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Additional Resources

Available at ResourceWell.org under Other Resources

Audio

Commandments One Thru Ten (with vocals)

Yahweh Every Day: Love the Lord Your God (with vocals)

Yahweh Every Day: Love the Lord Your God (without vocals)

Video:

Yahweh Every Day: Love the Lord Your God (with vocals)

Yahweh Every Day: Love the Lord Your God (without vocals)

This study assists in the understanding, application and memorization of the Ten Commandments located in Exodus 20:1-17.

Materials include an explanation, craft, game, song, bookmark, and certificate of memorization. While designed for children ages 6-12, discussions and activities can be adapted to other age levels.

For related materials, including a study of the Bible stories surrounding God's sending of the Ten Commandments, see
The Worship, The Word & The Way,
Year 1, God of Wonders: Lesson 44.



Teacher's Guide

Ten Commandments Challenge

Aim: To understand, apply and memorize the Ten Commandments.

PREPARE: Display the Ten Commandments poster. Print one copy per student of "What Does It Say? What Does It Mean?" Print a Ten Commandments Bookmark for each student.

SUPPLIES: Bible(s), Songs: "Commandments 1-10" and "Yahweh Every Day: Love the Lord Your God," craft and game supplies (See game and craft instructions.)

WELCOME

As students arrive, play SONGS: "Commandments 1-10" and "Yahweh Every Day: Love the Lord Your God."

Seat students in a circle. Have the students introduce themselves if they don't know each other.

What are the first things you think of when you hear "The Ten Commandments"?

READ GOD'S LAW FOR US

Thousands of years ago, God gave Moses ten commandments to give to the Israelites as His law. Have a volunteer read Exodus 20:1-17.

Nearly 1500 years after God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments, Jesus explained why He came to earth. Have a volunteer read Matthew 5:17.

Jesus gave us two greatest commandments that summarize the ten which God gave to Moses. Have a volunteer read Matthew 22:37-39.

If you obey these two commandments that Jesus taught us, you will also be obeying the Ten Commandments. What is the first commandment Jesus gave? (Love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind.) **What is the second commandment Jesus gave?** (Love your neighbor as yourself.) **Who is our neighbor?** (Everyone in the world.)

DISCUSS WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

Give each student a copy of "What Does It Say? What Does It Mean?"

As volunteers read each line, ask students to explain what each commandment means to them personally.

Which of the Ten Commandments is easiest for you to obey? Why?

Which is most challenging for you to obey? Why?

How are each of the commandments connected to the two greatest commandments?

GAME: TEN COMMANDMENTS CONNECTION

MEMORIZE Choose one or more of the following activities.

CRAFT: TEN COMMANDMENTS SCROLL

Optional: Play SONG: "Commandments 1-10" as students work.

SONG: Play "Commandments 1-10." Have the students work together to create hand motions for each commandment. Practice the song using those hand motions.

PRACTICE PARTNERS: Assign each student a partner. Have partners work together to help one another memorize the Ten Commandments.

10 COMMANDMENTS CHALLENGE:

1. Using the Ten Commandments poster, have students recite the commandments together. Turn over or cover the poster.
2. Individually or with a partner, have students take turns reciting the Ten Commandments from memory.
3. Present the Ten Commandment Challenge Certificate to each student who recites all of the Ten Commandments from memory. (If there are time constraints, you may prefer to set a future date for a Ten Commandment Challenge Celebration where you will present certificates to those who can recite the Ten Commandments from memory. Invite guests, serve snacks, and celebrate!)

CLOSING

PRAYER: Lead a prayer asking God to help each student love God and one another by obeying the Ten Commandments.

TAKE-HOME: Invite students to keep the Ten Commandments Bookmark in their Bibles or journals to remind them of the Ten Commandments God has given to us.



What does it say? (Exodus 20:1-17)	What does it mean?
1. You shall have no other gods before me.	Believe in the one true God.
2. You shall not bow down to idols or worship them.	Make God the most important one in your life. Put Him first before any favorite activity, belonging, friendship, and even before yourself.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.	Always speak respectfully and truthfully when you use the names "God" or "Jesus." Do not use His name in swearing or cursing. Only use His name when you are talking to Him in prayer or about Him to others.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.	Always take a day each week to rest and worship God in a special way by attending church, worshiping God with other Christians, and participating in other activities that honor Him. In everything you do that day, keep your mind on God. Think about who He is and what He has done for you and your family.
5. Honor your father and mother.	Obey your parents. Respectfully, talk to them and about them, no matter what.
6. You shall not murder.	Do not kill anyone. Jesus teaches us to never hurt or hate others.
7. You shall not commit adultery.	Stay pure and faithful to your husband or wife.
8. You shall not steal.	Do not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony.	Do not tell a lie.
10. You shall not covet.	Do not want something that belongs to someone else.



GAME: TEN COMMANDMENTS CONNECTION

Purpose: To help students remember the Ten Commandments by sorting them into two categories.

Supplies: Copy of "What Does It Say? ~ What Does It Mean?" (list of the Ten Commandments with an explanation of each), two pieces of poster board or large paper

Prepare: Print **LOVE THE LORD** on one poster board and **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR** on the other. Post the LOVE THE LORD poster at one end of the play area and the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR poster at the other end of the play area.

Let's see if you can figure out how Jesus' two commandments connect best with the Ten Commandments. I will say one of the Ten Commandments. If you think obeying that commandment means you are also obeying Jesus' command to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind; go and stand under the LOVE THE LORD poster. If you think that commandment will help you love your neighbor as yourself, go and stand under the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR poster.

Directions:

1. Read one of the Ten Commandments (out of order).
2. Children run to the LOVE THE LORD poster if the commandment connects best with "Love the Lord..." or to the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR poster if it connects best with "Love your neighbor..."
3. Discuss each choice and the suggested connections* below. There may be more than one correct choice for each commandment. *Suggested connections: Commandments 1-4 connect best with "Love the Lord..." and Commandments 5-10 connect best with "Love your neighbor..."
4. Repeat steps 1-3 until all of the Ten Commandments have been discussed.



CRAFT: TEN COMMANDMENTS SCROLL

Purpose: To learn the Ten Commandments, students will create an ancient paper scroll.

Supplies: For each student (standard-size sheet of white paper, ribbon, piece of sponge), for the group (12 teabags, 1 1/2 quarts of hot water, bowls, napkins or paper towels)

Prepare: For younger students or if your time is limited, you may choose to print the Ten Commandments onto white paper before class. Older students may hand write the commandments on blank paper. Mix 12 tea bags with 1 1/2 quarts of hot water. Allow the mixture to cool. Pour tea water in bowls for the students to use.

Directions:

1. Give each student a copy of the Ten Commandments on a sheet of white paper or have students write the commandments on blank paper.
2. Tear the edges of the paper so it looks old and worn.
3. Crumple and then flatten the paper to create a wrinkled effect.
4. Dip a sponge into the tea water and squeeze out any excess water.
5. Lightly dab the tea stain onto the paper.
6. Allow the paper to dry.
7. Once the paper is dry, roll it as a scroll and tie it with a ribbon.

Sample:

