

GOD COMMANDS US TO BE HOLY

FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY - GOD GIVES THE LAW

BIG TRUTH: GOD COMMANDS US TO BE HOLY

Exodus 19:4-6; Leviticus 19:1-2, 20:22-24; Deuteronomy 7:6; Matthew 5:48; Romans 12:1-2;
1 Thessalonians 4:1-5; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:9-12

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 1:16; LEVITICUS 11:44

"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

BIG IDEAS

- We must be holy because God is holy.
- Do not have other gods besides God.
- Do not make fake gods.
- Do not misuse God's name.
- Keep the Sabbath day holy. Rest and worship God.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 20:1-11

God commands His people to be holy because He is holy. God requires His people to be what He is---holy. God gave His people the law so that they might know how to be holy and that they can't be holy apart from Him. The Ten Commandments serve as a snapshot of God's law which shows every person his or her need of a savior. The law is good and right, yet there is no man or woman who can keep the whole law in his or her own power. The law reveals the character of God and what God requires of His people. Most importantly, it shows man his desperate need of a savior.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY - GOD GIVES THE LAW

God is holy. This means that He is separate from all of creation. There is nothing like Him in existence and nothing that can even be compared to Him. He is complete, perfect, and separate in every single way possible. God commands that His people are to "be holy just as He is holy." In our own imperfection, there is no way we can be holy, but in God's grace He gave His people the law. The law points us to who God is, our need for Him, and that our only hope to become holy like God is through the shedding of innocent blood on behalf of the guilty.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- God is perfect and holy
- The Ten Commandments



Every child should:

- Define "good" by God's standard



Every child should feel:

- Incapable of being holy on their own



Every child should want to:

- To be holy because God is holy

FAMILY DEVOTION:

GOD IS HOLY AND WE SHOULD BE, TOO!

God is holy. Everything that He does is good and right and without sin. He is holiness, itself. Man is not holy and cannot be holy apart from God, yet God commands His people to be holy. His people can be holy and should seek to be holy by seeking to know God and to be like God. God sets the standard for man's holiness.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44

"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

God is holy and commands His people to be holy.

- God's example guides us in how to be holy.
- God's law sets the standard for our holiness and shows us what is expected of us.
- God's law reveals our own inability to be holy in our own power.
- God is holy in and of Himself, but we cannot be holy apart from God.

God's holiness enables us to be holy.

- We cannot be holy in our own power.
- God's holiness and perfection make a way for us to be holy.
- God's holiness sets the standard for our own holiness.
- We cannot meet this standard on our own.

God's holiness makes a way for us to be holy.

- God sent His holy Son to enable us to be holy.
- God's law reveals how we fail to be holy and are in need of a savior.
- Though we fail, God prevails and makes a way for us to be holy through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Those who believe in Jesus Christ can be holy.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 20:1-11*The Ten Commandments*

Supporting Scripture: Leviticus 11:44; Matthew 22:37; Mark 2:27.

Teacher Introduction:

As God called the Israelites out of Egypt and began leading them to the Promised Land, He gave them the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments, or God's laws were a way to show God's people how to live for Him. They showed His people of their need for a savior because man cannot keep the whole law in his own power. The Ten Commandments are also a picture of who God is and His own holiness. God perfectly keeps the law with ease because He is holy. God's people cannot keep the law in their own power. They are in need of a savior and the law reveals this. God commands His people to be holy like He is and then He prepares a way for them to obey His command. The Ten Commandments are a great example of God's mercy on His people as He reveals Himself to them and points them to their savior, His Son.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *The Ten Commandments*. The five points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Exodus 20:1-11 and teach the narrative: *The Ten Commandments*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *The Ten Commandments*.

Opening Illustration:

Make a few road signs, such as a stop sign, a yield sign, a caution sign, etc. Show them to the children and help them identify what each sign is for. Lead them in a discussion about how the road signs help us know how to drive safely and they tell us where to go.

- These road signs are important if we are going to drive safely on roads.
- They are important, too, to help us know how to get to certain places.
- God's law is like these road signs. It helps us know what God requires of us and it shows us that we need His Son, Jesus Christ.

BIG IDEA: WE MUST BE HOLY BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY.¹**God's holiness requires us to be holy.**

- We were created for a relationship with God, but our sin broke this relationship.
- God is holy and our sin nature means that we aren't holy; therefore, we must seek to be holy like God.
- To be in relationship with God, we must seek to be holy.
- God's holiness is the standard that we must meet, but we can't do that in our own power.

God commands us to be holy like He is.

- We must be holy because God is holy.
- Our response to God's command should be obedience.
- To obey God, we must know God's Son who makes us holy through His life, death, and resurrection.
- We can't be holy in our own power, we need the power of Jesus Christ to be holy.
- Without a relationship with Jesus, we can't be holy like God is holy.

BIG IDEA: DO NOT HAVE OTHER GODS BESIDES GOD.**God is number one.**

- He is the only true God. There are no others.
- We should not seek after other false gods or believe in other gods.
- God is the only god we should believe in because He is the only true God.
- God commands us to make Him number one in our lives.



Help the children make a list of what it means to be "holy". Write their responses on the board. Remind them that God is holy and He wants us to be like Him.

God is the only true god.

- We should only believe in the true God because He created us and He is worthy of our worship.
- We should make God number one in our hearts because He alone is God.
- We should not believe in other gods because this dishonors God.

Who is the only true god? (God is the only god. There are no others.)

Why should God be number one in our hearts? (He is our Creator and He is worthy of our devotion.)

1. Leviticus 11:44: God is holy and He commands His people to be holy like He is. He gives the law to show His people how they must be holy and to point them to their need of a savior.

BIG IDEA: DO NOT MAKE FAKE GODS.**God is the only true god.**

- We should not make other gods or make other things that replace God.
- We should always keep God first in our hearts.²
- When we make other gods, we are showing that we do not believe God when He says He is the only true god.

We should not worship false, or fake gods.

- God should always be first in our hearts.
- We should not worship or praise any other fake god.
- We seek to be holy when we don't worship fake or false gods.

BIG IDEA: DO NOT MISUSE GOD'S NAME.**God is the one true God who deserves our respect.**

- God is holy and we are not. He is greater than we are and wiser than we are.
- He commands our respect because He is the creator and ruler of everything.
- We cannot know God's thoughts and we must show Him respect by not misusing His name.

God's ways are higher than ours and He is mightier than we are.

- God is worthy of our respect and reverence.
- He is mightier than we are and His ways are greater than ours.
- We should show Him respect by speaking of Him and about Him respectfully.
- We show disrespect when we use God's name casually or without the reverence and awe that He deserves.
- We should not speak for God or think we know what God thinks beyond what is in His Bible.



Help the children understand that they should speak about God with respect and reverence by singing praise songs with them. An example is "Our God" by Chris Tomlin.

Why should we not make false gods? (There is only one God and He should be number one in our hearts.)

Why should we not misuse God's name? (He is creator of all things and rules over all things and He is worthy of our respect.)

2. Matthew 22:37: There is no one greater than God and no one who should hold a place of greater importance in our hearts and lives than God.

BIG IDEA: KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY, OR SET APART FROM OTHER DAYS.³**God established the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship.**

- We should remember and follow God's example of working six days and resting on the seventh when He created the world.
- We should not overlook the value of resting and worshipping God.
- God knows better than we do and when He establishes the importance of setting aside a day to rest and worship, we should listen and obey.



Help the children practice keeping the Sabbath holy by bringing in some blankets and pillows and toys that promote quiet play. Lead the children in "resting" and worshipping God by singing praise songs.

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

- God shows us how to order our weeks by establishing a day of rest.
- The Sabbath is intended to enable us to glorify God by relying on Him through rest.
- When we rest and choose to set aside a day to worship God, we reveal our trust that He controls all things.
- His ways are best and we should do as He did and as He commands us to do.

We show our obedience and trust of God when we obey His command to keep the Sabbath holy.

- Our obedience to God's commands shows that we love Him and trust Him.
- When we can set aside a day to rest and worship Him, we show that we are not relying upon our own power, but upon God's.
- When we give up a day of doing what we like or what our jobs require of us, we show that God is more important to us.
- When we keep the Sabbath holy, we show that we are set apart for God and that He has the right place in our hearts.

What does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy? (It means to set it apart from other days, to make it about resting and worshipping God.)

3. Mark 2:27: *The Sabbath is not for man to keep for the sake of keeping it. It is intended to give man rest and to help him focus on the one true God.*

HOOKS

**Don't Misuse God's Name**

Bring in two breakable items, such as a small mirror or plastic cups. Show the children the two items.



- What are these items? (They are mirrors or cups---name whatever the items are.)
- What are they used for? (They are used to drink or look at our reflections.)



Squeeze the plastic cup until it breaks or hit the mirror until it cracks. Show them to the children.

- What's happened to our item? (It's not as useful or broken now.)
- This is what happens when we misuse God's name. When we say things about God or talk about God without respect, we are distorting who He is to the world.
- God is worthy of our respect and we should only use His name with great respect.

**God Is Holy So We Should Be Holy**

Bring in a plastic bowling ball and several empty water bottles. Number the water bottles 1-4 and then set them up like bowling pins. Take turns bowling with the children. When a bottle is knocked down, say the commandment out loud.

- God gave these commandments so we'd know how to be holy like He is holy.
- It's important for us to be holy like God because He wants us to be.

No Other Gods

Bring in a box of crayons. Remove all the yellow crayons except for one. Ask the children to sort the crayons according to color and size if there are different sized crayons. The yellow crayon should be in a group by itself.

- Of all the crayons we have, there is only one yellow crayon.
- God is like the yellow crayon---there is only one God.
- We shouldn't try to make other gods or put other things before God.
- He's number one and should always be number one in our hearts.