth and speak well of your neighbor.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.