

Lesson 7

God Is the True God

Bible Lesson: Exodus 24:12 – 25:22; 31:18 – 32:35

Memory Verse: “God is spirit; and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” *John 4:24*

Books of the Bible: Titus, Philemon

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ◆ that God is the only true God
- ◆ that God gave special laws called the Ten Commandments
- ◆ that it is sin to worship anything but God

Prepare Materials

- ◆ a few items from home that may be considered a “god” (books, clothes, toys, money)
- ◆ ingredients for salt clay: flour, salt, and water
- ◆ plastic knives, 1 per child
- ◆ bread slices with memory verse from last week’s lesson
- ◆ tag board strips for books of the Bible chart with the words Titus and Philemon
- ◆ “Stories About Moses” flannelgraph on A Church in the Wilderness

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Prayer Preparation

1. Thank God that He has guided man through the ages with His unchanging commandments.
2. Pray that the children would begin to understand that the Ten Commandments are good because they reveal the will of God for our lives.
3. Pray that the children would recognize their sin and their need for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Pray that the children would in faith receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, and say no to sin.

B. Bible Study

An old hymn of the church contains these lines of prayer: “Show me Thy truth, dear Lord... Show me myself, dear Lord.”

Salt Clay Recipe

1 cup salt
1 cup flour
½ cup cold water

Combine salt and flour. Add water, and mix well. Knead until smooth. Keep in refrigerator in a plastic container until ready to use.

Give each student a clump of clay. Have the students either **ROLL** the clay out flat or **PRESS** it flat with the heel of the hand. **SHAPE** the clay into a rectangle. Then **CUT** the flat piece of clay in half to form two tablets. On one tablet have the students write the numbers 1–5, and on the other tablet the numbers 6–10. Set the tablets aside to dry.

SAY: Today we will learn about when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were given as God's special laws for His people. God gave these commandments for our good. The Ten Commandments are a guide for us. They teach us that God wants us to worship Him only. They also teach us how to act and behave with our fellowman.

EXPLAIN: But sometimes we break God's commandments. We do not love God how we ought to or obey His commands. But God has sent Jesus to be our Savior. Because of Jesus, we can ask God to forgive us when we sin and break His commandments. God will help us to love Him and to obey His commandments.

STORY CENTER—A WILDERNESS CHURCH

SAY: God wanted the people to have a special place that they could worship Him. He gave Moses instructions for that place while Moses was on the mountain talking with God.

Use the flannelgraph figures from "Stories About Moses" on A Church in the Wilderness to tell the story.

When you are done with the story **SAY:** Today we have a special place where we worship God too. We call it church. When we come to church, we want to worship God and show reverence for Him by how we act and by what we say.

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE**Memory Verse**

Using the bread bag and slices from last week's lesson, **REVIEW** the memory verse. **PLAY** the game as you did then, allowing each child to **PICK** a slice from the bag.

Then have the class work together to organize the verse in the correct order. **READ** the verse together. **ENCOURAGE** each of the children to say the verse from memory.

Bible Story

SAY: In our story last week, the people of Israel forgot to trust God to provide for their needs. **ASK:**

- ◆ What were they complaining about? (they were hungry and wanted food to eat)
- ◆ Why is complaining wrong? (because it shows that we are not trusting God to care for us)
- ◆ What should we do instead of complaining? (tell God what our needs are and ask Him to provide for us)
- ◆ Did God provide for all of their needs? (yes)
- ◆ How did God provide for the Israelites in the wilderness? (God sent bread from heaven)
- ◆ Does God provide for all of your needs? (yes!)

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

REVIEW the new song of thanks that you learned last week, "Great God, We Praise Thy Gracious Care" (printed in student books and Teacher Manual). Remind the children that God is the only one who is able to provide for all our needs. Our greatest need is Jesus. Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior from sin!

Pray the Message

HELP the children calm themselves for prayer. Have them close their eyes and bow their heads. **PRAISE** God for His goodness and His love for each of us. **ASK** God to teach us how to worship Him rightly.

Learn the New Words

worship To praise, honor, and love someone or something more than anything else.

Ten Commandments Special laws given by God.

tabernacle A special place, like a tent, for the people of Israel to worship God.

Ark of the Covenant A special box which was to hold the Ten Commandments.

god An object that is worshiped instead of the true God; anything that is more important to us than the true God.

judgment To be held accountable or punished for your actions.

Introduce the Message

DISPLAY the "gods" that you have brought from home (an item of clothing, a toy, some money, a favorite book). Then **ASK**:

- ◆ What does it mean to worship? (to praise, honor, and love someone or something more than anything else)

- ◆ Do you think that these items are something that we should worship? (no, they may be important or special gifts; but God is the only one who should be worshiped, because He is the only true God)

SAY: Sometimes people do worship these kinds of things. If your money becomes more important to you than God, then you are worshipping your money. If your car or your toys become more important to you than God, then you are worshipping them. In the Bible, God tells us that we are to worship only Him. We are never to love anything else more than we love God.

SAY: In our story today, the people of Israel begin to worship something other than God. Let's read together and find out what it is.

Read/Tell the Message

Have your Bible open to Exodus 24. **ENCOURAGE** the children to read this text with a family member sometime this week.

TELL the children to open to Lesson 7. **READ** the title. Then **READ** through the story, having several children participate.

GOD IS THE TRUE GOD

While God's people were in the wilderness, God called Moses up on a mountain to meet with Him. Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days. There God gave Moses His special laws called the Ten Commandments. These Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God on two tablets of stone.

While Moses was on the mountain, God also showed him a plan to build a special place for the people of Israel to worship God. It was not a building like our churches. It was more like a tent, which could be taken down and moved from place to place as the people traveled. It was called the tabernacle. God

told Moses what materials to use and how big to make the tabernacle.

God also told Moses to build a special box and to cover it over with gold inside and out. God told Moses to put a cover of pure gold called the mercy seat on the top of the box. Two angels made of pure gold were to be on each end of the mercy seat facing each other. Their wings were to stretch upward and cover the mercy seat. Inside the box Moses was to put the Ten Commandments that God had given him on the mountain. This box was called the Ark of the Covenant.

God promised to meet the sons of Israel in this tent of meeting. He would speak to them from above the mercy seat. God said, "I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God."

Because Moses had been on the mountain with God for forty days, the people began to wonder what had happened to him. Was he ever coming back? Then the people did an awful thing. They asked Aaron to make them a god. So Aaron asked the people of Israel to bring him some of the gold jewelry they got from the Egyptians. Aaron used the gold to make a statue of a calf. Then the people said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

When Moses came back and saw the people worshiping the golden calf, he was very angry because of their sin. They were not worshiping the one true God. It is sin to worship anything but God. Many people died that day. God brought judgment against their sin.

Reinforce the Message

ASK the following questions:

- ◆ What happened to Moses while he was up on the mountain? (God gave Moses special laws called the Ten Commandments and showed him a plan to build a place for the people of Israel to worship God)
- ◆ How long was Moses on the mountain? (for 40 days)
- ◆ What did the people do while he was gone? (they asked Aaron to make them a god because they didn't think Moses was coming back)
- ◆ Was it wrong for them to do this? (yes)
- ◆ Why? (because they were not worshiping the true God)
- ◆ What did God do to punish their sin? (many people died because of their sin)
- ◆ Will God punish our sin? (if we do not ask Him to forgive us)
- ◆ How can we escape that punishment? (believe in Jesus as our Savior from sin and ask Him to forgive us; Jesus will forgive our sin when we ask Him to)

SAY: God has given us Jesus to be our escape from the punishment of sin. If we ask forgiveness for our sin, God will forgive us.

EXPLAIN: But God has also given special laws that He wants us to obey. God gave them because He loves us and wants to keep us from all sorts of trouble. One of these laws is to worship only Him. Many other things may be important to us, but God wants us to love Him more than anything else!

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize the Bible Verse

SING "*Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart*" to prepare for the Bible memory time.

To memorize the Bible verse, **PLAY** a listening game. Have the children **SIT** in a circle. Begin by whispering the first part of the verse (God is spirit) into a child's ear. Have that child **WHISPER** into the ear of the

child next to him and so on until the message has gone around the circle. The last child should **SAY** the message out loud. If the message has become scrambled, correct it so the children know what it should be. Then **WRITE** the correct message on the chalkboard.

CONTINUE with this game with the second section of the verse (and those who worship

Him) and with the third section (must worship in spirit and truth). Choose a different child each time that you begin whispering the phrase, so that a different child can begin and end the game.

When completed, the whole verse should be written on the chalkboard. Add the reference (John 4:24). **READ** the verse in unison several times.

GIVE the children an opportunity to say the verse alone. **ENCOURAGE** everyone to try.

Study the Books of the Bible

Make sure that the wall chart for the books of the Bible is ready before class begins. Also have the tag board strips made for Titus and Philemon.

SAY: Today we will learn the last two of **Paul's Epistles**. Can you remember how many there are altogether? (13) What does the word *epistles* mean? (letters) Let's review all of Paul's Epistles that we have learned so far. (Give the children some time to name as many of them as they can. Help as needed.)

Then **SAY:** The next book is the book of **Titus**. This book is similar to the letters Paul sent to Timothy. It is written to Paul's friend and helper, Titus. Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete to look after the churches there for a time. This letter gives directions to Titus concerning the work and teaching among these churches.

The last of Paul's Epistles is the book of **Philemon**. Philemon is a short letter written by the Apostle Paul to his friend, Philemon, who lived in Colossae. Philemon had a slave named Onesimus who had run away to Rome. Onesimus was not a Christian, but while he was in Rome he heard Paul preach and became a Christian. Onesimus was going to return to his master, and Paul wrote this little letter for Onesimus to give to Philemon. Paul asks Philemon to be kind to Onesimus and to treat him like a beloved brother.

ADD the tag board strips for Titus and Philemon to the books of the Bible chart. **SING** "The Books of the Bible" song as you review all the books you have learned so far.

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 – Story Review

SAY: God is the true God. He alone is worthy of our worship and praise. The people in our story today asked Aaron to make them another god to worship.


TELL the students to look at the two pictures on the activity page. **EXPLAIN** that the golden calf was the false god that the people of Israel began to worship. The two tablets of stone remind us of the Ten Commandments that were given to Moses by the one true God.

Review the story with the students, helping the students **DECIDE** which word completes the sentence best.

1. forty
2. Ten
3. gold
4. Moses
5. angry
6. judgment
7. only

Lesson 7 – Activity 1

God Is the True God



1. Moses was on the mountain with God for _____ days.


2. God wrote the _____ Commandments on two tablets of stone.

3. God told Moses to build a special box called the Ark of the Covenant and to cover it with pure _____.

4. The people thought _____ was not coming back, so they made a golden calf to worship.

5. When Moses came back, he was very _____ because of the sin of the people.

6. God brought _____ against their sin.



7. God wants us to _____ worship Him.

ACTIVITY 2 – Worship the True God

Moses climbed the mountain to be with God. He talked with God and listened to what God had to tell him. This is when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

Using a crayon or marker, help the students **FIND** the way through the maze from Moses to the top of the mountain.

As the children are working, talk about worshipping the true God. **SAY:** We worship God when He is the most important thing in our **hearts**. When He is most important, we will want to thank Him and praise Him every day because we love Him and He is the only true God. We can spend time every day listening and talking with Him by reading the Bible and praying. Then we will grow to know and love Him more and more.

Have the students repeat the memory verse for you until they are all able to say it on their own.

*“God is spirit; and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
John 4:24*

Lesson 7 – Activity 2

God Is the True God



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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR**Teach and Sing**

Sing together the first two verses of the theme hymn, *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”* Emphasize again that God is the true God. He has power over all things. He never changes and is always faithful to provide and care for our needs.

Add the third verse today of *“Savior, Teach Me, Day by Day”* (printed in student books and Teacher Manual).

*Teach me thus Thy steps to trace,
Strong to follow in Thy grace;
Learning how to love from Thee,
Loving Him who first loved me.*

Sing one phrase at a time, and ask the children to repeat it after you. Then sing the first three verses together prayerfully.

EXPLAIN that God will help us to obey the Ten Commandments. God will help us to love Him and to love others.

Pray Together

REMIND the children what it means to worship. **ASK** them to share ways that they can worship. One of those ways would be to pray. Have each child think of one thing to **PRAISE** God for. Help them think of things about the character of God Himself such as He is loving, kind, good, faithful, powerful, and gracious. Have the children pray out loud.

CLOSE with the Lord’s Prayer.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK**Gather and Prepare Materials**

- ◆ items from last week's lesson that could be "gods" (books, clothes, toys, money)
- ◆ "Stories About Moses" flannelgraph on Moses and Joshua
- ◆ large stone, 1 per child
- ◆ permanent marker
- ◆ snack foods such as grapes, crackers, honey, and milk
- ◆ index cards
- ◆ large covered box
- ◆ straws, 2 per child
- ◆ tag board strips for books of the Bible chart with the words Hebrews and James
- ◆ map of The Holy Land or Middle East

Prepare Lesson 8

Begin your study and preparation with prayer.

Pray for each student daily by name.

Read the Bible text (Joshua 1,3,4) and student lesson.

Memorize the Bible verse:

"Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Read the Teacher Manual.

Highlight, underline, and write in your own notes to help you teach Lesson 8.