

GOD GIVES US HIS LAW

FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY - GOD GIVES THE LAW

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES US HIS LAW

Exodus 24:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:1; Joshua 1:7-8; Psalm 19:7-11; 119:92-93,105; Ezekiel 20:11; Romans 3:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 John 5:3

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

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

BIG IDEAS

- The law is a gift from God, not a burden.
- Honor your father and mother.
- Do not murder.
- Keep your marriage promises.
- Do not steal or take what is not yours.
- Do not make up lies about others for your own benefit.
- Do not want what others have.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 20:1-17

God's commandments are given to His people to help them, not to be a burden. God's commandments are a gift to all people because they point people to Jesus, God's Son and they show just how much people need God. No person is able in his or her own power to perfectly obey all of God's commands, but with the power of Jesus, he or she can. These commands are helpful to each person and are a gift from God. As God's people, we have a responsibility to obey God's commands and to seek help from Him when we struggle with them.

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'S LAW IS A GIFT

God's law is not a burden to His people. In His great love, He chose to show people their need for a savior. His law is a gift because it shows people how to obey God. If we did not have the law, we would not know of our great need for God.

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

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

God commands His people to dedicate themselves to holiness.

- God is always holy and will always be holy.
- We are commanded to be holy like God is holy.
- We must set ourselves apart from sinful things in order to be holy.
- We must seek out holiness by seeking to be like God.

God's law reveals that we can't be holy without God.

- God gave the law to show us our need for Him.
- We cannot keep the law perfectly by ourselves.
- We need God in order to be holy like He is.
- The law shows us how much we need Him.

The Holy God enables us to be holy.

- We are seen as holy when we place saving faith in Jesus.
- It is the holiness of God that makes us holy.
- Without God, we cannot be holy.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 20:1-17*The Ten Commandments*

Supporting Scripture: 1 John 5:3; Ephesians 6:1; Hebrews 13:4

Teacher Introduction:

God's law is a gift to all people because it shows just how much people need Him. His law is not a burden. The law showed the Israelites how to live lives that glorified God and it shows people now how to glorify God. Most importantly, it shows people how much they aren't able to keep the law in their own power. All people will fail at keeping the whole law; no one can keep it completely because of our sin natures. God gave the law to show people their need of a savior and then He sent the Savior to pay the sin debt of the world. This is God's gift to the world.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *The Ten Commandments*. The seven points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Exodus 20:1-17 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:

Write the Ten Commandments on individual pieces of paper or cards and put them in a box. Wrap the box to look like a gift. Show the children the gift and tell them you have something for them. Let them open the gift and pull out the cards.

- These cards have the Ten Commandments on them. (Read the Ten Commandments to the children. Encourage them to say them with you.)
- These are a gift from God. They are His law. His law helps us know how to please Him and they show us how much we need Jesus.

BIG IDEA: THE LAW IS A GIFT FROM GOD, NOT A BURDEN.**God gave the Ten Commandments to help us.¹**

- The law helps us see how we fall short or how we don't do the things we should.
- It points us to our need for Jesus who paid our sin debt.
- It shows us our lack of holiness and our need for God's gift of salvation.

The law is good and right.

- God's law is good and helpful to man.
- It is just and right and it shows us how to live.
- God's law is not a burden because God is just and good and everything that God does and gives is good.
- God gives good gifts and His law is a good gift.

The law is a gift from God.

- The law shows us our need for God.
- It points us to our need of a Savior and this is a gift from God.
- The law reveals our inability to save ourselves because no one can keep all of the law in his or her own power.
- The law is a gift because God could have allowed us to stay in our sin, but He didn't. He gave us the law to show us how much we need Him.



Play a game of "Simon Says" with the children. Allow them to take turns being Simon. After a few rounds of the game, talk with them about how hard it can be to do what we're supposed to do even though we know we should.

Why did God give us the law? (He gave us the law to show us our need of His Son, Jesus.)
Why is the law a gift? (It is a gift because it shows us that we need Jesus.)

1. 1 John 5:3: God's commands to His children are not a burden because we love God. Obeying God is easy when we love God and want to please Him.

BIG IDEA: HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.**God created us to be part of a family.**

- God made fathers and mothers the leaders of the family.
- God is the leader of fathers and mothers and He wants every child to be obedient to their parents.²
- We can honor God by respecting our parents or treating them kindly and obeying them.

Our fathers and mothers are given to us by God.

- God created family and He gave family to His people.
- God puts us in families to show Himself to the world.
- When we obey and respect our father and mother, we glorify God.
- When we honor our parents, we show that we trust God's ways more than our own ways.

We show the world a picture of who God is when we honor our parents.

- When we obey our parents, we show that we believe God's plan for people to be in families is a good plan.
- When we respect our parents, we show that we trust God's plan for His people and we glorify Him.



Hide pieces of paper with pictures of different ways we can honor our parents around the room. Let the children hunt for the papers and once they've found them all, talk with them about how they can honor their parents by doing the activities.

Why should we obey our parents? (When we obey our parents, it shows that we respect them.)

2. Ephesians 6:1: God's created order established that parents would be the heads of their children and that children should submit and obey their parents. Children honor their parents by submitting to them.

BIG IDEA: DO NOT MURDER.³**God is the creator of all life.**

- We should not take another person's life because we are not the creator of life.
- Life is special and important to God and it should be to us, too.
- We should value every person's life just as God values life.
- Since we are not the creator of life, we do not get to take someone's life.

We should acknowledge the sovereignty or right to rule that God has since He created all life.

- When we value all life, we show that we value God's creation.
- When we value man, we show that we recognize God as the creator of life.
- We should submit to God as the creator and sustainer of all life.

BIG IDEA: KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE PROMISES.⁴**God commands His people to be faithful.**

- God is faithful and true to His people.
- He wants His people to be faithful and true also.
- We should be like God and seek to be faithful to each other.
- God keeps His promises and we should keep our marriage promises.

A husband and wife promise to be faithful to one another.

- They should keep their promise to each other because God sets the example of keeping promises.
- When a husband and wife keep their marriage promises, they honor God and show the world God's character.

Why should we value all life? (We should value life because God created life and He values life.)

Why should we keep our marriage promises? (God keeps His promises and we should keep our marriage promises because we should be like God.)



Bring in a family picture album and show it to the children. Talk with them about your family members and how much they mean to you. Next, help the children think of their own family members who mean a lot to them. Talk about how they would feel if someone hurt their family and how we should not hurt other people or take other people's lives because God tells us not to.

3. Romans 1:20: God is the creator of all things and He rules over them. His creation shows Himself to the world.

4. Hebrews 13:4: Committing adultery is against God's commands and brings dishonor to Him. He commands His people to keep their marriage vows and to be faithful.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY - GOD GIVES THE LAW
GOD GIVES US HIS LAW**BIG IDEA: DO NOT STEAL, OR TAKE WHAT IS NOT YOURS.**

We should glorify God by not taking what isn't ours.

- God provides for His people and we should show our trust in His provision.
- He gives His people all that they need and then even beyond that.⁵
- When we steal, we show a lack of trust and submission to God.
- When we take what isn't ours, we are not loving people like God commands us to.
- We honor and glorify God by being satisfied with all that He has provided for us.

BIG IDEA: DO NOT MAKE UP LIES ABOUT OTHERS FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT.

God does not lie or make up things about people to benefit Himself.

- We should be like God and seek to be honest.
- We shouldn't desire to see others hurt by making up things.
- We should submit to God's justice and His control over all situations.
- We should not lie so that we are made to look good and others are made to look bad.

When we make up lies about other people, we are dishonoring God.

- We are commanded to love people and when we make up lies about them, we aren't loving them.
- We should seek to glorify God by always telling the truth and not making up things about other people.

*Why should we not take something that belongs to someone else?
(God provides all that we need and it dishonors God if we steal.)*

Why should we not make up stuff about other people? (We should not lie because God does not want us to lie.)



Have one child stand in front of the room. Lead the other children to describe the child in front of the room in ways that aren't true, such as the child is very, very tall, has on a different color shoes than what he or she has on, and so forth. Let the children take turns being described. Lead them in a discussion about how it feels to have people say things that aren't true or right about them. Remind them that we shouldn't make up things about other people because it's not honoring to God.

5. Philippians 4:19: God gives His people all that they need and then some. There is no need to steal what others have because God faithfully provides for His children.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY - GOD GIVES THE LAW
GOD GIVES US HIS LAW**BIG IDEA: DO NOT WANT WHAT OTHERS HAVE.**

God gives His people everything they need and we should be satisfied or happy with what God provides for us.

- We should accept what God has given us and not be jealous of others.
- We should not desire to have what others have.
- We also shouldn't be angry or jealous of someone who has something we really want.
- We should submit to God's rule over our life and choose to be content with what He has given us.

When we are content or happy with what God has given us, we show that we trust God.⁶

- God is a good Father who loves us very much. He does not withhold any good thing from us.
- When we get jealous of other people and the stuff they have, we show that we don't trust God to give us what we need.
- When we get angry because someone has something that we don't have or something we really want, we show that we think God is unfair.
- When we think God is unfair, we are dishonoring Him and we are showing that we think we know more than God knows.



Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a out loud to the children. Lead them in acting out the different things that love is not. For example, for "Love is patient" sit in a chair and ask the children to all try to climb onto your lap. As they do, gently stop them. Talk with them about how we should not be jealous of others because we aren't acting in a loving way when are.

Why does it dishonor God when we get jealous of other people? (It dishonors God because it shows that we think God is wrong.)

6. Philippians 2:3: *We should live lives that are free of jealousy and deceit. We should not desire what others have, nor should we make up things about others because this does not glorify God.*

HOOKS**God's Commands Aren't A Burden**

Bring in two small backpacks—one should be filled with heavy objects and one with light objects. Let the children take turns wearing the two backpacks and deciding which one is easier to wear and which is harder.



- The heavy backpack would be hard to wear all day, wouldn't it? (Lead them to understand that the heavy backpack would get really heavy if they had to wear it all day and all night.)
- The light backpack wouldn't be heavy at all. This backpack represents God's commands to us. They aren't a burden like the heavy backpack; they are easy like the light backpack.
- When we love God and want to please Him, His commands are not a burden to us.

**The Law Is A Gift From God**

Number six pieces of paper with the numbers 5-10 to represent the last six commandments. Tape them to the floor. Take turns tossing a beanbag and saying the command that the beanbag lands on. Lead them in a discussion about how God's law is a gift to us, not a burden.



- Each of these commands is a gift from God.
- They teach us how to live in peace with one another and they show us how to glorify God.
- They are God's gift to us.

Honor Your Father And Mother

Play a game of musical chairs with the children. The child who is left without a chair when the music stops gets to say a way they can show honor to their parents, such as "I can pick up my toys when they ask me to" or "I can do what they ask without complaining."