

## Lesson

# 1

# Rule: Put God First!

### BIBLE BASIS

God commands people to love Him above all else (Exod. 20:3; Deut. 6:5). A rich young man loves his riches more than he loves God (Matt. 19:16-22).

### BIBLE TRUTH

God's rules say that there is one God, whom we should love above all else.

### MEMORY VERSE:

"Love the Lord your God with all of your heart." Matthew 22:37

### LESSON AIM

That your students will want to put God first.

## 1

### LIFE NEED (5–10 MINUTES)

**Use a sorting activity to discuss one way of showing love for God.**

- Materials: "Give to God," "Save," and "Spend" signs—prepare before class; precut strips of green construction paper—10 per student

## 2

### BIBLE LEARNING (15–20 MINUTES)

**Bible Words:** Learn about *obey*, *commandments*, *rich*, and *poor*.

- Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 3, Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, Bibles

**Bible Story:** Hear about a rich young man who would not obey one of God's commandments.

- Materials: Bibles, whiteboard, and marker

**Bible Review:** Identify ways the rich young man disobeyed God's rules.

- Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 4, red and blue crayons

**Memory Work:** Learn Matthew 22:37.

- Materials: Bibles

## 3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

**Discuss ways people today can obey God's commandments.**

- Materials: "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid—prepare before class, tape, *Elementary Kid Crafts Project* for Lesson 1—prepare sample before class, paper fasteners, paper clips, Bibles, pencils

## 4

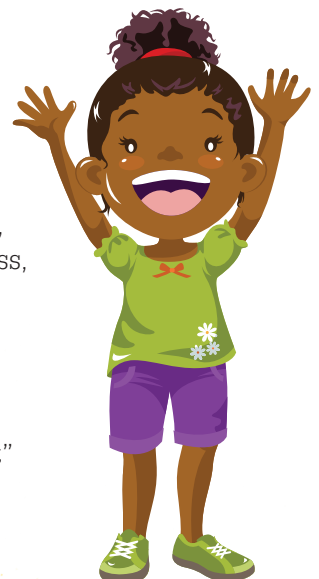
### LIFE RESPONSE (5–10 MINUTES)

**Choose ways to put God first.**

- Materials: *My Bible Book* pages 5 and 6, "Jesus, Here's How I'll Put You First" Teaching Aid; whiteboard and marker, *Friends for Lesson 1*



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



# Understanding the Bible

**Overview of This Quarter:** In this quarter, we will study God's rules—The Ten Commandments. This unit uses Old and New Testament stories to teach God's rules. The second unit helps children understand salvation offered by Jesus Christ, and encourages children to become part of God's family. The last unit is about building relationships and working together as the Body of Christ.

**This Week's Bible Story:** In this lesson we will study God's first two commandments: "You shall have no other gods before me" and "You shall not make for yourself an image" (Exod. 20:3-4). In our Bible story Jesus meets a rich young ruler and shows what is in the young man's heart.

A young man came to Jesus to see if he was on the right path to God. The young man knew God's rules and had worked hard to follow them. He wanted to know if there was anything else he needed to do. Although the young man believed that he had faithfully obeyed God's rules, Jesus knew the truth. The young man's wealth

was more important to him than God. When Jesus asked the young man to give up his wealth and choose God, the young man became sad and walked away. This young man had given in to the temptation of wealth.

Jesus knew how great a temptation wealth could be. Afterward, Jesus told the disciples that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Without God's help, it would be impossible to enter His kingdom (Matt. 19:23-26). Money offers a sense of security, status, comfort, and power. Therefore, people often depend more on the money they can see than on the God they cannot see.

Everything around us tells us we need "more" things or "better" things. It causes us to seek financial independence and security instead of trusting God to provide for our needs. If Jesus asked us to give up our possessions and follow Him, would we also turn and sadly walk away?

## Understanding Your Students

Most second and third graders can easily memorize simple Bible verses, and many of them will remember those verses throughout their lives.

As they memorize some of God's basic commandments this month, they may discover that memory work can be fun. More importantly, they can grow in their understanding of God. God's Word will stay with them to give them spiritual wisdom as they grow older.

## Classroom Tips

Tips for helping your children hide God's Word in their hearts.

- Choose a Bible version that is understandable and familiar to your children. *My Bible Book* prints the verses in the New International Version so it is easy to understand. If the children bring another version to class, you might want to let them memorize from that.
- Be sure students understand the meaning and context of the Scriptures.
- Make memory work fun by using games or puzzles. (Fill in the blanks, arrange the words in proper order, etc.)
- Motivate your students by marking memory work on a chart or make a paper chain for each child and add a different paper link for each memory verse the child learns. Offer a treat or small prize to those who learn all the verses in a unit.
- Encourage students to review their memory verses at home. Let the early arrivers test each other during Presession!

# Presession Activities

Choose from the following activities for early arrivers.

- Have students record their attendance on the "Summer Attendance Chart" Teaching Aid, adding their pictures as suggested on the back of the chart.

**Materials:** Summer Attendance Chart



"Attendance Chart" Teaching Aid

- Let students help prepare materials for the Life Need section of the lesson. Precut strips of green construction paper about the size of a dollar bill. You will need

10 strips for each student. Ask your early arrivers to write a one-dollar sign on each strip of paper.

**Materials:** precut strips of paper, crayons

- Cover a table with butcher paper and set out markers or crayons. Have each student write or draw on the paper the five most important things to him or her.

**Materials:** butcher paper, markers or crayons

- For Worship Time: Use the DiskKit CD from the *Elementary Creative Teaching Aids* packet. You will also find song lyrics and song sheets.

**Materials:** DiskKit CD, CD player



## 1

# Life Need 5–10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will think about how they can show their love for God by the way they spend their money.

This activity will help your students prepare for the Bible story of the rich young man and how God wants us to love Him more than money.

Before class, cut green construction paper strips about the size of a dollar bill. You will need 10 strips for each student. You could have students write dollar signs on the strips as a Presession Activity. Write "Give to God" on a sheet of paper, "Save" on a second sheet of paper, and "Spend" on a third sheet of paper.

In class, set the three sheets of paper on a table. Give each student 10 strips of paper.

**Pretend I just gave you 10 dollars to use this morning. It's all your own money. You can choose to give some to God, save some, or spend some. Think about how you want to spend your "money" and then place the number of strips on each paper to show what you will do with the money. The only rule is that you have to spend all 10 strips of paper.**

Give students time to "spend" their money. After all the strips have been sorted, talk about what is in each pile. Talk together about the saving and spending piles first. Discuss why they chose to put the amounts they did in each pile. Be sensitive to students who don't

usually have money to spend.

Then talk about the "Give to God" pile. Compare the size of that pile to the "Save" and "Spend" piles.

**God told the Israelites to give Him a tenth of the money they earned. That means one out of every 10 dollars belong to God. If we give God one dollar out of 10, this offering is called a "tithe." God is the One who helps us have all of our money. So when we give our tithe or some other offering to His work, we are saying thank You to Him.**

- Should we set aside God's money when we first get it? Or should we wait to see if there's any money left after we buy the things we want? (Let the children share their opinions. Then ask them to tell which way would provide more money to do God's work.)

**One way we can show God that we love Him is by giving first to Him, then using the rest of our money wisely.**

**Today's Bible story is about a young man who had a lot of money. Listen to see how he used it.**



# 2

## Bible Learning 15–25 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn, from the example of the rich young man, that God wants us to love Him more than money.



My Bible Book, page 3

Distribute *My Bible Book* and ask students to turn to page 3.

**We're going to talk a lot about commandments today and in the weeks to come. So let's begin by finding out what a commandment is.**

You or a volunteer may read the definition of *commandment*. Then ask students to name any of the

Ten Commandments they can remember.

**God gave the Israelites the commandments to help people know how to please Him and how to get along with each other. God's commandments are for us, too, but He wants us to do more than just know His commandments.**

■ **What else do you think God wants us to do?** (*Obey the commandments.*) **Let's read about what it means to obey.** Read aloud the definition of *obey*.

**The other two words on this page are also important for today's story.** Different volunteers can read the definitions of *rich* and *poor* people. Conclude by reading the speech balloons in the picture on the right. Have students tell which girl did something wrong. (The one who lied to get free grapes.) Explain that telling the truth is one of the commandments God wants us to obey.

Point out, using the Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, that Exodus and Deuteronomy are both in the Old Testament. Talk about how both books tell God's commandments. Also point out Matthew as being in the New Testament.

Explain that today's Bible story comes from all three books of the Bible.

Have the children find and bookmark Exodus 20 in their

Bibles. Have the children look in the table of contents at the front of their Bibles if they aren't sure where Exodus is located.

### BIBLE STORY

Many years before Jesus was born, God chose a group of people, called the Israelites, to be His people. Moses was their leader.

God wanted His people to know Him and obey Him. He gave Moses a set of rules, called the Ten Commandments.

The very first rule was the most important of all. Let's look it up. Have the children find Exodus 20:3. *Read the verse aloud together and write it on the board.*

This meant that the people were to worship only the one true God. No other person or thing was to be more important in their lives.

The Israelites taught these rules to their children. Then the children would teach their children. God's commandments were taught this way for thousands of years. By the time Jesus came, the Israelites were known as the Jewish people. Growing up in a Jewish family, Jesus learned and understood all of God's Law.

Jesus taught that it wasn't enough to just follow a lot of rules. God wants people to love Him more than anyone or anything.

One day, a rich young man came up to Jesus. He had a question for Jesus.

"Good Master," he said, "what must I do to be in God's family?"

Jesus looked kindly at the young man and said, "You must obey God's commandments."

"What commandments do you mean?" asked the young man.

"You shall not kill. You shall not steal. You shall not lie," said Jesus. "Honor your father and your mother. Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself."

"I have obeyed all of these commandments since I was a child," said the young man. "What else must I do?"

Jesus knew that this young man loved his money



Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid

and all the fine things he had more than he loved God. So Jesus said, "Give all your money to help poor people. Then your riches will be in heaven, and you can come and follow Me."

How surprised the young man was! Give away all of his money and beautiful things—he could never do that! Instead, he stood up, turned around, and walked away from Jesus.

As the young man walked back down the road toward his beautiful home, he was very sad. The young man did not want to do what Jesus had asked. The sad young man loved his money too much to give it up—even to obey God.

## BIBLE REVIEW

**In today's story the rich young man thought he had been obeying all of God's rules, but he had forgotten about one of them. Let's turn to page 4 in *My Bible Book* to see what rule he forgot.** Have a volunteer read the commandment in the lower left corner. Briefly explain that this commandment means we should not love anything more than God.



*My Bible Book*, page 4

■ **How did the young man disobey this commandment?** (*He loved his money more than he loved God.*)

Now draw your students' attention to the pictures. **Here is the rich young man with his money. Draw red circles around the things he didn't want to spend his money on.** (Clothes for a beggar, money for a poor family.) **Now draw blue circles around the things you think he probably bought with his money.** (Fancy clothes, a big house, jewels.)

■ **Which pictures show how Jesus wanted the ruler to spend his money?** (*The ones with red circles.*)

■ **How could the young man have put God first?** (*He could have loved others as God does; he could have given his money and nice things to poor people; he could have followed Jesus.*)

## MEMORY WORK

**God wants us to love Him more than anything or anyone else, and today's Bible verse will help us remember this fact.**

Have students find the memory verse, Matthew 22:37, in their Bibles. Read the memory verse together several times. Then let volunteers try to repeat the verse without looking at it. Continue with the following discussion.

■ **How can we show our love for God when we worship Him and learn what the Bible says?** (*As we worship God, we can thank Him for helping us, tell Him how much we love Him, and say we're sorry when we do bad things. Our Bible study shows God we want to know Him better, and it helps us obey God better.*)

■ **What are some other ways we can show our love for God?** (*We can obey His commandments, help others, tell others about Jesus.*)



# 3

## Bible Application 5-10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will recognize ways children today can put God first.



"God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid

You will use the poster "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid for the next four lessons. Follow the directions on the back of the teaching aid to assemble.

Let a student

read the first commandment. **In Bible times an idol was usually some kind of statue people worshiped. God didn't want people to worship things they made, or even things He made. He wanted them to worship only Him.**

People or things in our lives can become like idols or "gods" to us if they become too important. Let a child lift up the door to show the picture under the first commandment. **In this picture we see a child thinking about a baseball star and a singing star. Some might think of people like this as "gods." Those people are just like us. No person should ever become more important to us than God.**

**The young man in today's Bible story had obeyed most of God's commandments, but he didn't obey this one. His money was his "god." He loved his money more than he loved God.**

Read the poem under the first commandment door. The third line is almost the same as the memory verse.

Discuss the second and third commandments in the same way. Lift up each door and talk about the picture, then read the poem. (In the second picture, the computer represents a love for digital devices that can become like an idol. The third scene shows children playing together on a playground. Children could take God's name in vain if they say cuss words.) Close the doors when you're through with the discussion.

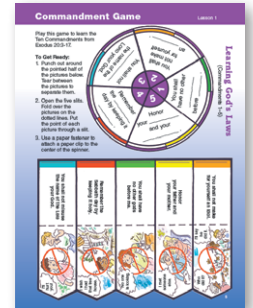
Give children time to apply their discussion on the commandments by making the Commandment Game in

their *Elementary Kid Crafts* books. The project for Lesson 1 focuses on the Ten Commandments and is one way for the children to think about how these commandments apply to their everyday lives.

Let the students prepare the Commandment Game by following the directions on Kid Crafts, Lesson 1. First, children look up Exodus 20:3-17 and fill in the blanks on the game. You may want to make a sample to help the children visually understand the directions. Next, they should fold the pieces and attach the spinner. Then they play the game in pairs or small groups.

If there is sufficient time available, have the students trade partners or groups and play the game more than once.

Keep a sample of this project for children to use in Presession Activities next week.



Elementary Kid Crafts, Lesson 1





# 4 Life Response 5–10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will decide how they will put God first this week.



My Bible Book, page 5

**Let's see some things children can do to put God first. Turn to page 5 in My Bible Book.**

Read aloud to the class the two paragraphs at the top of the page.

Read each situation aloud.

Then have each student choose how to put God first in the situation or write an original idea on

the line.

**Now let's turn to page 6 in My Bible Book. This activity will help you decide how you will put God first in your life this week.**

Let different volunteers read the caption for each picture.

**I want you to choose the things you will agree to do this week to put God first in your life.**

Students may write their answers on the lines. Some students may prefer to come up with their own ways to put God first. Take a few minutes to write their ideas from both pages on the board.

After you have ideas on the board, allow the children to break into pairs to share their thoughts about how they can put God first.

When the children have had time to talk through their ideas with their partner, give each child a card from the "Jesus, Here's How I'll Put You First" Teaching Aid. **Choose one way you will put God first, and write it on your card.**

Allow time for writing, helping as needed. Ask the children to each choose a place to put



My Bible Book, page 6

their card where it will remind them to put God first.

## CLOSING ACTIVITY

Close with a brief worship time. Sing or listen to a song on the DisKit CD. Then read aloud the prayer on page 6 of My Bible Book.

Your students may take home their "Jesus, Here's How I'll Put You First" card, pages 3-6 of My Bible Book, and the "Commandment Game" from Elementary Kid Crafts. Suggest that students play the game with family members and friends throughout the week.



"Jesus, Here's How I'll Put You First" Teaching Aid

