

THEME FOR UNIT 10: God Loves Us
UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 4:8

4

GOD GIVES US THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

BIBLE BASIS

God gives His commandments to Moses (Exodus 20:1-17).

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us rules.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

God is love. 1 John 4:8

LESSON AIM

Students will begin to learn that they are to obey God and His Word, the Bible.

1

LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Use a puppet to discuss classroom rules



Materials: "Wooly Lamb" Teaching Aid 3

2

BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures the story of Moses giving God's commandments to the Israelites
- Review with questions



Materials: Bible, "Moses and the People" Teaching Aids 5 and 6

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Practice the Bible memory verse with a poem
- Make a folding picture of the Israelites and Moses



Materials: *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 4, crayons, sticker

4

LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story of children learning to listen to and obey God
- Name rules and thank God for them



Materials: *My Sunday Pictures* for Lesson 4



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



Understanding the Bible

The Commandments were given to the Israelites so they would know how to live in God's will and according to His purpose.

If we were driving along a steep mountainside road and something caused us suddenly to veer to the right, we'd be thankful there was something called a guardrail beside the steep incline to protect us from falling to our death. The Ten Commandments are like a guardrail. If we know we shouldn't murder (and live within that guardrail), then we won't suffer the consequences of our actions.

God's rules are "holy, righteous and good" (Rom. 7:12). They are not intended to make life harder, but to make life easier for all of us. They mirror the character of God, who is holy, righteous, and good.

Galatians 3:24 also tells us that the "law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ" (KJV). The word translated "schoolmaster" here refers not to a school teacher but to a child's guardian who saw to it that the child got to school safely. When we realize that we sinners have broken God's laws, we can only run to Christ to get help.

This is why Paul can say that the "law is made not for the righteous [person] but for lawbreakers and rebels" (1 Tim. 1:9). When we see ourselves as we really are in God's mirror, then we can turn to Christ.

In Exodus 19, we are told that Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God at the foot of the mountain. Then God called Moses to meet Him at the top of Mount Sinai (SIGH-nigh). There, God gave Moses the commandments to communicate to the Israelites.

The first group of commandments explains the relationship God's people are to have with Him. God says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3). God has the exclusive right to the adoration of His people. Then God forbids making images of Himself, reminding us that God is a Spirit. Exodus 20:7 tells us not to "misuse the name of the LORD."

God completed Creation and rested on the seventh day. He expected His people to follow His example, for He made the day holy (Exod. 20:11).

Verse 12 marks the beginning of the commandments that deal with the relationships God expects His people to have with one another. God gives instructions to help people know how to get along in their families and in their communities.

At the climax of the commandments, the focus is turned away from external acts to inward acts. Even the desires of the heart are to be submissive to God. The Ten Commandments became the basics of the Hebrew law. The people made a covenant with God after they received His rules, promising to obey Him (Exod. 24:7). They were now to be a nation with God as its King.

Understanding Your Students

Your class will hear about the rules God gave them to be happy. Your children need rules to give them a sense of security. They want to know what is expected of them at home, church, and school. Students can understand that God gave people special rules because He loved them. They can learn that you have class rules because you love them.

CLASSROOM TIPS

Try these ideas to help your class understand your rules.

- Word your rules positively. Say "Walk" instead of "Don't run."
- See if you can say rules in a short, simple way. Then repeat the rules often.
- List the rules and hang them in your room. Paste a picture beside each rule to illustrate it. Although the children can't read the rules, you can point to the chart with the pictures as a visual reminder.
- If you see trouble brewing, remind your class of the rules ahead of time. Explain why it is important to follow the rules. Be consistent but flexible as you evaluate each situation.

WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Play a song from the Diskit CD to gather your children for worship. You may sing "God Loves Me," which is the unit song.
- Have a student helper collect any offerings that the children brought. **Giving offering money is one way to thank God for loving us and to let Him know we love Him.** Thank God for the offering money. **Dear God, You love us so much. Thank You for all You give us. In Jesus' name. Amen.**
- Talk about the ways God showed His love for the people you have been studying about. **Dear Lord, You cared for Jacob, Elijah, the widow and her son, and Moses and the people he led. Thank You for showing us Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



BEFORE CLASS

As your students arrive, show your loving care by greeting each one by name. **I'm glad you came to church today. We are going to hear about some rules God gave people so they could be happy.**

Have children mark their attendance by coloring in a square, drawing a happy face, or adding a small sticker. Remind your children to give their offerings in the offering container. Visiting children may be hesitant to join the other children, so let them stay near you until they feel comfortable as you begin the Bible Lesson.

GETTING STARTED

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of God giving Moses the Ten Commandments.

Blocks: Encourage the children to build a "mountain" with blocks. This will help them become involved in today's Bible story when Moses went up the mountain to talk to God. To avoid accidents, ask children not to build higher than their shoulders. **Today we will hear about how Moses talked to God on a mountain.**



Play Dough: Offer craft sticks for the children to make designs or print their names in the play dough. This activity helps children begin thinking about writing. **In today's Bible story from Exodus, God writes the Ten Commandments on stone.**

1

Life Need

5 minutes

Objective: That your students will listen to a puppet and talk about rules.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about God giving Moses and the Israelites the Ten Commandments.

In this lesson, the script is written out. If you are not comfortable with Wooly talking to you and the class, have Wooly whisper in your ear. Then you can tell the class in your own voice what Wooly is saying. You may need to adapt the lines of the script. One way to adapt Wooly's lines is to tell the story as if Wooly had told it to you.

Put Wooly Lamb on your arm.

Teacher: **Good morning, Wooly!** (*Have Wooly turn away from you.*) **What's the matter, Wooly?**

Wooly: **I'm mad. When I was in a field yesterday, I saw a plant on the other side of the fence. It looked so good! I was about to jump over the fence and eat it when the shepherd caught me. He said it was against the rules to jump the fence. I could get lost or hurt. Then he said the plant would make me sick. I had to eat what was in the pasture. It's not fair!**

Teacher: **I'm sure it was hard to listen to the shepherd, Wooly. Do you think he wanted to keep you safe and happy?**

Wooly: **I don't know. I just know I don't like rules!**

Teacher: **We know Wooly doesn't like rules. Let's have Wooly sit over here while we talk about rules.** (*Put Wooly to the side where he can "watch" the class.*)

Rules are important directions we have to obey. What are some rules you have at home or school? (If children are having a difficult time beginning the discussion, talk about your classroom rules. Other rules might include: don't talk to strangers, don't interrupt, no hitting or biting, and so forth.)

Who gives us rules? (Children may talk about parents, teachers, and God or Jesus. Encourage all the children to talk.)

Why do you think we have rules? (Answers may vary from "Because we want to" to "I don't know." Accept all their answers.)

People give us rules because they love us. They know rules help us stay happy and safe. Today we're going to learn that God gives us rules. In our Bible story today, God gave Moses and the Israelites 10 rules. As you listen to the story, try to remember one rule God gave them.



Wooly Lamb
Teaching Aid 3

Bible Learning

10 minutes

Objective: Students will hear that God gave Moses and the Israelites the Ten Commandments.

You will use Figures 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 from Teaching Aids 5 and 6. Attach velcro, found in your Creative Teaching Aids, to the back of Figures 6 and 8. Figure 7 will be placed in Moses' hands. Put the figures in the order you'll use them.

Bible Story

Our story today comes from the Bible. It is found in the part, or book, of the Bible called Exodus. (Show the children where Exodus is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to Exodus 19 as you tell the story.)

(Place Figure 1, walking Moses, in the center of the board. Put Figure 2, the people walking, to the right of Figure 1.) **Who can point to Moses? Who can point to the Israelites?** (Have the children point to the pictures.) **Moses and the Israelites were on their way to a new land.** (Pat knees.)

On the way, they camped near a big mountain named Mount Sinai [SIGH-nigh]. God called Moses to the top of the mountain. Then God came down to meet him there. The top of the mountain was covered with smoke. Only Moses went up on the mountain to meet with God. (Pretend to climb. Remove Figures 1 and 2. Put Figure 8, the standing Moses, in the middle of the board.)

God gave Moses 10 rules to tell the Israelites. These are called the Ten Commandments. God gave the rules because He loved them. God

wrote the rules on big pieces of stone with His finger. (Put Figure 7, the stone tablets, into the slits by the hands of Moses, Figure 8.)

The first rule was the most important one. (Put hands over heart.) **It was to love God more than anything else. This would show God how much the people loved Him. Another one of God's rules was to work for 1-2-3-4-5-6 days.** (Count on fingers while counting aloud.) **One day a week was a special day to worship God.** (Fold hands and bow head.)

Some of the rules God gave the people were to help them get along with each other.

God gave one rule especially for children. (Point to children.) **God told the children to love and obey their mothers and fathers.**

Another rule was about their hands. (Hold up hands.) **God's rule said the people should not take things that don't belong to them.**

Then God gave them some rules about their mouths. (Point to your mouth.) **God said not to lie or say bad things about each other.**

(Put Figure 6, the people standing, to the right of Figure 8.) **God gave Moses and the Israelites rules. God's rules are for us, too. God gives us rules.**



"Moses and the People"
Teaching Aid 6



"Moses and the People"
Teaching Aid 5

Bible Story Review

1. Where did God give Moses the rules? (On a mountain, Mount Sinai [pretend to climb with children].)

2. Name some of the rules God gave. (Love God more than anything else [place hands over heart], worship God one day a week [fold hands and bow head], love and obey parents [point to each other], don't take things that don't belong to you [hold up hands], don't lie or say bad things about each other [point to mouth].)

3. Why does God give us rules? (Children's answers may include so we know what to do, to get along, to make God happy, or because He loves us.)

3. Who gives us rules? (God gives us rules.)

3

Bible Application

10 minutes

Objective: Students will learn that God gives them rules.

Bible Memory Verse

God gives us rules to obey because He loves us. Our Bible verse tells us God is love. Let's say it together: "God is love" 1 John 4:8. Our Bible verse is in our action rhyme.

God is watching when I jump.

(Jump.)

He listens when I pray.

(Fold hands as if praying.)

God is love; I know it's true.

(Hug self; open arms wide.)

He's with me every day.

(Point to self.)

Divide the children into four groups. Give each group a line and action to say and do. **Let's say our action rhyme in our groups.**

Group 1: **God is watching when I jump.**

(Jump.)

Group 2: **He listens when I pray.**

(Fold hands as if praying.)

Group 3: **God is love; I know it's true.**

(Hug self; open arms wide.)

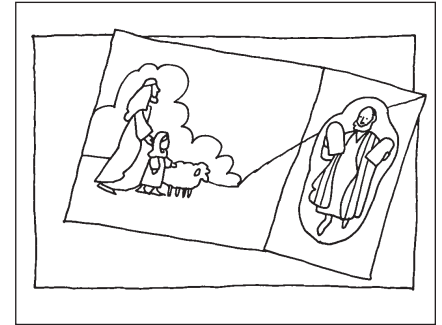
Group 4: **He's with me every day.**

(Point to self.)

Extend this activity by changing the groups. For example, Group 1 could become Group 4.

Handcraft

Before class, remove the Lesson 4 project from each child's Make-It/Take-It craft booklet. Also, you will need Sticker 4 (Moses) from the center section of each booklet.



Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 4

Fold along the perforation for easier removal of the margins on each project. Fold the sheet back on the broken line and then unfold it so your students can follow the crease line later.

Have your children choose a few crayons and color their pictures. You will need to help them attach the sticker of Moses on the X.

Demonstrate how to fold the project on the broken line. Then show your students how to fold and unfold the pictures to show Moses coming down the mountain. Encourage children to tell each other what is happening in the picture.

The rules God gave the Israelites are called the Ten Commandments. Those rules are for us too.

Why did God give the Israelites the Ten Commandments to obey? (Because He loved them; He knew they'd be happy if they obeyed the rules.)

Why should we obey the Ten Commandments? (Because we love God, we will be happy if we obey them.)

4

Life Response

10 minutes

Objective: That your students will name rules and thank God for rules that make us happy.

Read aloud to your students "God Gives Us Rules" from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 4, back.

Present-Day Story

Tiana and Kiara played outside. They played tag and hide-and-go-seek. They laughed and ran around the yard. They ran a little too far.

"Tiana and Kiara," called Tiana's mom. "Don't go near the street. You can only play in the area where you will be safe.

"But Mom, we want to play over there," said Tiana.

"I'm sorry but those are the rules," Mom said. "Why don't you girls come and sit down and take a rest."

Tiana fixed Kiara's hair.

"Why do we have rules?" Kiara asked.

"Rules keep you safe," said Mom. "God wants you to obey your parents. It's one of God's rules for us."

"We learned about God's rules, the Ten Commandments, in Sunday school," Tiana said.

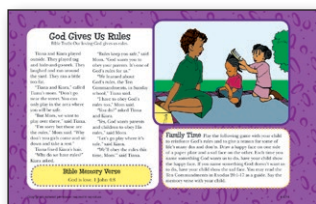
"I have to obey God's rules too," Mom said.

"You do?" asked Tiana and Kiara.

"Yes, God wants parents and children to obey His rules," said Mom.

"Let's go play where it's safe," said Kiara.

"We'll obey the rules this time, Mom!" said Tiana.



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 4 (back)

Closing Activities

Tiana and Kiara obeyed the rules.

Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures*. **Today we learned that God gave Moses and the Israelites rules. God gave them the rules because He loved them. What does God give us? (God gives us rules.)**



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 4 (front)

Moses told the people that God wanted them to obey His rules. We can obey God's rules at home too. When we obey our parents, we make God happy.

Let's name some classroom rules. (Listening, sharing, obeying, being kind.) **We are happy when we obey the rules. And our friends are happy too.**

Let's pray and thank God for rules. Dear God, thank You for giving us rules because You love us. Help us learn to obey Your rules every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Make sure children have their Make-It/Take-It crafts and *My Sunday Pictures* lesson cards for Lesson 4.

Say a personal goodbye to each child. **Remember to obey God's rules this week.**

