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## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

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## PRACTICE MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY CURRICULUM

### TEN COMMANDMENTS 2 & EXPLORING THE BIBLE ANSWERS

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Practice Ministries Bible Study Curriculum and Exploring The Bible  
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# BIBLE LESSON SUMMARIES

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### Ten Commandments 2

#### Lesson # 1: Ten Ways To Be Totally Cool

**“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:13-15).** Today’s lesson is an introduction to the Ten Commandments and what they mean. We’ll also explore why we should want to observe them and live by them.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to live by Jesus’ example.

#### Lesson # 2: If You’re Gonna Boast, Then Boast about This...

**“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23-24).** In today’s lesson, we’ll talk about how to get to know God a little better. We’ll also talk about three qualities that He wants us to have in our lives: gentleness, justice and righteousness.

**Exploring the Bible helps** the kids to understand who God is and how to honor Him with their lives.

#### Lesson # 3: Living By Example

**“...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1).** Today we’ll talk about worshipping God as He desires us to - as an expression of love and devotion to Him through our actions.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to express their love and devotion to God by living a life that is pleasing to Him.

#### Lesson # 4: Privileges & Responsibilities (Part 1)

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).** Children are a wonderful privilege from God, yet parents have a God given responsibility to teach their children God’s instructions. With privileges come responsibilities. Today we’ll talk about the responsibility of bringing our children up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to learn and live according to God’s instructions.

#### Lesson # 5: Privileges & Responsibilities (Part 2)

**“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Ephesians 6:1).** God says to children, “Obey your parents. For their teaching and instructions to you come from Me. When you obey your parents, it’s the right thing to do, because what you’re really doing is obeying Me.” Today we’ll talk about the privilege and responsibility of hearing God’s word and instructions.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to honor their father and mother by obeying God’s word.

#### Lesson # 6: The World We Live In

**“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14).** We’re going to try and answer two questions today:

1. Why should you honor a person in authority when God’s word and instructions are clearly not being taught?
2. How can you honor them?

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**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to choose to live by Jesus' values and not by the world's.

### Lesson # 7: Privileges & Responsibilities (Part 3)

**“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression [sin] - it is by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-5).**

Jesus tells us, **“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).**

Where does this narrow gate that Jesus speaks of lead? To a privilege that only a few will find: the presence and majesty of God forever. This is the privilege of eternal life. Today we'll talk about why eternal life is a privilege.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to explore the privilege of eternal life.

### Lesson # 8: Privileges & Responsibilities (Part 4)

**“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).** Today we're going to talk about our responsibility as a Christian: to represent Jesus Christ in everything we do and say.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to think about how to represent Jesus Christ this week.

### Lesson # 9: Gunk In Your Gas (Part 1)

**“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things” (Philippians 4:8).** Gunk is dirt and pollution that accumulates in your car's gas tank. As gasoline flows through your car's system, it carries gunk with it, getting motor parts dirty and making your car run poorly. It's not only annoying; it can be dangerous.

Today we're going to talk about how gunk gets into your tanks; how it's annoying, how it can be dangerous. Then we'll talk about some ways you can remain pure and gunk free.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to remain pure.

### Lesson # 10: Gunk In Your Gas (Part 2): Do Not Open 'Til Marriage

**“For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).** The society we live in has taken a precious gift that God says, “Do not open 'til marriage,” and says, “Go ahead. Open it now. It's ok.” Today, we're going to talk about why you should be or remain sexually pure.

**Exploring The Bible** encourages the kids to remain sexually pure.

### Lesson # 11: Gunk In Your Gas (Part 3): A Letter From John

**“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).** The main part of our lesson today comes from a letter written by a young man to his parents. The letter presents the dangers of ordering items from the world's menu.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to order from God's menu rather than the world's menu.

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### Lesson # 12: How Do You Know God Exists?

**“...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Romans 1:19-20).** Some people say, “I won’t believe in God unless I have proof!” While it’s not possible to “prove” God scientifically, it is possible to provide reasonable evidence that God exists. Today, we’re going to talk about some “proof” that gives reasonable evidence that God actually exists.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to look at “the evidence” that God exists

### Lesson # 13: Is Jesus Christ God?

**“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).** Jesus Christ claimed he was God. Either his claims are true or they are false. Today, we’ll talk about the evidence that Jesus’ claim to being God is true.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to consider the evidence that Jesus Christ is God and act upon that evidence.

### Lesson # 14: Is Jesus Christ The Only Way To God?

**“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).** Jesus said that a relationship with God is only possible through Him. Today we’ll talk about why Jesus Christ is the only avenue to a relationship with God, the only source of forgiveness for sins and the only way to salvation.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to consider the evidence of Jesus’ resurrection!

### Lesson # 15: Sticks And Stones

**“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” (Ephesians 4:29).** Sticks and stones can hurt you, but words can also hurt. Today we’ll talk about why we should encourage each other with our words.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to build others up.

### Lesson # 16: This Space Reserved For God

**“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15).** An idol is anything that becomes more important to you than God. Today, we’ll talk about why God says idols are dangerous.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to allow God to have first place in their lives.

### Lesson # 17: Stay On The Trail

**“...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).** When Israel first arrived to the Promised Land, the nations surrounding them worshipped many gods. Israel believed in the one true God. That made them distinct - they stood out from among all the other nations, just as God had intended. When Israel began to associate with these other nations, they stopped listening to God and following His instructions, and started following the gods of these nations. The message here is for you & I to be distinctive as God’s people by serving Him in our communities.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to be salt & light in their communities.

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### Lesson # 18: Good As Gold

**“Listen, my son to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching” (Proverbs 1:8).** The Bible clearly says that parents, especially dads, have a responsibility to teach their children God’s Word. The Scriptures also say that children have a responsibility to respect their parents and listen to them, so that they may understand what is right and what is wrong, and learn to do what is right.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to learn wisdom from their parents.

### Lesson # 19: It’s Good To Hear From You

**“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” (Ephesians 4:29).** Today we’re going to talk about encouraging others in our prayers, our words and our actions.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to understand the importance of encouragement.

### Lesson # 20: It’s A Wonderful Life

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).** God has created each person on this earth in His likeness and has designed us to meet the needs of others. This is why God places the highest value on human life.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to respect human life.

### Lesson # 21: Prevent Defense (Part 1)

**“In your anger do not sin”:** **Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26-27).** Today we’ll talk about actions or emotions that can cause anger. We’ll also talk about how you can choose to respond peacefully in situations where it would be very easy to respond in anger.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to recognize situations that could lead to an angry response and use scripture to offer a more peaceful response.

### Lesson # 22: Prevent Defense (Part 2)

**“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).** In today’s lesson we’re going to continue to find ways to prevent anger from coming about, and talk about a radical way to handle anger when you see it approaching.

**Exploring the Bible** challenges the kids to use Scripture, self-control and common sense in setting up a prevent defense against anger.

### Lesson # 23: TV Time-Out

**“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory” (Colossians 3:4).** What you see and hear has an effect on your thoughts, words and actions. Today we’re going to talk about the messages that are being promoted in the tv shows and movies that you watch.

**Exploring the Bible** sheet for this lesson is a guide to help kids and their families measure the values of the TV shows and movies they watch by Biblical standards.

### Lesson # 24: I Break For God

**“I will meditate on your wonderful works” (Psalm 145:5).** The 4th commandment tells us to keep the Sabbath holy. Today we’ll talk about how observing the Sabbath honors God by showing our obedience to Him, showing our trust in Him & bringing our attention to Him.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages families to make the Sabbath a special day of rest and worship of God.

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### Lesson # 25: Handle With Care

**“Love does no harm to its neighbor...” (Romans 13:10).** Today we’re going to talk about different ways that people steal from others by taking property without permission, stealing respect or authority, & by stealing time or opportunities

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to respect and do what is good for others.

### Lesson # 26: A Thank You Note

**“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good he has given you” (Deuteronomy 8:10).** Today we’re going to talk about how people can rob God of the honor and glory that is rightfully His with their attitudes, money and actions.

**Exploring The Bible** encourages the kids to write a thank you note to God with their lives.

### Lesson # 27: It Is More Blessed To Give

**“... if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously” (Romans 12:8).** Today we’re going to talk about why we should give, what we should give, how we should give and when we should give.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to give of their time, abilities and money.

### Lesson # 28: Treasure In Heaven

**“...store up for yourselves treasure in heaven” (Matthew 6:20).** The first nine commandments have to deal with actions - things that we should or should not do to live the way God wants us to. But the tenth commandment, which tells us not to covet, has to do with our attitude. Coveting means to desire the wrong way.

Today we’ll look at a Bible story that shows us how one person desired the wrong way, and then we’ll talk about the correct way to desire.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to desire the right way.

### Lesson # 29: Seek Ye First

**“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33).** Today we’re going to look at a Bible story about two people who desired things that God said were off-limits. Then we’ll talk about making good choices about things that have been labeled “off limits” to you and me.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to understand that choices come with consequences.

### Lesson # 30: Honesty Is The Best Policy

**“Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor” (Romans 13:10).** The ninth commandment says simply, “Live truthfully.” Today we’re going to talk about living truthfully and honestly and why it’s the best policy.

**Exploring the Bible** encourages the kids to live truthfully and honestly.

### Special Thanksgiving Lesson

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts” (Psalm 105:1-2).** Today we’re going to count our blessings – and then do something with them – give!

**Exploring the Bible** helps the kids think of ways to give in a new way!



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### Special Christmas Lesson

**“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus” (Luke 1:31).** Today we’re going to talk about the Christmas story, but with a little different beginning and ending than what we’re used to hearing.

**Exploring the Bible** helps the kids remember the true meaning of Christmas.

### Special Easter Lesson

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).** This lesson is a description of what happened to Jesus - God’s only Son - on the days leading up to His arrest & ultimately His crucifixion to provide salvation for you and for me.

**Exploring the Bible** helps the kids understand the significance of Jesus’ sacrifice.

### Special Prayer Lesson

**“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).** Instead of studying today, we’re going to be doing. We’re going to spend our lesson time praying to the God who created us and sustains us for the people of our country.

**Exploring the Bible** invites the kids to write a prayer for the people of our country.

### Story Time

**One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (John 9:25).** The thought of “telling your story” – how Jesus Christ came into your life, can be a little uncomfortable. Perhaps you’re afraid of failing or that you won’t know what to say. But if Jesus Christ is in your life, you do have a story to tell, and learning how to tell your story may be just what it takes to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into someone’s life.

A special **Exploring the Bible** gives you ideas, suggestions and an outline to help you put your story together.

**Practice Makes Perfect!**

Over the past 9 years we've helped organize hundreds of bible studies. And we've come up with a pretty good recipe that will help your families get the most out of your bible study.

Here's a suggested outline for how to make your first bible study go smoothly:

- Invite Jesus to attend your bible study. Ask for His power and presence to work in and through each person gathered.
- If it's a morning study, have some donuts (donuts are key) and juice on hand. If it's an evening study, have some light snacks for the boys and dads before study begins.
- Start fairly promptly as some may have time constraints.
- We find that your study works best when the kids sit with their dads.
- Introduce yourself and then have the kids introduce themselves especially if there are some who do not know each other.
- Begin the bible study with an opening prayer. Ask if one of the kids or dads will pray - but don't push too hard, since it may be uncomfortable or intimidating at first - even among the dads. One idea is to assign the opening and closing prayer to one of the dads and their child, so that they have time to get ready.
- As the group gets more comfortable with each other, we find that rotating the prayer around from week to week is a good way to get the kids and dads involved.
- Give a short description about the day's lesson
- Lead-off with the discussion question & discuss it for a bit. Encourage your dads to participate in the discussion. We find that often dads will not say anything because it's "a study for the kids." But their participation is important.
- Go through the lesson at a comfortable pace for the group. If you don't finish - it's ok.
- End the study lesson promptly at the time mentioned. Twenty minutes of study is plenty. You may find that at times, less is better.
- Encourage the dads and kids to do the corresponding **Exploring the Bible Worksheet** each week, and leave time in your study for each child to give their answers.
- Encourage the kids to practice the quality or character trait emphasized in the day's lesson during the week. Challenge them to share with the group at the next study about any situations where they had an opportunity to put into practice what they learned.
- Here's a wonderful way to end each lesson: have each dad get with his child (or boy or girl he brings with him whose father is not there) and ask them to pray with each other. We have found that this is a wonderful way for a dad and child to learn to pray for each other. You may suggest that they ask each other what they would like prayer for that day.

Try the above recipe the first few times, and then if you need to, adjust it to meet your group's needs.

**Sample Bible Study Agenda**

7:10 - 7:20 a.m.	Fellowship over donuts and juice
7:20 - 7:40 a.m.	Bible study lesson
7:40 - 7:50 a.m.	<b>Exploring the Bible</b> review
7:50 - 7:55 a.m.	Prayer between each dad and his child
7:55 -	Practice what you've learned!

# BIBLE LESSONS

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## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 1

#### TEN WAYS TO BE TOTALLY COOL

##### Today's Lesson verse

**“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:13-15).**

##### Character Quality

**Respect for God & Others**

##### Discussion Question

**What would be on your top ten ways to be cool list?**

##### Introduction to the Ten Commandments

Suppose you walked into your gym class one morning and there was no coach or teacher to be found. All you find is a yellow post-it note on the bleachers that reads, “Do what you want to do.”

**Question: What kind of gym class would you have?** [A basketball game might be in the middle of a volleyball game, some people might sit down in the middle of a hockey game].

**Question: In this situation, which activity would be the right one to do?** [No one particular activity would be right or wrong. A standard - a guideline - would need to be established].

**Question: In this situation which person would have the right to say what game should be played?** [A person would need to be put in authority].

**Question: In this situation, what one thing is certain?** [Each person would do as he or she pleased].

**Question: Where can you find that kind of attitude today?** [A place the Bible calls “the world”].

**Question: What is this place that the Bible calls the world?** [The world is anywhere people choose not to follow God]. The world can be in your country, your city, your school - even your home. The world teaches you to look to your own interests rather than look out for the interests of others. The world places more importance on “doing your own thing” or “getting all you can” rather than on God’s truths.

The world has its own standards of what is right and what is wrong, and often times the world’s standards are in direct opposition to what God says is right.

**Question: Who determines the world’s definition of what is right and what is true?** [The world’s definition of what is right and acceptable and appropriate is always changing]. It can change with a court decision, with what the news reports say, with what’s popular or trendy.

For example: in June of 2002, acting on the complaint of a single person, two judges have ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance is illegal because it contains the words “**under God.**” Now, to date, the words “under God” in the pledge (which were added in 1954) have not been removed, but it’s possible that could happen; despite the fact, that the United States of America was founded by men who believed that this is a nation under God: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights...” (Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776).

**Question: Can you think of some examples of what the world says may be right, appropriate or acceptable?** [There is no absolute standard of truth. If you aren’t caught lying or

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cheating, it's OK to do it. It's OK to have sex outside of marriage. If somebody does something wrong to you, you have the right to do it back. Any and every type of lifestyle is acceptable].

**Question: How is God's definition of what's right different?** [God's definition of what's right is always true and is always the same]. The Bible says, "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal." (Psalm 119:160).

The world can't figure out what's cool and how to be cool, but God can and has!

**Question: How can you and I know God's definition of what's cool?** [God has set down His top ten ways in writing]. They're called the Ten Commandments but we're going to call them:

### The Top Ten Ways To Be Totally Cool!

(Text: Exodus 20:3-17)

Note: Have the group read the commandments one at a time, and after reading each commandment talk about what each one means. (The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:3-17).

**1. You shall have no other gods before me.**

Choose to please God rather than others. God knows how to give you the best life possible.

**2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.**

Get to know God by spending time with Him. Then you will know how He desires you to worship Him.

**3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

Be Jesus' personal representative in everything you do.

**4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

Time out for time with God.

**5. Honor your father and your mother.**

Be honoring so you can be honorable.

**6. You shall not murder.**

Encourage and help others.

**7. You shall not commit adultery.**

Remain pure in your body, thought, word and action.

**8. You shall not steal.**

Do what is good for others.

**9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor (Do not lie).**

Live truthfully.

**10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

Be thankful.

**Question: Why is it cool to live by God's ways?** [Living God's ways help you be attractive where it counts. Living God's ways can help you become more successful in the classroom. Living God's ways can help you become a better athlete]. Living God's ways can help you with all these and more if you'll commit yourselves to living toward them.

**Question: Do the Ten Commandments themselves help you to live God's ways?** [The Ten Commandments are like a mirror. They can only show you how you're doing compared to the standard God has set for you to live by].

**Question: How then can you live the way the Ten Commandments tell you?** [Through the power of Jesus Christ in your life]. Only Jesus can give you the power to live differently than the world lives. The Bible says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." (Colossians 3:16). When His thoughts become your thoughts, His actions will become your actions.

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Jesus came to show you and I by His example how to be really cool. But He also came to give you the power to be cool! As we go through our Bible study this year, let Jesus help you to live your life and be totally cool!

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### LESSON # 2: IF YOU'RE GONNA BOAST, THEN BOAST ABOUT THIS...

#### Commandment # 3

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**  
(Be Jesus Christ's personal representative in everything you do)

#### Review

Last week's questions & memory verse

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved but the one whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:18).**

#### Character Quality

Respect for God

#### Discussion Question

- **What does it mean to be commended? [It means to be praised or applauded by another].**
- **What is one accomplishment that you've been commended for? [Good grades, a Science Fair competition, a spelling bee, a sports competition, Bible memory work].**

#### Introduction

He established the first orphanage in England. He lived a life of such faith in God that he would even sit down for the next meal when there was no food in the house because he knew that God would provide. And God did. Always. The children never went hungry; they always had what was necessary. There were always the right people to look after the orphans. They always had the money to buy the necessary land. There was always enough money to complete the buildings. He had faith in God and God honored that faith.

In 63 years spent in a *faith* ministry, the results are staggering. The 72 schools he started collectively had 121,683 students. The orphanage accommodated 10,000 orphans. It is believed that 2,813 orphans left the institution as believers, and they in turn led thousands more to Christ.

The institution also distributed over 281,000 Bibles, nearly 1.5 million New Testaments, and over 111 million tracts. Several hundred missionaries received financial assistance...Sixty-three foreign missionaries were sent out from his church alone. He built 10 other churches.

He wasn't wealthy, and he didn't run his ministry according to the standards of the business world. What was unusual was the fact that he didn't just say that God provided for him after the fact. He said *ahead of time* that God would provide.

He commented in the early years of his ministry, when he was unpopular and his ministry was small, that he would depend upon God's supernatural intervention for the sustaining and enlargement of the ministry. He said that it would be evidence to convince skeptics and to encourage Christians. He said these things *early on*, not *after* the ministry became so large later in his life.

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George Muller had plenty to boast about, but Muller never put himself in a position to boast about what he could do – if he boasted at all, it was about what God had done.

If You're Gonna Boast  
(Text: Jeremiah 9:23-24)



**23** “This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.”

**Question: What does it mean to boast?** [A few words that come to mind are brag, show off, strut your stuff].

Most of us learned to boast at a pretty early age. A three year old will yell, “Look what I can do,” until she makes sure that everyone is watching before she does a somersault.

And boasting can continue right through our grown-up years. Ever hear your dad talk about his low round of golf score, or your mom tell anyone who will listen about your latest success?

**Question: What are some accomplishments that you can be proud of?** [A good report card; getting a Boy Scout merit badge; earning your first dollar; getting a part in the school play].

It’s OK to be proud of your accomplishments. In fact, you should take some pride in what you have done well.

**Question: But when does being proud of an accomplishment become boasting?** [When your pride in your accomplishment becomes too important to you]. When you feel your test score or how many points you scored in a basketball game needs to become important to everyone else too.

Wisdom, strength & riches are mentioned in our Scripture verse today as things that you and I might be tempted to boast about if we possess them. Let’s see what the Scriptures have to say about these three attributes.

#### Wisdom

**Question: What is wisdom?** [Wisdom is a deep knowledge of understanding what God says is right, and applying that knowledge correctly].

**Question: Why should we desire wisdom?** [Wisdom can help you know what is right, what is true, what activities to be involved in, help you pick good friends, help you pick friends who are good for you, tell you what appropriate behavior is, help you make good decisions about what to put into your body or mind].

**Question: Why should we not boast about our wisdom?** The Bible says that, “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts [ways that you should conduct yourself] have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise**” (Psalm 111:10). Whatever wisdom you have comes from God. Give Him the praise.

#### Strength

**Question: What are different ways to be strong?** [Having physical strength, having strong values, or having a strong faith in Jesus].

**Question: How do strength and wisdom go together?** [Wisdom helps you know what is right, and strength helps you to do what is right]. It’s not enough to just know what is right and wrong. You have to have the strength to choose the right decision and follow through by doing what is right.

**Question: Why should we not boast about our strength?** The Bible says that, “**I can do all things through him [Jesus] who gives me the strength to do them**” (Philippians 4:13).

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

Whatever strength you have, whether it's running fast or keeping yourself pure, comes from the Lord. Give Him the praise].

### Riches

**Question: What does it mean to be rich?** [Having a lot of something].

**Question: What are some different ways of being rich?** [Having lots of money, good friends, good health, lots of ideas, having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ].

**Question: Why should we not boast about our riches?** The Bible says, “**But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth...**” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Whatever riches you have, God is the one who enables you to have them. Give Him the praise.

**Question: What reason does the Scripture give for not boasting about wisdom, strength, riches or any of your accomplishments?** [Because God is the one who has given you all your abilities to make it possible for you to achieve anything].

**Question: Well then, what does God want you to tell others about?** [That you know Him and understand Him].

**Question: What are three qualities that God has told us about Himself in the Scripture verse we read today that can help us to get to know Him better?** [Kindness, justice & righteousness].

God wants us to have these qualities of kindness, justice & righteousness in our lives as well. Let's talk about them for a moment.

### Kindness

**Question: What are four reasons why being kind is important?** [Showing kindness is important to God, being kind can cheer a person up, being kind honors God, being kind reflects the kindness God shows toward us].

**Question: What kindness has God shown toward us?** [He does not treat us as we deserve].

The Bible says, “**He [God] does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities [wickedness]. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear [respect] him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us**” (Psalm 103:10-12). If God treated us as we deserve, none of us would have hope of eternal life through what Jesus did for us.

### Justice

**Question: What is true justice?** [True justice is showing mercy and compassion].

The Bible says, “**...For the Lord is a God of justice**” (Isaiah 30:18).

**Question: How can you be compassionate to others?** [Take time to listen to a classmate, visit someone who is sick, help a family that is needy].

### Righteousness

**Question do you remember what righteousness is?** [Doing what is right according to God].

The Bible says that, “**As for God, his way is perfect, the word of the Lord is flawless**” (2 Samuel 22:31). God's ways are perfect and His words, contained in the Bible, are always right.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

**Question: How can you do all that is right according to God?** [Learn Biblical truths; ask God to help you make decisions that are good and right]. Getting to know God and what He takes delight in is the best way to know and do what is right.

Remember, **“For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved but the one whom the Lord commends” (2 Corinthians 10:18)**. The Lord commends you not for what you have accomplished, but for being His personal representative by showing kindness, being compassionate and doing what is right.

**Question: How will you be Jesus’ personal representative today?**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 3: LIVING BY EXAMPLE

#### Commandment # 2

**You shall not make for yourselves idols**  
(Know how God desires for you to worship Him)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).**

#### Character Quality

**Worship**

#### Introduction

Agnes Bojaxhiu was born in 1910 in Yugoslavia. In 1928 she decided to become a nun. After spending a short time in Ireland she was sent to join a convent in the city of Darjeeling in Northeast India. When she was twenty-one she took the name Teresa.

At first she taught geography at a girls school in Calcutta. But there were other needs in the city. There were many homeless people and beggars. Lepers lived on the streets as did orphans. In 1946 Teresa gave up the job as a teacher to care for the needy in the slums of Calcutta. In 1948 she became an Indian citizen. In 1950 she founded the Missionaries of Charity order of nuns.

Her initial work was amongst children teaching them to care for themselves and to learn basic reading and writing skills. She had her first recruit in 1949 and many others joined her over the next few years. In 1952 she founded the Kalighat Home for the Dying and established a leper colony to help leprosy sufferers. By the year 2000 over 3,000 nuns belonged to the Missionaries of Charity, running centers in over one hundred countries.

Mother Teresa died in 1997. She lived among the people she helped. She cared for people because they needed it and expected nothing from them in return. She literally laid down her life to love and show compassion for all.

The 2nd Commandment tells us that God wants us to worship Him correctly. But that leaves us with a question: How do we worship God the way He wants us to? Today we'll talk about worshipping God through your actions can be an example to others.

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#### Living By Example

(Text: Romans 12:1)

**"...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."**

**Question: What is worship?** [Worship is expressing your love and devotion to God]. One way that you and I can worship God is by living a life pleasing to Him.

**Question: How can you live a life pleasing to God?** [We can only live a life pleasing to God by the power of Jesus Christ].

If you and I try to live a life pleasing to God on our own, we will fail and fail miserably.

Here's an example:

**Question: If you took off your shoe and placed a soccer ball next to that empty shoe, how far will that shoe kick the ball?** [Not very far].

Now let's say you put the shoe back on your foot and strike at the ball. Unless you miss, the ball will travel much farther than it would have sitting by an empty shoe.

**Question: What made the difference?** [Your foot. The strength and control of your foot inside the shoe caused the ball to travel where you intended for it to go].

Trying to live a life pleasing to God on your own is like an empty shoe trying to kick a ball. It can't be done. But when you allow Jesus to be the source of your strength and control, you will live a life that pleases God. When you allow Jesus' thoughts to become your thoughts, and Jesus' ways to become your ways, you can't help but honor God!

**Question: What's one way you can worship?** [Make known to others what God has done for you].

The Bible says, **"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done"** (1 Chronicles 16:8).

Let's talk about two arenas in which you can express your love and devotion to God and let others know what He has done for you.

#### Athletics

**Question: How can you worship God through participating in sports?** [By using the abilities that God has given you in a way that pleases Him].

**Question: How can you please God through your athletic abilities?** [By using your abilities to their fullest potential].

Our culture places a high value on athletic ability - what it sees on the outside. But God is more concerned with how you use your abilities - what is on the inside. Using your abilities to the fullest includes learning the proper techniques, training properly, maintaining your concentration, developing determination and desire.

The Bible says, **"Whatever you do work at with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"** (Colossians 3:23). As a Christian you are God's personal representative in everything you say and do. Whether you're practicing or competing, you can be an example to others by using your abilities to their fullest.

#### Physical Appearance

We live in a society that places an extremely high value on physical appearance - again, what it sees on the outside - an outward beauty. But God is more concerned with your inside beauty.

**Question: What is inside beauty?** [Caring, compassion, gentleness, goodness, kindness]. These are qualities that cannot be made up for with outward beauty.

The Bible says, **"Your hands made me and formed me..."** (Psalm 119:73). God knit your body, mind, talents, personality and your qualities together into His beautiful creation. You do not need to rely on your outward appearance to gain significance or popularity.

**Question: How can you worship God through who He has created you to be?** [Express your love and devotion to God by developing and modeling those qualities of inner beauty that He highly desires in His children]. These are the qualities that will make you truly attractive.

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In a world that places a high value on outward abilities and appearances, it's easy to be led away from God's ways & God's thinking of what is truly important. Worship helps you live a life that is pleasing to God. Ask Jesus today to help you live a life pleasing to Him - by your example.

Remember, **“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 4: PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 1)

#### Commandment # 5

**Honor your father and your mother**  
(Be honoring so you can be honorable)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).**

#### Character Quality

**Responsibility**

#### Discussion Question

**Dads: What are some privileges that you enjoy?** [Home, family, employment, eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ].

**Dads: What are some responsibilities that you have?** [A home to keep up, a family to provide for, work, honoring God with your life].

#### Introduction

**“The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot” (Proverbs 10:7).**

Jonathan Edwards, pastor, college president, and author, is perhaps best remembered as one of America's greatest preacher-evangelists during the 1740's, a period in history known as the Great Awakening.

Max Jukes was an atheist. He lived a godless life. He married an ungodly girl. Their marriage produced 310 descendants who died as paupers, 150 criminals, 7 murderers, 100 drunkards, and more than half of the women were prostitutes. His 540 descendants cost the State one and a quarter million dollars.

Edwards lived at the same time as Max Jukes, but he married a godly girl. Of 1,394 known descendants of Jonathan Edwards, 13 became college presidents, 65 college professors, 3 United States senators, 30 judges, 100 lawyers, 60 physicians, 75 army and navy officers, 100 preachers and missionaries, 60 authors of prominence, one a vice-president of the United States, 80 became public officials in other capacities, 295 college graduates, among whom were governors of states and ministers to foreign countries. His descendants did not cost the state a single penny.

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Today we're going to talk about one special privilege that your parents have. We're also going to talk about a responsibility that goes along with that privilege. But first we're going to read a short Bible story to give you an example of privileges and responsibilities.

#### Privileges & Responsibilities (Part 1)

(Text: Matthew 25:14 – 21)

**14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained**

five more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

<sup>21</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**Question: In this story, what is the servant's privilege?** [Being entrusted with a large amount of his master's money].

**Question: What is the servant's responsibility?** [To make good investments with that money so it will be a bigger amount of money when his master returns].

The servants were given the privilege of being entrusted with something that was very valuable. The master expected them to do a good job with what they were given to do. God tells us that with privileges come responsibilities.

Let's talk now about one very special privilege that your parents have been given which also carries an enormous responsibility.

**Question: Do you know what that privilege and responsibility is?** [Hint: Look into a mirror!] You are a privilege of great value that God has given to your parents. In return for the privilege of you, God expects your parents to do a good job of taking care of you.

**Question: What are some ways that your parents take care of you?** [Providing a home, food, clothes].

In addition to providing you with a roof over your head, food on the table, clothes and other things you need, your parents have been given specific instructions by God toward one very important responsibility:

They are to bring you up according to His training and instruction. The Bible says, <sup>5</sup> "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

This is what I call, "creating a spiritual legacy" within your family.

**Question: What are some of God's instructions that He wants your parents to teach you?** [Honesty, respect, responsibility, purity, doing good, encouraging others, living in a way that honors God].

**Question: What are ways that your parents teach you God's instructions?** [By their example, through a discussion about an event that happened at school or at practice that can help you learn about honesty or respect, dad-son or dad-daughter Bible studies].

**Question: What is one reason that your parents teach you God's instructions?** [So that you can teach your children God's word, and your children can teach their children God's word]. You see, when you have children of your own, God will expect you to teach your children His



## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

instructions. That's why it's important to learn God's word and live the way that He wants us to today.

**Question: How can you live the way that God wants you to today?** [Through the power of Jesus Christ in your life. Only Jesus can give you the power to live in the way that you should. When His thoughts become your thoughts, His actions will become your actions].

**Question: How can you practice one of the Ten Commandments today?**

Next lesson: We'll talk about privileges and responsibilities that you have toward your parents.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 5: PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 2)

#### Commandment # 5

**Honor your father and your mother**  
(Be honoring so you can be honorable)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).**

#### Character Quality

**Responsibility**

#### Review

Last week we talked about a privilege and a responsibility that your parents have.

**Question: Do you remember one very special privilege that your parents have been given?** [You].

**Question: Do you remember the specific responsibility that God has given to your parents toward you?** [They are to bring you up according to His training and instruction].

#### Introduction

With privileges come responsibilities. Today we're going to talk about one special privilege that you have. We're also going to talk about a responsibility that goes along with that privilege.

#### Privileges & Responsibilities (Part 2)

(Text: Ephesians 6:1-4)

**<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."**

**<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."**

**Question: Kids: What is a privilege that you enjoy in your family?** [A roof over your head, food, clothing, phone, an allowance].

As a kid, one of my favorite times during the week was Saturday morning. That was when I got my allowance. Every Friday night I would plan out what I would get with my allowance the next morning.

**Question: What kinds of things do you do with your allowance?** [Buy baseball cards, lip-smackers, candy, save up for something you really want].

**Question: Is your allowance a privilege or a responsibility?** [Both].

**Question: In what way is your allowance a privilege?** [A privilege is a benefit or an advantage that you enjoy. Not everybody receives an allowance].

**Question: In what way is your allowance a responsibility?** [One purpose of an allowance is to teach you how to use your money wisely].

**Question: With privileges come responsibilities. What is one way to be responsible with your allowance?** [Give a part of it to God].

**Question: Why would you want to give part of your allowance to God?** [The Bible tells us that we should give a portion of any money we receive for God's purposes]. The Bible says, “**A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy [set apart] to the Lord.**” (Leviticus 27:30). So we entrust some of our money to the church and to other organizations to help take the message of Jesus Christ into the world.

**Question: Where might that part of your allowance you give to the church go?** [For food, clothing and shelter for those without, Bibles for those who do not have or cannot get them, seminaries who train our pastors, missionaries that tell people about Jesus Christ and show God's love through their lives].

For each privilege there is a responsibility.

For example, you receive an allowance as a privilege. You then have a responsibility to use your money wisely. A church receives money from individuals as a privilege, and has a responsibility to use that money wisely to accomplish the purpose that God has given to that church. An organization that receives money or food or clothing from a church as a privilege, has a responsibility to use those gifts wisely.

**Question: What then is important to remember when you receive a privilege?** [What will you do with it and how will you use it]? A good question to ask is, “What God approve with what I'm doing with this privilege?”

Your parents received you as a gift or a privilege from God. Their responsibility is to bring you up according to God's instructions.

**Question: What then is the privilege that you receive from your parents?** [Receiving God's instructions on how to live your life].

Therefore, God says to you, “Obey your parents, for their teaching and instructions to you come from Me. When you obey your parents, it's the right thing to do, because what you're really doing is obeying Me.”

If you remember, our definition of obedience is practicing living by God's instructions to become more like Jesus. When you obey God, you are becoming more like Jesus.

This is the reason God says to honor or respect your father and your mother. It is mainly through them that we have the privilege of learning God's instructions. Therefore we have a responsibility to live our lives according to His instructions. And if you also remember, God gives them to us for our own good, because He made us to work best when we “follow the directions.”

**Question: Think back to our story last week of the master who entrusted his property to his servants. What did he say to the servant who had been given \$5,000 and returned \$10,000?**

The Bible says, “**His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.’**” (Matthew 25:14-21).

- **Question: Dads: God has given to you the responsibility to teach your kids His instructions. Will God be able to say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” to you today?**

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- **Question: Kids: God has given your parents the responsibility to teach you God's word and His instructions. How have you done with them? Will God be able to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" to you today?**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 6: THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

#### Commandment # 1

**You shall have no other gods before me**  
(Choose to please God rather than others)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14).**

#### Character Quality

**Honoring those in authority**

**Note: This lesson may be uncomfortable for some kids and dads in the study. Please pray for sensitivity and insight as you lead the group through this teaching.**

#### Review

**<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).**

Our definition of obedience is practicing living by God's instructions to become more like Jesus. When you obey God, you are becoming more like Jesus.

This is the reason God says to honor or respect your father and your mother. It is mainly through them that we have the privilege of learning God's instructions. Therefore we have a responsibility to live our lives according to His instructions. And if you also remember, God gives them to us for our own good, because He made us to work best when we "follow the directions."

**Question: What are some of God's instructions that He wants your parents to teach you?** [Honesty, respect, responsibility, purity, doing good, encouraging others, living in a way that honors God].

**Question: What are ways that your parents teach you God's instructions?** [By their example; a discussion about an event that happened at school or at practice that can help you learn about honesty or respect, dad-son or dad-daughter Bible studies].

**Question: How does God want you to honor your parents' teaching?** [Honor your parents' teaching by responding in obedience: being honest, pure, encouraging, living in a way that honors God].

#### Introduction

Festo Kivengere was born in the country of Uganda in 1919. As a young man he invited Jesus Christ into his life and became a bishop in the Anglican Church in Uganda.

One day, Festo went to see his stepfather. For years, Festo hated his stepfather and refused to talk with him. Festo's stepfather was cruel and often beat Festo's mother. After his mother died, his stepfather did nothing to help the family. Those experiences created hate in Festo's heart. \*

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For the last two lessons weeks we have talked about your parent's responsibility to teach you God's word, and your responsibility to respect and listen to your parents as God commands.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

Most of the time, parents have their children's best interests in mind and are trying to teach God's word to their kids.

But what about those unfortunate instances when that's not happening?

- A parent physically or verbally abuses a family member.
  - A parent abandons the family.
  - A parent abuses alcohol or drugs.
  - A parent has no interest in church or spiritual truths.
- or
- Your teacher tells you that "safe sex" is OK.
  - Your coach pulls you out of the game and yells and screams at you for making a mistake.

Many coaches and teachers play a large role in helping to shape your values, that's why I'm including them in this lesson. So when we talk about parents today, we're going to include coaches, teachers, or other individuals who are in a position to teach you and guide you.

**Question: What does it mean to honor someone?** [Listen to & respect them].

We're going to try and answer two questions today:

1. Why should you honor a person in authority when God's word and instructions are clearly not being taught?
2. How can you honor them?

These are hard questions to answer. These are questions that I wish did not have to be answered. But in the world we live in, they are questions that cannot be ignored. So here we go.

As a starting point, let's visit a place that Jesus refers to as "the world." On the night of His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven. He prayed for you and for me.

The World  
(Text: John 17:14-18)

**14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."**

**Question: What is "the world" that Jesus refers to?** [The world is any place where God's ways or values are opposed or ignored]. The world can be in your school, your office, an organization, your home, your heart. When you don't live according to God's standards of what is right, you live according to the world's standards.

**Question: What are some examples of the world's values?** [I will lie or steal to get what I want rather than honestly work for it. I will judge a person's worth or popularity based on his or her appearance rather than how kind or loving that person is. I will fill my mind and body with what is impure rather than what is pure].

**Question: What does Jesus mean when He says that you and I are "not of the world any more than I am of the world"?** [Jesus means that as Christians, you and I are not to get our values from the world]. Jesus says that you are to get your values from Him and live by them as you go to school, conduct business meetings, as you play on your soccer team or your company softball team, or hang out with your friends.

**Question: Why did Jesus ask God to protect us from the world?** [Jesus knows that the world's views and ways are often times very attractive to us]. That's why you need to allow Jesus to help you live His ways and think His thoughts. Only Jesus can give you the power to live the way that you should - to live by His values and not the world's.

God tells us that although we are surrounded by a menu of tempting choices the world offers, we are not to choose items from that menu.

But God also gives us the freedom to make that choice. A person can have Jesus Christ in his or her heart, and yet still choose to live by the world's values.

So, when a person of authority chooses to live by the world's standards, the question still remains: Why should you honor those in authority when God's word is clearly not being taught?

The Bible says, **"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).**

God's command to honor your father and mother still stands. It's easy to honor your parents, teachers or coaches when they are being honorable, but you are called to be respectful to them - period. Not just when they're nice or when they're right, or when you want to.

**Question: How can you honor what is not honorable?** The Bible says, **"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).**

- If those in authority have done what is wrong, and it hurts you, you can show God's love by being forgiving. God loves us so much that He forgives us for the wrongs that we commit against Him. Forgiveness is a powerful example of God's love.
- Honor what is honorable. Focus on what they have done right for you and thank them.
- Choose to live a Godly life. The Bible says that, **"You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14).** You be the one to live by God's standards and help them see the truth about life and about God.
- Pray for your parents and teachers that they will live to please God and not the world. The Bible says, **"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).**
- Seek wise counsel or good advice from those who know and teach God's word. The best person I know of is Jesus Christ Himself, who through the Holy Spirit will lead you and guide you in the truth and all that is good and right.

Whether you are being taught God's word or not, you have a responsibility to respect those people in authority in your life. But God should always be the most important person in your life. Your first responsibility is to love God and learn to live by His word - to please Him rather than others.

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\* And now...the rest of the story: One day, as Festo was praying, God told him to forgive his stepfather. Festo wanted no part of forgiving this man but knew it was what God wanted him to do. He stood before this man he hated for so long and said, "Stepfather, for years I have hated you, But Jesus has taken that hate away."

The old man squinted his eyes, uncertain whether to believe Festo. Finally he admitted, "Yes, well, I always knew you hated me." You knew only a little. I came to tell you the whole story and

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

say that it is over. Please forgive me.” Together they sat and talked. An hour later, his stepfather forgave him.

Later, Festo wrote: “Love is a language anyone can understand. The barrier was gone, and we became friends. Now our homes are open to each other” (Adapted from Hero Tales, by Dave & Neta Jackson, Bethany House, 1997, pp. 69-76).

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There is a story of a man who once stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain and injustice of the world

“Dear God,” he cried out, “Look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in our world. Why don’t you send help?”

God responded, “I did send help. I sent you.

**Question: God sent you to help. How will you help someone see that God is the most important person in your life today?**



LESSON # 7: PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 3)

Commandment # 3

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**  
(Be Jesus Christ's personal representative in everything you do)

Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

Today's Lesson verse

**"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression [sin] - it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4-5).**

Character Quality

**Responsibility**

Discussion Question

**What is one of the best gifts you ever received?**

Introduction

The Greyhound had been in a north Atlantic storm for over a week. On the eleventh day of the storm, sailor John Newton was too exhausted to pump, so he was tied to the helm and tried to hold the ship to its course. From one o'clock until midnight he was at the helm.

With the storm raging fiercely, Newton had time to think. His life seemed as ruined and wrecked as the battered ship he was trying to steer through the storm. Since the age of eleven he had lived a life at sea. Sailors were not noted for the refinement of their manners, but Newton had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, and wild living which even shocked many sailors.

Newton had rejected his mother's teachings of the Bible and had led other sailors into unbelief. Certainly he was beyond hope and beyond saving, even if the Scriptures were true. Yet, Newton's thoughts began to turn to Christ.

That day at the helm, March 21, 1748, was a day Newton remembered from that moment on, for "On that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God.

Though Newton continued in his profession of sailing and slave-trading for a time, his life was transformed. At the age of thirty-nine, John Newton began forty-three years of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For his Sunday evening services, Newton often composed a hymn that led into the lessons and Scripture for the evening. The most famous hymn of all, we know today as "Amazing Grace." (Christian History Institute, Glimpses Article #28, [www.gospelcom.net](http://www.gospelcom.net)).

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**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see**

John Newton was lost, but now is found. He knew how bad he had become, and how God rescued him.

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Life on this earth is temporary. Every one of us will one day physically die. Our natural body will stop working, but our spiritual body will go on and live forever. The Bible says that you and I have a choice while we are alive on this earth to decide the address where our spiritual body will live.

Jesus tells us, <sup>13</sup> **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"** (Matthew 7:13-14).

**Question: Where does this narrow gate that Jesus speaks of lead?** [This narrow gate leads to a privilege that only a few will find: the presence and majesty of God forever]. This is the privilege of eternal life.

The Bible makes it clear that eternal life is not a right that is guaranteed, but a privilege. Let's look at three reasons why eternal life is a privilege and relate them to a wonderful Bible story about a privilege that a man received.

### The Privilege Of Eternal Life

(Text: Acts 3:1-10)

**AC 3:1** "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

**AC 3:6** Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

### God Didn't Have To Offer The Privilege Of Eternal Life To You Or To Any Person

**"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:8).

**Question: What is sin?** [It's failure to live according to God's standards]. Sin is also a failure to love God more than anything or anyone else. The Bible says that all people have failed to live according to God's standards, **"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). And sin is not isolated events that happen from time to time. Sin is a state that you and I are in from the moment we're born.

**Question: So why on earth do you think that God decided to send Jesus to die for us?** [It's called "Grace"].

The Bible says, **"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression [sin] - it is by grace you have been saved"** (Ephesians 2:4-5). Let's talk about what this Bible passage means.

**Question: What is mercy?** [Mercy is kindness or compassion].

**Question: What does it mean to be “dead in your sin”?** [Helpless]. Dead people can't do a whole lot for themselves. The Bible says that you and I are helpless to be alive spiritually without God's help.

**Question: What is grace?** [Grace is doing something for someone simply because you want to]. God's grace then, is when God does something for you because He wants to, not because you deserve it.

**Question: What are some examples of how God can be gracious to you?** [Healing of an illness or injury, good health, peace of mind during an important test, eternal life].

**Question: In the Bible verse we just read, what is God's grace saving us from?** [Perishing]. Perishing is the opposite of having eternal life. Perishing means eternal separation from God's presence forever.

God loves you very much. Because of His great kindness and mercy, even though you fail to live up to His standards, God wants you to be spiritually alive - to live in His presence and majesty forever. And the only way you can be spiritually alive, is to reach out and accept the gift of eternal life that He offers to you.

**Question: In our Bible story today, how was Peter & John's gift to the crippled man like God's gift of eternal life to you?** [Peter & John did not have to stop and help the beggar. Likewise, God did not have to offer His gift of eternal life to you or to any person]. Eternal life is a privilege.

**Question: How are you and I like the beggar in the Bible story?** [We are in need of healing, but we are helpless to heal ourselves. The beggar needed physical healing, you and I are in need of spiritual healing].

God Chose You To Receive His Gift Of Eternal Life

**“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).**

**Question: What does sanctify mean?** [To make you holy - to make you fit to stand in God's presence]. It is a process, initiated or begun by God's Holy Spirit working within you.

**Question: What makes us un-fit to be with God?** [Sin makes it impossible to be with God because sin cannot stand in His presence]. The only way that you and I can be made fit to stand in God's presence is to become spiritually alive - through accepting God's gift of eternal life through believing in the truth.

**Question: What is this truth?** [That Jesus Christ is the Son of God].

The Bible says that from the very beginning of time, God chose to save you from perishing, and sent His Holy Spirit to work within you to give you the power to believe that Jesus is His one and only Son.

**Question: When Peter & John stopped to help the crippled man, how is that like God choosing to give you eternal life?** [Peter & John chose to stop and help the beggar, just as God chose to save you through His gift of eternal life]. Eternal life is a privilege.

God Loves You Enough To Give You This Gift Even Though It Cost Him A Great Deal

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).**

**Question: Do you remember what Jesus means when he refers to the world?** [Any time a person does not live according to God's standards of right, Jesus says that person is living in the world]. The Bible says that whether you go there to visit from time to time, or decide to take up permanent residence, you have been a part of the world. And God says that if you choose to remain a permanent citizen of the world, you will perish.

But because He loves you, God gives you an opportunity to change your address. God sent His one and only Son Jesus into the world, so that through Him, you have the opportunity to forward your address to heaven. And the Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will not perish. You will no longer belong to the world, but will be spiritually alive and made a part of God's family.

**Question: When Peter & John healed the crippled man, how is that like God's gift of eternal life to you?** [The crippled beggar could not have possibly healed himself. He had been that way for 40 years. Likewise, God's gift of eternal life is one that you can never achieve on your own]. Eternal life is a privilege.

Like the crippled beggar that was healed physically, you and I can be healed spiritually and receive God's gift of eternal life through belief in the truth: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

But with privileges come responsibilities.

**Question: What responsibility do you have in return for the privilege of eternal life?** [You have a responsibility to be Jesus' personal representative in everything you do].

**Question: How can you a good representative of Jesus today?**

LESSON # 8: PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 4)

Commandment # 3

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**  
(Be Jesus Christ's personal representative in everything you do)

Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

Today's Lesson verse

**"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).**

Character Quality

**Responsibility**

Discussion Question

**When you receive a gift, what are ways to express your appreciation?** [Write a thank you note, give a gift in return, enjoy it, use it].

Review of Last Week's Lesson

If you remember, Peter & John had just healed a man who had been crippled from birth.

**Question: By what power did Peter & John heal this man?** [Through the power of Jesus Christ].

Like the crippled beggar who could not have possibly healed himself, you and I can never achieve eternal life by anything that we can do on our own. Like the beggar who needed to be healed physically, you and I need to be healed spiritually by receiving God's gift of eternal life through belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Introduction

I was having a talk not too long ago with a person who had just received the privilege of eternal life by asking Jesus Christ to be her Savior and her Lord. During our conversation she asked, "I know that I have eternal life, but isn't there something that I should be doing now?" In other words, her question was, "I'm a Christian, so what do I do now?"

**Question: How would you answer her question? What would you say is your responsibility as a Christian?** [To be Jesus' personal representative in everything you do].

Here's how one young man answered that question:

Some twelve years ago, I stood watching my university students file into the classroom for our first session in my theology course. That was the first day I first saw Tommy. I immediately filed Tommy under "S" for strange...very strange. Tommy turned out to be the "atheist in residence" in my course. He constantly objected to, or smirked at the possibility of an unconditionally loving Father-God.

When he came up at the end of the course to turn in his final exam, he asked in a slightly cynical tone: "Do you think I'll ever find God?"

"No!" I said very emphatically. I let him get five steps from the classroom door and then called out: "Tommy! I don't think you'll ever find him, but I am absolutely certain that He will find you!" He shrugged a little and left my class and I didn't see him again.

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Later I heard that Tommy had terminal cancer. Before I could search him out, he came to see me. When he walked into my office, his body was very weak, but his eyes were bright and his voice was firm.

"What I came to see you about," Tom said, "is something you said to me on the last day of class." He continued, "I asked you if you thought I would ever find God and you said, 'No!' which surprised me. Then you said, 'But he will find you. You were right. He found me even after I stopped looking for him.'"

"Tom, could I ask you a favor? You know, when I had you in class you were a real pain. But you can make it all up to me now. Would you come into my present theology course and tell them what you have just told me? If I told them the same thing it wouldn't be half as effective as if you were to tell them."

However, he never made it to my class. Before he died, we talked one last time. "I'm not going to make it to your class," he said.

"I know, Tom."

"Will you tell them for me? Will you...tell the whole world for me?"

(This story was written by Father John Powell, a retired professor at Loyola University in Chicago, adapted here for this lesson).

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Today, we're going to pick up the story of Peter & John after they had healed the crippled man, and learn about how you can be Jesus' personal representative.

### A Thank You Note

(Text: Acts 4:1-20)

**4:1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. <sup>2</sup> They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup> They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. <sup>4</sup> But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.**

**<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"**

**<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> He is**

**"`the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. '**

**<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**

**13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **14** But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15** So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. **16** "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. **17** But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

**18** Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. **20** For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

In this story, Peter & John display four qualities that help them be good representatives for Jesus Christ. These four traits can also help you be a good representative of Jesus Christ.

#### Be Yourself

**"...they were unschooled, ordinary men..." (Acts 4:13).**

The Bible says, **13 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:13-14).**

God designed who you are for a purpose. He put you together - all of you. He made your body. He created your mind to explore interests you have. He authored your personality. He picked out your gifts and abilities. And He took all of these pieces of fabric and wove them together so that you can serve the purpose He made you for.

**Question: What is the purpose that God made you for?** [To live a life that brings honor and glory to Him].

**Question: What does it mean to bring glory to God?** [Bringing glory to God means bringing people's attention to Him].

**Question: What's the best way to bring people's attention to God?** [By being a mirror]. Bring people's attention to God by mirroring or reflecting God's goodness with your attitudes, in what you do, by what you say].

God took Peter and John just as they were: ordinary fishing guys, with no formal religious training, and used them to bring Him honor in front of all the important Jewish religious leaders. Peter and John lived their lives being His mirrors, reflecting His power, His goodness, His love for all people.

**Question: How can you be a mirror for Jesus Christ today?**

#### Be Courageous

**"When they saw the courage of Peter and John..." (Acts 4:13).**

**Question: If a good friend of yours who is not a Christian asks you, "Why do you believe in Jesus," what would you say?**

**Question: Why could that be a difficult conversation?** [You wouldn't know what to say, wouldn't want to upset him or her, your friend might ask you a question you couldn't answer].

When the Jewish leaders arrested Peter and John and questioned them about their teaching, and then threatened them if they preached about Jesus anymore, they could have packed it in and gone back to being fishermen.

**Question: Instead, what did they do?** [They answered the religious leaders questions with what they knew to be true, and stood up for their belief in the truth].

The Bible says that, **“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” (1 Peter 3:15).**

Peter & John knew what they believed about Jesus was true. They knew it was right to obey God and tell the religious leaders the truth, rather than give in to their demands and keep silent.

When someone asks you why you believe in Jesus Christ, remember Peter and John. Be courageous. Answer them gently and respectfully. And like Peter and John, you will bring honor to God.

Speaking About What You Have Seen And Heard: Tell Others The Good News

**“But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19-20).**

**Question: Do you know what an ambassador is?** [An ambassador is appointed (chosen) to represent an important person].

Often times, when the President of the US cannot attend a meeting, but that meeting requires his presence, he will send an ambassador in his place to represent him.

**Question: What do you think is the best way to become a good ambassador?** [Spend time with that person you're representing to get to know him or her].

An ambassador acts and speaks for the person he or she is representing.

If you are a Christian, God has appointed you to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Your job as His ambassador is to represent Him in everything you do and say.

**Question: What are some ways that you can represent Jesus to others?** [Be kind even when others are not kind to you, be joyful during a difficult time, exercise self-control during a tense moment].

**Question: How is it possible to represent Jesus the way He wants us to?** [By being filled with His Holy Spirit]. When you ask Jesus to help you represent Him, by His power, He will enable you to do just that.

Allow Jesus To Be Your Lord

**“...they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).**

The Jewish religious leaders could tell that Peter and John had spent time with Jesus.

**Question: Can people tell from just being around you that you spend time with Jesus?**



## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

**Question: How can you spend time with Jesus?** [Invite Him to sit with you at the lunch table at school, invite Him to soccer practice with you, invite Him to go over to your friend's house with you]. Involve Him in everything you do and say.

If you are a Christian, you have received a wonderful gift. Your life then should be a thank you note to God.

- How can you thank God today for who He made you to be?
- Have you thanked Jesus for giving up His life for you by accepting Him as your savior?
- Have you thanked Jesus today by spending time with Him?
- Have you thanked God by representing Jesus in everything you do and say?

**Question: How can you be a thank you note to God today?**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 9: GUNK IN YOUR GAS (Part 1)

#### Commandment # 7

**You shall not commit adultery**  
(Remain pure in thought, word, actions & body)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).**

#### Character Quality

**Purity**

#### Preamble

Have you ever been riding in a car and heard a gurgling, knocking sound in the motor or felt the car hesitate before accelerating?

Your car probably has gunk in its gas. Gunk is dirt and pollution that accumulates in the gas tank. As gasoline flows through your car's system, it carries the gunk with it. The gunk gets motor parts dirty and makes your car run poorly. When your car runs poorly, it's not only annoying; it can be dangerous.

Today we're going to talk about how gunk gets into your tanks; how it's annoying, how it can be dangerous. Then we'll talk about some ways you can remain pure and gunk free.

#### Introduction

In about 600 BC, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon attacked the city of Jerusalem. King Nebby captured the king of Jerusalem along with some items from the temple of God. King Nebby had these articles carried off and he put them into the temple of his god. Then Nebby ordered his chief official to take to Babylon some of the Israelite boys from the royal family and other important families. Four of these boys were named, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (you may know them better as Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego). For 3 years they were taught the Babylonian language and everything else they would need to know to serve king Nebby. They were also given a special diet of food from the king's tables.

#### Gunk In Your Gas (Part 1)

(Text: Daniel 1:8-16)

**<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.**

**Question: What does defile mean?** [It means to pollute or make dirty].

**<sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."**

**<sup>11</sup> Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with**

that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

#### Gunk In Your Body

**Question: What's the reason that Daniel and his friends wanted only vegetables and water?** [The obvious reason here is that these guys cared about what they put into their bodies]. Vegetables help your body maintain good health and function properly.

**Question: What are other good ways to take care of your body?** [Exercise, rest, thinking before acting].

**Question: Why is gunk in your body annoying?** [If you pollute your body with too much improper nutrition, gunk begins to keep your body from performing its best].

But your body is more than just a physical body. Just as your body needs proper nutrition and exercise to remain healthy, so does your mind.

#### Gunk In Your Mind

**Question: How is your mind like a computer?** [A computer can only give back to you the data that has been programmed into it].

**Question: How is your mind like a garden?** [Your mind is like extremely fertile soil, capable of producing whatever is planted into it].

**Question: What do you get if you plant watermelon seeds in fertile soil?** [You get watermelons].

**Question: What do you get if you plant truth seeds in your mind?** [You get truth]!

**Question: What happens if you plant impurities into your mind?** [Impurities come out]!

**Question: Why is gunk in your mind dangerous?** [What you put into your mind determines what comes out of you. If your mind is being filled with impurities, what you do and say will be impure].

**Question: What are some ways to put proper nutrition into your mind?** [Scripture; books; music; movies that build positive Biblical values; avoiding material & conversations that tear down your mind].

#### Why You Should Prevent Gunk From Being Deposited Into Your Mind & Your Body

The seventh of the Ten Commandments in the Bible says, "**You shall not commit adultery**" (Exodus 20:14).

**Question: What is adultery?** [The word adulterate means to make something impure by polluting it with improper ingredients. Adultery then, is a thought or an act you commit knowingly that makes you impure].

**Question: Why is adultery such a serious offense?** [Your body is more than just a body; it is God's temple! When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, at the moment you make that decision the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in His temple - your heart]!

The Bible says, “**Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temples and that God’s Spirit lives in you?**” (1 Corinthians 3:16).

- Why then, would you put or consider putting gunk into your mind, i.e.: words, thoughts, music, language, information, or pictures, that make your mind work improperly?
- Why then would you put or consider putting gunk into your body, i.e.: excessive amounts of alcohol, or drugs that would be harmful to you?

*Why would you bring anything into God’s temple that He does not approve of?*

How You Can Prevent Gunk From Depositing In Your Body & In Your Mind

Listen to what the apostle Paul tells us:

**“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things” (Philippians 4:8).**

**Question: What are some things that are right and pure that you can think about?** [Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control].

If you will train yourself to think about these things, you will have less gunk in your life, and have more of the quality kind of life that Jesus says you can have.

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Well dad – you made it through the first lesson on adultery. Next lesson: Gunk In Your Gas Part 2. We’ll talk specifically about remaining pure sexually.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 10: GUNK IN YOUR GAS (Part 2)

#### Commandment # 7

**You shall not commit adultery**  
(Remain pure in thought, word, actions & body)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).**

#### Character Quality

**Purity**

#### Introduction

One definition of adultery is introducing impurities into your mind and your body that lessens the quality of your life. Today we're going to define adultery in a more specific way. Simply put, adultery is engaging in sex before or outside of marriage. This definition tells us 3 things:

1. Sex is for marriage between a man and woman only
2. Marriage must be seen as a relation of lifelong commitment
3. Other people's marriages must not be interfered with sexually

**Question: Why are we talking about sex in a Bible study?** [Because the society you live in has taken a precious gift that God says, "Do not open 'til marriage," and said, "Go ahead. Open it now. It's ok"].

Today, we're going to talk about why you should be or remain sexually pure. So let's start at the beginning - Let's go back and check out the first thing God has to say about sex.

#### Gunk In Your Gas Part 2: Do Not Open 'Til Marriage

(Text: Genesis 2:19-24)

**19** Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. **20** So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. **21** So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." **24** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

God gives sex as a wonderful gift to a man and a woman who are married. The "one flesh" experience is that being given to each other, they now belong to each other. Sex then, is the place for lifelong commitment – marriage.

Sex outside of marriage cannot fulfill God's ideal because it happens outside of the marriage commitment in which God intended for it to be enjoyed.

**Question: Think back to our discussion about what the Bible calls “the world” (lesson #6). Do you remember what the world is?** [The world is any place where God’s ways or values are opposed or ignored].

**Question: Do you remember why Jesus asked God to protect you & me from the world?** [Jesus knows that the world’s views and ways are often times very attractive to us]. We live in a society that often times encourage us to live in a way that opposes God’s ways and values. Unfortunately, many men and women, and even boys and girls today don’t want to wait to be married to have sex. In fact, you are told every day that it’s ok to have sex now!

**Question: Who says that it’s ok to have sex before or outside of marriage?** [You are told in movies, songs, advertisements & magazines. Friends at school or even friends at church youth groups may tell you it’s ok].

IT IS A LIE!

God designed sex to be a gift that enables you to express your love to your husband or wife in a marriage relationship.

**Question: Why is it dangerous to engage in sex before or outside of marriage?** [Adultery is gunk. Adultery lessens the quality of that gift and lessens the quality of life].

The Bible says, **“For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).**

When a man and woman have sex, they become as one person. God designed sex to bond a husband & wife together physically, emotionally, mentally & spiritually. Sex before marriage destroys the gift that God intended only for husbands and wives within the marriage relationship. Sex outside of marriage tears apart the bond between a husband and wife and can destroy a family.

The Bible says, **“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified [made pure]: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).**

The writer of this Scripture verse knows that being sexually impure can ignite a series of consequences that you have no control over.

**Question: What do you think that some of the consequences of adultery are?** Let’s find out in what we’re calling: “The Top Ten Reasons To Commit Adultery.”

#### The Top Ten Reasons To Commit Adultery

**10) Institute a generational curse upon your family**

Your example & attitude of disobedience to God will pass down to your children.

**9) Be a slave**

Live out of control by letting your desires control you.

**8) It’s risky**

You can get pregnant or get someone pregnant.

**7) Learn how to make relationships less meaningful**

Your mind remembers every sexual experience and compares them. You’ve already got a great start to making your marriage less meaningful!

**6) Earn a reputation**

You will earn a well-deserved reputation as a liar and as unfaithful to God and to your family.

**5) It’s stupid**

Peer pressure says, "Go ahead - it's ok!" If someone said to you, "Run into a tornado - it's ok" - would you do it? Well there's not much difference between adultery and running into a tornado.

**4) Be like Adam & Eve!**

Go ahead and eat the fruit of the tree that is placed off-limits to you. Ignore the consequences of the guilt, shame and fear that will follow your bad decision!

**3) Be a fool and believe the lie that society is telling you**

If you buy into the lie that sex before or outside of marriage is good and ok and desirable, then sooner or later you act upon it and lessen the quality of your life and your family's life.

**2) Get a disease!**

Adultery is a great way to get infections from sexual encounters that can destroy your body, your emotions and the bodies and emotions of others.

**1) It's illegal!**

It's illegal according to the laws of the state (before you're 16) & God's law of what is morally right.

**Question: Do you think the consequences are worth it?**

The Top Ten Reasons To Remain Pure Sexually

**10) Institute a blessing upon your family**

Your example and attitude of obedience to God will pass down to your family & others.

**9) Live with a clear conscience**

Knowing and living by the truth enables you to enjoy living the way God intended.

**8) Avoid an unwanted pregnancy**

Abstinence is the only 100% way to avoid becoming or getting someone pregnant.

**7) Makes relationships more meaningful**

You can spend your time building a solid relationship on love, trust, care and honesty without having to spend time dealing with the consequences of sexual impurity.

**6) You can give a wonderful wedding present**

You can give the gift of your purity on your wedding night. You can give to your husband or wife what you have given to no one else!

**5) It's smart!**

God has placed sex before or outside of marriage off-limits to you for your own good. Remaining sexually pure is one of God's ways of protecting you from the danger of the consequences that will come with a bad decision.

**4) Be like Christ!**

Obey God and His commands out of love and respect for Him.

**3) Be wise and see through the lie that society is telling you**

Understand that remaining sexually pure increases the quality of your life.

**2) Be healthy**

You can help keep yourself and your family healthier physically and emotionally.

**1) It's right!**

It's right according to the laws of the state (before age 16) and God's law of what is morally right.

Adultery is gunk. It's dirt and pollution that lessens the quality of life. Adultery destroys families. Remaining sexually pure increases the quality of your life and helps build strong marriages and families. You can start building a strong marriage and a strong family today by remaining sexually pure.

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### LESSON # 11 GUNK IN YOUR GAS (Part 3) A LETTER FROM JOHN

Commandment # 7

**You shall not commit adultery**  
(Remain pure in thought, word, actions & body)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7).**

#### Character Quality

**Purity in mind and body**

#### **A note to the study leader from the author:**

The main text of this lesson comes from a letter written by a young man to his parents. This letter tells how drugs and alcohol have lessened the quality of his life and the lives of his friends and family.

This is not an easy lesson to present, but it's one that I chose to include in our series on remaining pure. I pray that our kids will learn a valuable lesson from: [A Letter From John](#).

#### Review

Your car probably has gunk in its gas. Gunk is dirt and pollution that accumulates in the gas tank. As gasoline flows through your car's system, it carries the gunk with it. The gunk gets motor parts dirty and makes your car run poorly. When your car runs poorly, it's not only annoying; it can be dangerous.

The word adultery comes from a word that means to make something impure by polluting it. Adultery then, is pollution of your mind and your body.

#### Introduction

Today's lesson centers around a question that was raised in an earlier lesson:

- Why would you put or consider putting gunk into your mind that makes your mind run improperly?
- Why would you put or consider putting gunk into your body that would be harmful to you?

**Question: What are different types of pollution you can think of?** [Air pollution, water pollution, litter]. These types of pollution lessen the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Just as there is air and water pollution, there are also types of pollution that make your mind and your body impure.

Adultery is gunk. Not only is it dirt and pollution that lessens the quality of your life and the quality of those lives around you, it is extremely dangerous.

**Question: What do you think makes putting gunk into your mind or your body so dangerous?** [As strange as it may sound, gunk can be extremely attractive - and when it's too late - extremely addictive].

If you've ever taken time to look at flowers in a garden, you'll probably notice some weeds growing right up with them. At first, weeds can look just like flowers – it's hard to tell the difference when they're young. But even by the time they've poked their heads up through the ground, they've already established strong roots. By the time you realize that they're not beautiful



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flowers, but unwanted weeds, their roots are so strong that it's hard to pull them up and get them out of your garden.

Like weeds in a garden, by the time you may realize that gunk isn't so attractive, and is bad for you, the seeds of addiction have already taken root. And you may not be strong enough to pull them up.

The main part of our lesson today comes from a letter written by a young man named John. This is a letter that John wrote to his parents. It's re-printed word for word.

Our purpose in presenting this letter to you today is to help you understand why putting gunk in your mind or your body is so dangerous, and why you should remain pure in mind and body.

### A Letter From John

November 15th, 1992

*"Hi. I'm not at all sure how to start this letter. I'm in a state of confusion, fear and guilt and shame.*

*I know in the past I've said "I'm sorry" and "I'll never do that again" etc., etc. and I know that you're fed up with hearing it and won't believe it anymore, and frankly I don't blame you at all.*

*I've come to the reality and fact that I manipulated the both of you for my selfish needs and wants. I never did quit using alcohol, and for the past two years, sorry to say, I was using the drug crack. How I got hooked on it is not important right now.*

*Writing this letter and making amends to clear my conscious and getting help is. Even though I've been through treatment centers before, I never did it for myself.*

*I am an alcoholic / addict! I did everything in my power to use and hurt everyone I came into contact with for my own benefit to keep my disease alive. Now, after 31 agonizing years I've finally admitted not only to myself but also to others that "I'm powerless over alcohol and drugs and that my life has completely become unmanageable."*

*I'm in a controlled environment for alcoholics / addicts. I'm going on my 3rd week of abstinence of drugs / alcohol. I'm extremely scared stiff. I've gone through DT's [DT's can include tremors & hallucinations], withdrawal symptoms (still), had a couple of seizures and am in need of seeking help from a neurologist.*

*I do want you to know, that I'm eating well, and am trying to recover for myself, because I do not remember at all who I was. I have this one chance to find out through this treatment center. I wish you a relatively happy year (what's left of it) and will give you an address after I complete the 6th month course.*

*I just wanted to let you know that I'm alive (somewhat).*

*John*

The seventh of the Ten Commandments in the Bible says, **"You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).**

One of the reasons that God gave us the Ten Commandments is a way of protecting us from the danger of the consequences that come with a making a bad decision. Let's stop by The World Cafe and see how dangerous adultery is.

The World Cafe

**“Do not love the world or anything in the world” (1 John 2:15).**

**Question: John chose to order alcohol and drugs from the menu at the World Cafe. Do you remember what John was feeling after using alcohol and drugs? [Confusion, fear, guilt, shame].**

Let's look at three ways that ordering from the world's menu affected John's life and the lives of his family and friends, and then how you can avoid ordering from the world's menu.

Ordering From The World's Menu Can Make Your Life Unmanageable

The alcohol and drugs took control over John's life. He became a slave to what the drugs and alcohol wanted him to do - lie, steal, hurt others - leaving him unable to manage his day-to-day life effectively.

Ordering From The World's Menu Can Damage Your Mind And Body

John started using alcohol and drugs when he was 12 years old - in the sixth grade. As a result his mind became damaged. Twenty years later, he couldn't remember who God intended for him to be. You see, the drugs and alcohol had given him a new identity: prisoner.

Ordering From The World's Menu Reduces The Quality Of Your Life

John lived in a prison - one arm bound by the chains of alcohol, the other arm bound by the chain of drugs. He spent Christmas day in a rehabilitation center with seizures and tremors from the withdrawal of drugs, while at his parent's home, John's presents sat wrapped under the tree.

How You Can Avoid Ordering From The World's Menu

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self - control” (Galatians 5:22).**

Choose From God's Menu

The Bible says, **“Do not love the world or anything in the world” (1 John 2:15).**

**Question: What can you find in this Scripture verse that can help you avoid putting gunk into you? [Do not order from the world's menu].**

While the items on the world's menu may look good at first, you aren't free to choose how they will affect you.

**Question: What should you do instead? [Order from God's menu].**

**Question: What choices does God's menu offer? [Fruit].**

The Bible says that as you allow God's Spirit to lead you, His Spirit produces fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self - control in your life.

Think of God's words as seeds. Think of your mind as fertile soil. If you will plant God's words in your mind, and if you will think about them often and decide to live by them, they will take root and begin to produce the fruits in you that we just read about.

God has given you the power to help you remain pure and stay gunk - free. But, the decision is up to you. You can order adultery from the world's menu and live in a prison of darkness and chains. Or you can order from God's menu and have the best He can offer you. He's leaving it up to you.

**Question: Which menu will you order from?**

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### LESSON # 12: HOW DO YOU KNOW GOD EXISTS? (Part 1)

#### Commandment # 1:

**You shall have no other gods before me**  
(Choose to please God rather than others)

#### Review

**Last week's questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20).**

#### Character Quality

**Faith in God**

#### Discussion Question

**Why do you come to Bible study?** [Learn about God and how He wants us to live].

#### Introduction

God says in the first commandment, **"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Some people say, "I won't believe in God unless I have proof!" Charles Darwin, the man who developed the theory of "natural selection" or evolution says,

- "the old argument of design in nature...which formerly seemed to me so conclusive, fails, now that the law of natural selection has been discovered..."
- "That state of mind which grand scenes [majestic scenes in nature] formerly excited in me, and which was intimately connected with a belief in God, did not essentially differ from that which is often called the sense of sublimity [awe-inspiring]; and however difficult it may be to explain the genesis of this sense, it can hardly be advanced as an argument for the existence of God..."

People can come up with all kinds of reasons that God does not exist. They can make very convincing sounding arguments. While it's not possible to "prove" God scientifically, it is possible to provide reasonable evidence that God exists. Today, we're going to talk about some "proof" that gives reasonable evidence that God actually exists.

#### How Do You Know That God Exists?

(Text: Exodus 19:16-19, Exodus 20:1-3)

**16 "On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, 19 and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him."**

**EX 20:1 "And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me."**

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It's easy to believe in God when you can see Him. The thunder and lightning, the thick clouds and smoke, the violent trembling of the mountain and the loud trumpet blasts! The Israelites who witnessed the presence and power of God in their midst had a reason to believe God existed! The people of Israel saw evidence of God with their own eyes!

**Question: What about today? What would you say if somebody asked you to present evidence that God exists?**

Reasonable Evidence That God Exists \*

**"...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20).**

**Question: What does the Bible say about how God has made himself known plainly?** [By what can be seen]. The Bible says you can just look around you - and there's no excuse for not believing that God exists.

Here's a quick tour of some reasonable evidence:

The Universe

**1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4).**

**Question: What evidence can you find in the universe that God exists?** [The order observed in the universe].

- The universe is full of activity that is made up by a series of events. Planets revolve around stars, moons revolve around planets, a comet streaks through space in a pattern, stars are born, stars die.
- Each of these events has a cause or a beginning.
- Therefore the universe has a cause - a beginning.
- The beginning of the universe has a cause – a Creator - God.

The Design Of The Earth

**25 "before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, 26 before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. 27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, 28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, 29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. blessed are those who keep my ways" (Proverbs 8:25-29).**

**Question: What evidence in the earth's design tells us God exists?** [The design of the earth makes life possible].

- The unique properties of water make life possible.
- The size of the earth allows us to have the atmosphere we have. If the earth were much smaller, an atmosphere would be impossible. If the earth were too big, the atmosphere would be incapable of sustaining life.
- Because of the earth's distance from the sun - we're not too warm or not too cold for life to be possible.

People

**“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10).**

**Question: What evidence is there among people’s beliefs that tell us God exists?** [There is a universal belief that God exists]. As researchers study people from all over the world, even among remote tribes, they have found one thing all people groups have in common: that there is a belief in God, and the oldest traditions are of one supreme God.

Moral laws

**“...The ways of the Lord are right, the righteous walk in them...” (Hosea 14:9).**

- No culture has ever existed without laws. Some laws are almost universal, for example: laws against murder, violence to children.
- If there are moral laws that all cultures from different periods of time have embraced, there must be the One who gave to and instilled in people the first moral law.

Creation Of Life

- **“So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind” (Genesis 1:21).**
- **“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” (Psalm 139:13-14).**

**Question: What evidence can you find in life that tells us God exists?** [There is a design and complexity in life].

- As a human baby develops, each cell plays a distinct role. Billions of cells know what to do and what part of the body to become. The nerve cells form first because they tell all of the other cells what their function is.
- It has been said that there is not room enough in all the computers in the world to store the information that is contained in one human cell.
- Molecules are made up of atoms. A typical protein molecule is made up of a combination of about 3,000 atoms. The likelihood that these 3,000 atoms would bump into each other and form this molecule by chance is  $2.02 \times 10^{(231)}$ .
- Even if the atoms were put in a jar and shaken up at the speed of the vibration of light, to give these atoms a greater chance of bumping into each other in the right combination, it would still take  $10^{(234)}$  billions of years to get the protein molecule needed for life.
- The best guess at the age of the earth is only 2 - 5 billion years. Some think it is much younger than that. However old the earth is, one fact is very clear: there hasn’t been enough time for even one molecule, much less billions of molecules that could be the beginning of life to form by chance!

Not too long ago, it was believed that life could arise spontaneously - without an apparent cause. But experiments by Louis Pasteur showed that life could arise only from life.

This means that only an intelligent life can create another life. Just as the first event in the universe had a cause, the first life had a Creator!

Jesus Christ

**“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).**

The clearest way we know God exists is because of Jesus Christ. All the other indications we just talked about are only clues or hints. What confirm their truth are the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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**Question: What would you tell somebody now if they asked you why you believe in God?** [The design of creation or nature, the order of the universe, a universal belief in a god among all peoples, the universal existence of moral laws, life itself].

**Question: What is our best answer to how we know that God really exists?** [The person of Jesus Christ].

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Jesus claimed to be God. Is He? We'll look at Jesus' claims in our next lesson!

\* Paul Little, Know Why You Believe, Intervarsity Press, 1968, pp. 8-14.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 13: IS JESUS CHRIST GOD? (Part 2)

Commandment # 1:

**You shall have no other gods before me**  
(Choose to please God rather than others)

#### Homework Review

#### **Questions & Memory Verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).**

#### Character Quality

#### **Faith in the truth**

#### Introduction

"...the seeds of my decision had been planted the year before, by the Reverend Billy Graham. He visited my family for a summer weekend in Maine. I saw him preach at the small summer church, St. Ann's by the Sea. We all had lunch on the patio overlooking the ocean. One evening my dad asked Billy to answer questions from a big group of family gathered for the weekend. He sat by the fire and talked. And what he said sparked a change in my heart. I don't remember the exact words. It was more the power of his example. The Lord was so clearly reflected in his gentle and loving demeanor.

The next day we walked and talked at Walker's Point, and I knew I was in the presence of a great man. He was like a magnet; I felt drawn to seek something different. He didn't lecture admonish; he shared warmth and concern. Billy Graham didn't make you feel guilty; he made you feel loved.

Over the course of that weekend, Reverend Graham planted a mustard seed in my soul, a seed that grew over the next year. He led me to the path, and I began walking. It was the beginning of a change in my life. I had always been a "religious" person, had regularly attended church, even taught Sunday School and served as an altar boy. But that weekend my faith took on a new meaning. It was the beginning of a new walk where I would commit my heart to Jesus Christ (excerpt from George W. Bush's book, "A CHARGE TO KEEP" (Morrow), Chapter 10, p. 136).

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#### Background

**Question: Are all religions the same? [No].**

**Question: What makes Christianity different from all other religions? [Christianity is not a religion. Religions are an attempt by man to please God and earn his way to heaven. Christianity is a personal one on one relationship with Jesus Christ]. As Christians, you & I are called to follow the teachings of Jesus.**

**Question: What makes Jesus different from all other religious leaders? [Jesus claimed to be God]. Of all the major religions in the world, every founder claimed to follow the teachings of God. Only Jesus claimed to be God.**

The Claims Of Christ  
(Text: Selected Verses)

Jesus Claimed To Be The Son of God

Jesus had been arrested and taken to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin (Jewish high court) were looking for any evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.

**63** "The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." **64** "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied" (Matthew 26:63-64).

Jesus presented himself as the only avenue to a relationship with God, the only source of forgiveness for sins, the only way to salvation. This is why the Jewish leaders feared and hated him. This is why they put him to death. As we'll see in the next verse of Scripture we read, the crime for which Jesus was tried and convicted was blasphemy - claiming to be God. Jesus was tried and executed not for what he did but for who he was.

Jesus Claimed To Be Equal With God

**30** "I and the Father are one." **31** Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, **32** but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" **33** "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God" (John 10:30-33).

Jesus Claimed To Be God

Remember the conversation Moses had with God when God appeared to him as a burning bush in the wilderness? Moses said to God, **13** "...Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:13-14).

Jesus now tells the Jewish religious leaders that he is God with this statement – remember – God said His name is "I AM." - "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58).

**Question: What is the one thing that Jesus wants you to be very clear about him?** [He is God].

**Question: How can we know that Jesus' claims that He is God are true?** Jesus leaves us with 2 alternatives, either:

1. His claims are false
2. His claims are true.

If Jesus' Claims Are False

If Jesus' claims are false, and he is not God, then we have two alternatives:

1. Jesus knew his claims were false.
2. Jesus didn't know his claims were false.

1) Jesus knew his claims that he was God were false. If this is the case, then:

**Question: How would this make Jesus a liar?** [Jesus knew that he was not God].

**Question: How would this make Jesus a hypocrite?** [He told others to be honest while he lied].

**Question: How would this make Jesus evil?** [He told others to trust in him for their eternal destiny. If he could not back up his claim to be God and he knew it, he was incredibly evil].

**Question: How would this make Jesus a fool?** [It was his claims to being God that led to his crucifixion].

2) Jesus didn't know his claims were false. If this is the case, then:



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**Question: How would this make Jesus crazy?** [To really believe that you are God is one thing. But to have those qualities that would seem to fit God and display them as consistently as Jesus did, is another story. There is nothing about his behavior that points to Jesus being crazy].

### If Jesus' Claims Are True

If Jesus' claim that he is God is true, then he is who he said he is. He is God. If this is the case, then you have two alternatives:

1. Accept Him as Lord and Savior
2. Reject Him & willing accept the consequences

**Question: Who do you say that Jesus Christ is?** Do you believe that Jesus was a liar? Do you believe that he was crazy? Or is He who He says He is?

I believe the evidence so far backs up that Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus is equal with God, Jesus Is God! But is there any other evidence?

Yes: The Resurrection!

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 14: IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD? (Part 3)

Commandment # 1:

**You shall have no other gods before me**  
(Choose to please God rather than others)

This lesson is written in memory of Rick Beasley, who helped many find the answer.

#### Homework Review

#### **Questions & Memory Verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"**  
(John 14:6).

#### Character Quality

**Faith in the truth**

#### Review

When you look at the claims that Jesus made about himself, he wants you to be very clear about who He said He is. Jesus claimed to be God.

This leave us with two choices of what to believe:

- 1) His claims are false
- 2) His claims are true.

If Jesus' claims are false then:

- 1) Jesus knew his claims were false and he was lying
- 2) Jesus was deluded (crazy) in thinking that he was God.

If Jesus' claim is true then, Jesus is who he said he is. He is God.

#### Introduction

**Question: Why is the resurrection so important?** [Because Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection of Jesus Christ!]

Jesus made many claims about himself - many times he predicted his own death and that three days later he would be raised to life. If Jesus said that he would be resurrected and in fact he wasn't, then all of his other teachings and who he claimed to be would be in doubt. His resurrection is the seal of God to the truth that Jesus is who he said he was: The Son of God!

#### Is Jesus Christ The Only Way To God?

(Text: 1 Corinthians 15:17-20)

**17 "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead..."**

What we're going to do next is set the background for the resurrection, so that we can give reasonable evidence that resurrection happened just the way that the Bible says it did.

#### The Tomb

(Text: John 19:38-42)

**38** “Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. **39** He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. **40** Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. **41** At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. **42** Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”

As was the Jewish custom, wrapping long linen strips around his body and sprinkling about seventy-five to a hundred pounds of powdered spices into its folds helped prepare Jesus’ body for burial. A separate cloth was used for the head. After Joseph and Nicodemus had prepared Jesus’ body and laid him in the tomb, a stone was placed against the opening of the tomb. The stone used probably weighed about two tons and was set into a channel in front of the entrance of the tomb which was probably only four or five feet high. Then the stone was sealed, probably by a cord that was stretched across it, with clay at each end of the cord.

The Guards At The Tomb  
(Text: Matthew 27:62-66)

**62** “The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. **63** “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ **64** So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

**65** “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” **66** So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.”

A Roman guard probably of 4 - 5 men was stationed to guard the tomb. The Roman army was strictly disciplined and the fear of punishment produced near flawless attention to their duty. There were several offenses for which a Roman guard could be put to death, one of which was falling asleep while on duty while another was quitting and leaving his post without permission.

The Resurrection  
(Text: Matthew 28:1-7a & John 20:2-7)

**MT 28:1** “After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

**2** There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

**5** The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

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**1** “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

**3** So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.”

**Question: What would you have seen if you had looked into the tomb on that first Easter morning?** [Nothing! Except some linen cloths lying just where they had been; maybe even an angel or two]!

**Question: What is one thing that you wouldn’t have seen?** [One thing that you wouldn’t see was Jesus’ body]!

**Question: Why?** [Because He is risen - just as He said]!

For many people, the Bible’s account of Jesus’ resurrection is proof enough that he really was raised, and Jesus is who He says he is!

But some people cannot or will not accept the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. They say, “How can this be? There must be some other explanation other than what the Bible says. I won’t believe it until I have proof!”

There have been, in fact several theories introduced by individuals to try to give an explanation as to why the tomb was empty on that first Easter morning.

Let’s hear what these people have to say and then let’s give them an answer!

The Wrong Tomb Theory

This theory assumes that Mary went to the wrong tomb.

Let’s review the Biblical account of that first Easter morning:

**20:1** “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” (John 20:1-3).

**Question: What’s wrong with the theory that Mary went to the wrong tomb?**

- 1) If this is so, then John and Peter, who ran to the exact same tomb, must also have gone to the wrong tomb.
- 2) Also, the Roman guards must have been at the wrong tomb, because they were there also.
- 3) And if the wrong tomb were involved, the Jewish religious leaders would have wasted no time in producing the right tomb.

The Swoon Theory

Jesus didn’t really die, but only fainted from exhaustion and loss of blood. He later revived and left the tomb.

Let's review the scene at the crucifixion:

**33** “But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **34** Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. **35** The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe” (John 19:33-35).

**Question: What's wrong with the theory that Jesus did not really die on the cross?**

- 1) Everyone at the crucifixion site was sure that Jesus was dead. One of the soldiers even went over and pierced him to see if he really was dead.
- 2) After being beaten, crucified, and wrapped in a hundred pounds of cloths and spices, would Jesus have had the strength to move a two ton boulder set into a channel, while having to stoop under a 4' - 5' doorway to get to the stone?

The Disciples Stole The Body Theory

This theory says that somehow the disciples went to the tomb and stole the body.

Let's visit a passage of Scripture that directly follows the crucifixion:

**“On the evening of that first day of the week, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” (John 20:19).**

**Question: What's wrong the theory that says the disciples stole Jesus' body?**

- 1) The disciples were locked in a room, huddled together and cowering with fear because of what might happen to them (since everyone knew who and knew they were followers of Jesus – who had just been crucified).
- 2) The Roman guards were there. Could these fearful disciples take on a group of trained fighting soldiers and steal the body?
- 3) The grave clothes were still there.

The Theory That The Roman or Jewish Authorities Removed The Body

**Question: What's wrong with this theory?**

If this is so, then why didn't the authorities just produce Jesus' dead body? This would have squashed Christianity in the cradle before it had a chance to begin.

Consider this passage from the Bible:

**11** “While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. **12** When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, **13** telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ **14** If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” **15** So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day” (Matthew 28:11-15). They didn't have the body!

Further Evidence For The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

**Question: What about the grave cloths?** They were left undisturbed inside the tomb.

**Question: What is the most reliable source of evidence in a court of law?** [An eyewitness].

- 1) There were 10 separate appearances to many different witnesses.
- 2) Paul writes that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at one time and that most of those people were still alive at the time of his writing.

**Question: What about the disciples?**

- 1) Before the resurrection, all of Jesus' disciples fled when he was arrested at the Garden of Gethsemane.
- 2) Peter denied knowing Christ three times.
- 3) After the crucifixion, the disciples went into hiding and then dejectedly went home to try and resume their shattered lives.
- 4) If it was not the resurrection, then what transformed Jesus' disciples from men who cowered in fear behind locked doors, into men who boldly proclaimed the message that Jesus is the risen Christ?

**Question: If you knew that something was not true, would you be willing to die saying that it was true?** [Neither would Jesus' disciples, yet eleven of the twelve were put to death for their belief that Jesus was God. Would they have died for something that they believed to be not true]?

- 
1. The grave cloths were there
  2. Jesus was seen
  3. The disciples were transformed

**Question: What about you? Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead?**

Or are you like Thomas to whom Jesus said,

**27"..."Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.**

**Stop doubting and believe."** **28** Thomas said to him, **"My Lord and my God!"** (John 20:27-28).

Among the great religious leaders of the world, Jesus Christ alone claimed to be God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ happened. Because of His resurrection, Jesus' claims that He is God are true. And because Jesus Christ is indeed God, then we know that the Bible is true - not just parts of it - all of it.

Is Jesus Christ the only way to God? No. The Bible says that one day all men will stand before God. But Jesus says, **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"** (John 14:6). Jesus Christ is the only avenue to a relationship with God, the only source of forgiveness for your sins. He is the only way to salvation.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 15: STICKS AND STONES

Commandment # 6:  
**You shall not murder**  
(Encourage and help each other)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." (Ephesians 4:29).**

#### Character quality

**Encouragement**

#### Group Warm-Up

You'll need a tube of toothpaste and some newspaper. Squeeze all of the toothpaste out of the tube onto the paper. Now offer to give any of the kids \$10 if he or she can put all of the toothpaste back into the tube (your money is safe - it can't be done). The idea is to illustrate that once said, hurtful words cannot be taken back.

#### Sticks And Stones (Text: Matthew 5:21-22)

**21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment."**

Jesus made this statement to a great crowd of people that had gathered to hear him teach.

**Question: What do you think Jesus meant when he said this?** [Let's find out].

Imagine that you are living in Israel at the time that Jesus is passing through Jerusalem. One day a large crowd is gathered on a hill outside the city, so you amble on over to a place in the crowd where you can see what's going on. When you get there you find that Jesus is sitting on the hill teaching the crowd that is gathered around him!

During his teaching, Jesus says, "If you kill somebody, you'll wind up in front of a judge in a court of law." At that point, a person next to you whispers, "Well, he's not talking about me - I haven't killed anybody." Then Jesus continues, "But if you are angry with someone, if you hate them and insult them, it's worse than murdering someone!"

**Question: Who do you think that Jesus is talking to now? Is Jesus talking to you & the person next to you?** [Of course He is. At one point or another both you and I have been angry with someone].

**Question: But why would Jesus say that it's so bad to be angry with someone?** [Because Jesus knows that it's our thoughts and attitudes that lead to our actions. And Jesus knows that angry thoughts and angry attitudes can lead to actions that can hurt someone].

Have you ever heard, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me?" I think that only half of that statement is true. Sticks and stones may break your bones, but some words really can hurt can't they?

**Question: What kinds of words could hurt someone if they were said to that person?**  
[Insults, making fun of someone, words said in anger].

One of the quickest ways to make someone angry is by saying something that stirs up their emotions.

King Solomon of Israel, the wisest man who ever lived knew this. King Solomon wrote a book in the Bible called Proverbs. In one of the Proverbs, he wrote, “...**a harsh word stirs up anger.**” (Proverbs 15:1).

**Question: Can you remember a time when someone made you really mad? What was it that made you so mad?** [A lot of times it was probably something that someone said to you that made you mad].

**Question: What should you do if you start getting angry with someone?** [In those situations, remember to ask God to help you not to become angry. It's not always easy to do, but it will help you live the kind of life that God wants you to live]. And on a practical note, it can save you a whole bunch of trouble.

When I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I got in a fight with a 4<sup>th</sup> grader named Paul Philips. I was a crossing guard (honor guard, patrol boy), and Paul had no use for a crossing guard. One word led to another, so it was determined that we would fight it out. The next day, we met in my neighbor's front yard. The fight began, and before long a crowd had gathered (I didn't have enough sense to pick a place where my neighbors wouldn't see me). Sure enough, my neighbor came out – she was about 100 years old – and chased us off. So we went up to the schoolyard 2 blocks away. The crowd followed, and so did some of Paul's friends, who also joined in the fight – now it was 3 against me! Guess who won? Guess whose 100-year-old neighbor showed up on my family's front porch and informed my parents about what went on just as I walked up to the house? Guess who found out that a 6<sup>th</sup> grader got beat by a 4<sup>th</sup> grader?

The Bible says that hating and insulting and putting down people is not the kind of attitude that God wants you to have. The reason that insulting and teasing words hurt so much is that once those words are put in your mind, they stay there and can be remembered. We should not hurt people with our words and actions.

Remember the toothpaste? Once those hurtful words have been said, you can't take them back. And again, they stick in your mind for a long time.

**Question: Instead of hurting people with our words and actions, what should we do?** [We should encourage people with our words and actions].

Encouragement means to help give someone hope or courage or confidence. The Bible says, “**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...**” (Ephesians 4:29).

**Question: Who do you know that needs some encouragement? What can you say to encourage him or her?**



## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 16: THIS PARKING SPACE RESERVED FOR GOD

Commandment # 2:

**You shall not make for yourselves idols**  
(Know how God desires for you to worship Him)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"He is before all things and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead so that in everything he might have the supremacy" (Colossians 1:17-18).**

#### Character quality

**Worship**

#### Discussion Question

**What is the most valuable or important possession you have?**

#### Introduction

Stuart Briscoe is a pastor who has worked with youth, pastors and missionaries in more than 100 countries. He told this story, "On a visit with India, a pastor friend and I got into a car. I had to move a little sack in order to sit down. The things in the sack clanked and I asked my friend what was in the sack. He said, "Oh just some trash."

Well, I pulled out some of the trash, and it was some Indian copper work. I asked, "Why are you going to trash this?"

My friend replied, "It's a Hindu idol. The family it belonged to has just become Christians, and I'm taking their idols away. They've given them up and I'm going to destroy them."

So I said, "I'd like to take one of them home." It's a beautiful piece of artwork as far as I'm concerned. It would only become an idol if I bowed down and worshiped it." (Story found in The Ten Commandments, by Stuart Briscoe, pgs. 20-21).

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#### This Parking Space Reserved For God

(Text: Colossians 1:15-20)

**15 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."**

The second commandment says, "**Do not make for yourself an idol.**" Let's find out why:

**Question: What's an idol?** [An idol is anything that becomes more important to you than God].

**Question: Can idols help you?** Listen to what the Bible says about them:

**4 “ But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; 6 they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; 7 they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats” (Psalm 115:4-7).**

For example, take a pair of Nike Air Jordan shoes. An Air Jordan cannot speak, see, hear, smell, touch or walk by itself. Neither can a stack of \$100 bills.

So first of all, God says “Do not make for yourself an idol” because idols by themselves cannot help you.

Secondly, God not only tells us “Do not make for yourself an idol,” God warns us against making people or things more important than Him.

**Question: When is a warning given?** [When a situation is dangerous].

**Question: Why does God warn us making about making people or things more important than Him?** [God warns us about making people or things more important than Him because it's dangerous].

**Question: When would God consider a pair of Nike Air Jordan's or a stack of \$100 bills dangerous?** [When you want them so badly that you will do anything to get them].

No matter how important something is to you, God wants you to consider Him more important.

**Question: Why does God want to be more important to you than anyone or any thing else?** [Because of the way He created you].

God creates a reserved parking space in each person. Only He can fill this reserved parking space. God made you to work best when you allow Him to fill the reserved parking space in your life.

**Question: Why did God create you with a “reserved for” space?** Listen again to our opening Scripture verse:

**COL 1:15 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church...” (Colossians 1:15-18).**

The Bible tells us that God created you. The Bible also tells us that you have been created for a purpose that since the beginning of time has been reserved for you and you alone to accomplish! God looked forward to the day that you arrived because He has planned something for you to do! The purpose that you have been created for is this:

*God will be honored in everything you do by giving Him first place in your life.*

Your “reserved for” place was created for the purpose of being filled by the Holy Spirit because you need His help to enable you to honor God in everything you do.

Unfortunately, sometimes you & I remove the “reserved for God” sign from His parking space and allow other things to park there. We allow God to be removed from first place of importance. What you allow to go into that space becomes an idol.

**Question: What are some things that people try to fill their “reserved for God” space with?** [Popularity, clothes, drugs, being a champion athlete, doing what it takes to be accepted]. These can all become more important to you than God when He is removed from first place of importance in your life.

**Question: What is the real danger of idols?** [The real danger of idols then, is when you let them park in God’s reserved parking place, they become like a god to you]. When that happens, you pay more and more attention to your pretend god, and less and less attention to your Creator God. You begin to do what your pretend god wants you to do, instead of what your Creator wants you to do.

Possessions, substances, honors and activities aren’t enough to fill your “reserved for” space. Perhaps for a time you may feel like they are. But they’re not enough. They will always be inadequate to fill you, because they’re not God!

**Question: How can you keep even good things like sports, family and friends from becoming more important than God?** [Continue to allow God to keep His parking place in your life].

Jesus will help you put your friends, your possessions, your activities and your plans for success into their proper place of importance into your life, but only after you will allow Him into His proper place:

**FIRST!**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 17: STAY ON THE TRAIL

Commandment # 2:

**You shall not make for yourselves idols**  
(Know how God desires for you to worship Him)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).**

#### Character quality

**Worship**

#### Discussion Question

**What types of activities or accomplishments are important to you?**

#### Background

The people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt for more than 400 years when God told Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. After they left Egypt, the people of Israel time and time again directly violated God's commands about how to worship Him and how to get along with each other. These were commands that He had given to them for their own good. Because of their disobedience, God did not allow them to enter the land that He promised to give to them until 40 years later. When it was time, Joshua led the people into the land of Canaan, the "Promised Land." God helped the people of Israel drive out the nations that were living in this land that He was now giving to Israel. As the nation of Israel settled into their new land, God told Joshua to give the people this warning:

#### Stay On The Trail

(Text: Joshua 23:6-8)

**6 "Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. 7 Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. 8 But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.**

**Question: What do you think that God means by "do not turn aside to the right or to the left"?** [Stay on the path that has been laid out before so that you'll get where you're going safely without getting lost along the way].

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Over spring break, several families got together at a ranch in the Texas hill country. One of the activities was a group ride through some pretty rough country. The trail was winding & surrounded by tall trees and thick underbrush. The trail guide told the group above all else to stay on the trail so they wouldn't get lost.

During the ride one boy said to his friend, "I know a different way back to camp. Let's take it!" So the other boy followed his friend's lead. Two hours later, both of them were lost and it began to get dark. They had gotten off the trail.

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**Question: Why did the trail guide want everyone to stay on the trail?** [So no one would become confused and get lost]. The trail guide told them to stay on the trail for their own good.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

When Joshua led the people of Israel into the “promised land,” the people already living in that land that God gave to Israel worshipped many different ‘gods.’ God told the Israelites, “Don’t even associate with these nations around you.”

**Question: Why do you think that God said to the people of Israel, “Do not even associate with the people of these nations that live around you?”** [Because God knew that the people of Israel would lose sight of the commands He had given them for their own good. They would turn their back on Him and get off the trail He had set out before them].

**Question: What meaning does this story have for you today?** [Do not closely associate with individuals, influences or activities that have turned their back on God or His Word].

**Question: Joshua 23:8 says, “But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now.”** If you don’t hold onto or spend time with God, what is likely to happen? [You may very well forget about God].

That’s what happened to Israel. A whole nation forgot about God.

**Question: As a result of a whole nation forgetting about God, what happened?** [A whole generation of children did not know God].

**Question: Why is it so important for your parents to teach you about God and His Word?** [So that you will know Him, and one day, your children will also know Him].

When Israel first arrived to the Promised Land, the nations surrounding them worshipped many gods. Israel believed in the one true God. That made them distinct - they stood out from among all the other nations, just as God had intended. When Israel began to associate with these other nations, they stopped listening to God and following His instructions, and started following the gods of these nations.

**Question: What happens when you decide to give God the number one place in your life?** [When you listen to and keep your eye on the Trail Guide and stay on the trail, you can feel secure and confident that you are going the right way].

**Question: What happens if you decide to not give God the number one place in your life?** [If you turn your back on the Trail Guide, you may stray off the path He has set out before you and get lost].

**Question: What happens when many people in a community decide not to give God the number one place in their lives?** [Many people get lost and begin following their own trails].

**Question: The world today does not make it easy to keep God number one in our communities. How can you stay on God’s trail in our world today?** Listen to what Joshua said: “...But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15).

Let’s talk about how Joshua’s words can come alive in your life today.

The Bible says, <sup>13</sup> **“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men”** (Matthew 5:13).

**Question: What does salt do?** [Salt preserves, purifies, flavors, and permeates].

**Question: Why does Jesus compare you to salt?** [Salt remains unchanged by what it comes into contact with, but changes the flavor of what it comes into contact with]. Jesus wants you to not take on the flavor of the culture, but rather influence and flavor the culture around you.

**Question: What are ways that you can be salt?** [Live according to what Jesus would do in any situation].

**Question: How do you know what Jesus would do?** [First, you have to establish a relationship with Him. Secondly, you need to get to know Him through prayer and Scripture reading. Pick up one of the gospels and read through it. Thirdly, ask Jesus what He would do and listen].

The Bible continues, <sup>14</sup> **"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"** (Matthew 5:14-16).

**Question: What does light do?** [Light dispels or shines through darkness]. The darker it is, the brighter light shines. The light does not become dim in the dark; rather the dark is chased away by the light.

**Question: What are ways that you can be a shining light in your community?** [Let your light shine. Let others know through your words and actions that you follow the Trail Guide Who leads you down the trail that is right and good].

**Question: Hopefully, what is the result of letting your light shine?** [Others will see that God is the lamp and you are the light that comes from His lamp].

**Question: What types of activities or accomplishments are important to you?**

As you determine what is important to you, whether it's popularity, sports or scholastic achievement:

- Think of why the trail you're on is important to you
- Follow Jesus as your Trail Guide. Let Him lead you in making good decisions about the people you associate with and the activities you participate in
- Decide how you can influence your friends, your family, your school and your community by being salt and light.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 18: GOOD AS GOLD

Commandment # 5:  
**Honor your father and your mother**  
(Honor And Respect Your Parents)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Listen, my son to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching"  
(Proverbs 1:8).**

#### Character quality

**Wisdom**

#### Discussion Question

**What is something that you really, really want?**

#### Good As Gold

(Text: Proverbs 3:13-15)

**13 "Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her."**

**Question: Do you recall our definition of wisdom?** [A deep knowledge or an understanding of what is right and true. A cousin of wisdom is just plain common sense].

The Bible says that nothing you can desire is more valuable than an understanding of what is right and true; not a brand new bike or hitting a bases loaded homer in the championship game; not gold, silver or precious jewels - nothing is more valuable to you than learning wisdom.

**Question: Why do you think that wisdom is so important?** [It tells you what is right and true, it helps you to do what is right and fair, it helps you make good decisions].

#### The Virtue Of Wisdom

If you remember, a virtue is what God has ordained as right. A value is something that people or society set as important. Wisdom tells you what is God ordained as right (truth) or what is wrong (false).

- **Question: What is an example of a virtue that you know is right?** [Honesty, kindness, love].
- **Question: What is an example of an attitude that you know is wrong?** [Hate, selfishness].

**Question: How can you learn which are the right attitudes to have?** [Learn Scripture verses, the example of parents & others who know & follow God's Word, Christian music]. We'll give some specific Scripture verses about the right attitudes to live by at the end of the lesson. \*

#### Wisdom helps you to do what is right and fair

**Question: What is an example of being fair?** [Allowing everyone to play an equal amount in a ball game, regardless of skill or ability; giving back to God some of what He gives you].

#### Wisdom helps you make good decisions

**Question: What is an example of making a good decision?** [Studying for a test, wearing seat belts, obeying your parents, following your coach's instructions, looking both ways before you cross the street].

### How To Get Wisdom

#### Learn Respect For God

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline” (Proverbs 1:7).** When the phrase “fear of the Lord” is used in the Bible, it means having respect for God. To choose not to respect God, according to the Bible, is foolish.

**Question: What are ways that you can show respect for someone?** [One way is to listen to what a person says]. To show respect for God is to listen and pay attention to what He says.

#### Learn Respect For Your Parents

**<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).** The primary way that God has chosen to teach you His Word is through your parents. That is why it's important to respect and listen to your dad and to your mom.

The Bible verse we just read tells us a lot about how God wants your parents to teach you:

#### When you sit at home

**Question: What do you learn from your parents at home?** [How to get along with each other, honesty, responsibility, manners, help with homework, tithing].

#### When you walk along the road

**Question: How do you and your parents spend time together outside the home?** [Vacations, camping, errands, sports practice, worshipping in big church].

#### When you lie down

**Question: What types of things do you usually do before bedtime?** [Practice hygiene, talk about what happened today, prayers].

#### When you get up

**Question: What important lessons can be learned early in the day?** [Planning and getting ready for the day's activities & responsibilities, being ready on time, spending time with God in prayer or Bible study].

What this Bible verse also implies or tells us without directly saying it is that you should let your parents teach you by listening to their instructions and advice. Here are two Bible verses that teach you the importance of listening to your parents:

1. **“Listen, my son to your father's instruction and do not forsake [ignore or neglect] your mother's teaching” (Proverbs 1:8).** Remember, God has given the responsibility to your parents to teach you what is right and wrong. It is your responsibility to listen to them and learn from them.
2. **“A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother” (Proverbs 10:1).** A young person who listens and learns right from wrong and does what is right will bring joy to his parents. A young person who knows right from wrong but chooses to do wrong is foolish and will greatly upset his parents.



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Nothing you desire is more important than wisdom. One way for you to learn wisdom is through your parents teaching.

The Bible clearly says that your parents, especially your dads, have a responsibility to teach you God's Word. The Scriptures also say that you have a responsibility to respect your parents and listen to them, so that you may understand what is right and what is wrong, and learn to do what is right.

- **Question: Boys (Girls), how can you spend time with your parent(s) today?**
- **Question: Dads, how can you make time to spend with your son or daughter today?**

\* Here are a few specific verses about the attitudes God wants you to have:

- **“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39)**
- **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).**
- **<sup>32</sup> “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32)**
- **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1).**
- **“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.<sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).**

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### LESSON # 19: IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU

Commandment # 6:  
**You shall not murder**  
(Encourage and help others)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." (Ephesians 4:29).**

#### Character quality

**Encouragement**

#### Discussion

- **What is something nice that someone has done for you recently? How did you feel afterwards?**
- **What is something nice you have done for someone recently? How did it make you feel?**

#### Introduction

(The following is a popular e-mail that has been circulating for some time. The web-site TruthorFiction.com verified its source and accuracy):

One afternoon Shaya and his father walked past a park where some boys Shaya knew were playing baseball.

Shaya asked, "Do you think they will let me play?"

Shaya's father knew that his son was not at all athletic and that most boys would not want him on their team. But Shaya's father understood that if his son was chosen to play it would give him a comfortable sense of belonging.

Shaya's father approached one of the boys in the field and asked if Shaya could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

Shaya's father was ecstatic as Shaya smiled broadly. Shaya was told to put on a glove and go out to play short center field.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shaya's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shaya's team scored again and now with two outs and the bases loaded with the potential winning run on base, Shaya was scheduled to be up. Would the team actually let Shaya bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shaya was given the bat.

Everyone knew that it was all but impossible because Shaya didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. However as Shaya stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shaya should at least be able to make contact.

The first pitch came in and Shaya swung clumsily and missed. One of Shaya's teammates came up to Shaya and together they held the bat and faced the pitcher waiting for the next pitch. The

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pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shaya. As the pitch came in, Shaya and his teammate swung at the bat and together they hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher.

The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shaya would have been out and that would have ended the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Shaya, run to first. Run to first." Never in his life had Shaya run to first. He scampered down the baseline wide-eyed and startled. By the time he reached first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman who would tag out Shaya, who was still running. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher's intentions were, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second." Shaya ran towards second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home. As Shaya reached second base, the opposing short stop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base and shouted, "Run to third." As Shaya rounded third, the boys from both teams ran behind him screaming, "Shaya run home."

Shaya ran home, stepped on home plate and all 18 boys lifted him on their shoulders and made him the hero, as he had just hit a "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

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### It's Good To Hear From You

(Text: Acts 3:1-10)

**AC 3:1** One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

**AC 3:6** Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

This man who sat at the temple gate had been crippled for 40 years - ever since birth. He had never been able to run or jump or even walk. Every day, he sat at the entrance to the temple and would beg people for money.

Put yourself in this crippled man's place. Every Sunday, your family takes and places you at the front door of your church just before people begin arriving for worship.

**Question: If you sit there every Sunday begging people for money as they walk in and out of church, how do you think people will treat you?** [You might get a few coins, you might be ignored, you might be avoided, or you might not even get eye contact].

Now, suppose one Sunday morning as you sit begging, two visitors walk by, and as you ask them for money, they stop and pay attention to you!

**Question: How do you think you would feel when these two people stop and take time to talk with you?** [Someone cares about me, hopeful, cheered up].

Words and acts of encouragement are powerful. They can heal, they can lift people's spirits, and they can bring about change in a person's life.

**Question: There are 3 good ways to encourage someone. What do you think they are?** [You can encourage someone through your words, your prayers, and your actions].

#### Words Can Encourage

**"An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up" (Proverbs 12:25).** Sometimes all someone needs is a kind word to cheer him or her up.

**Question: Who is someone you know that could use some cheering up today?** [Someone who is sick at home, a teammate who is injured and can't play in the game today, someone moving away].

#### Prayers Can Encourage

**"About midnight Paul & Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them" (Acts 16:25).**

Paul & Silas' were missionaries who were put in jail for telling people about Jesus. Yet at midnight, at a time when they could have been sleeping, they were singing and praying to God. Their prayers encouraged the other prisoners who were listening to them.

**Question: Who is someone that you can pray for today?** [Someone in your family, a friend, a missionary (like Paul or Silas), your pastor, your teacher, the President].

#### Actions Encourage

**"For the word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4:12).**

Let's see how the word of God can be living and active through your life to encourage others. Remember the story of the Good Samaritan?

**"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have' (Luke 10:30-35).**

**Question: What was one way that the Samaritan encouraged the hurt man?** [He stopped to help him, took him to get medical treatment, paid for his stay at the inn].

**Question: Today, how can your encourage:**

- Someone new in school without any friends? [Invite him to eat lunch with you].
- Someone whose family is poor? [Help provide them with basic food and clothing].
- Someone who is always picked last when teams are being made? [Pick her first].
- Someone with a learning disability? [Help him through an assignment].

Your words and actions are a powerful way to encourage people. But remember, gossip, cutting, or insensitive words and actions are just as powerful and can greatly discourage people. The

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Bible says, **“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” (Ephesians 4:29).** Be careful to make sure that your words and actions are not ones that will tear others down, but will encourage and build others up.

Take time to notice the needs of people around you. When you're careful to encourage, you help make a person's life better. It also makes you feel good to know that you have really helped someone. Encourage someone today in your prayers, through your words and by your actions.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 20: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Commandment # 6:  
**You shall not murder**  
(Respect the lives of others)

#### Homework Review

#### **Questions & Memory Verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).**

#### Character Quality

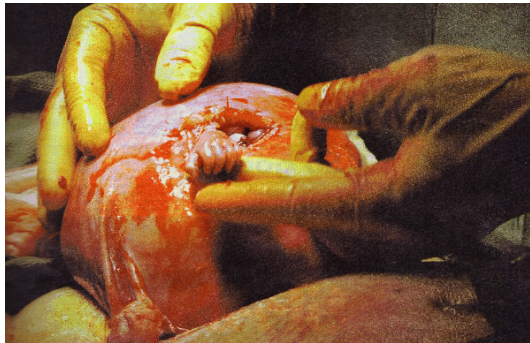
#### **Respect for the value of human life**

#### Discussion Question

#### **What is wonderful about your life?**

#### Introduction

In the movie It's A Wonderful Life, George Bailey was given the opportunity to see how the people in the small town of Bedford Falls would have turned out if he had never been born. He had the opportunity to see how his life interacted and had an effect on each person in that town. After seeing how much his life impacted others, George Bailey concluded that he truly had a wonderful life.



Famous photo of Dr. Joseph Bruner at Vanderbilt reaching out and grasping the hand of little Samuel Armas, 21 weeks, during surgery to correct a spinal problem (photograph by freelance photographer Michael Clancy, who was hired by USA TODAY to photograph the surgery).

It's A Wonderful Life  
(Text: Psalm 139:13-16)

**13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

**15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,**

**16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."**

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Let's talk about some of the words in this passage that we just read:

### Created

**"You created my inmost being..."**

**Question: Suppose you want to create a birthday card for your mom or dad. How would you go about creating that birthday card?** [You might think about a message you want the card to say, design the shape and size of the card, plan the colors & pictures in the card, physically make the card].

Just as all of these elements go into making your mom or dad's birthday card; God, the creator of the universe, thought of who He wanted you to be, designed and planned who you would become, and made you.

### Knit

**"...you knit me together..."**

**Question: What happens to yarn as you knit a sweater?** [The various colors and types of yarn are joined together to give the sweater its characteristics: its shape, size, pattern, weight, strength, usefulness and feel].

Every physical detail about you: your hair color, your interests, language skills, coordination are encoded within your DNA. Your DNA is God's message to every cell in your body of where to go and what to do. The message of who God intends for you to be is carried within each and every cell of your body.

Your inmost being carries every spiritual detail about you: the measure of faith given to you, spiritual gifts, your heart that is God's temple.

Just as various balls of yarn are knit together to make a sweater, God takes every physical detail and every spiritual detail about you and knits them together. Your body, soul and spirit are inextricably linked together to form a completely unique person.

### Made

**"...I am wonderfully and fearfully made..."**

An artist works with a painting or a woodcarving to tell a story. An author paints a picture with words to tell a story. Both works are made to order, in order to tell a story. You, in fact, are made to order, by an artist and an author according to His divine specifications. You are created as one of a kind in order to tell a story.

### Frame

**"My frame was not hidden from you..."**

Every physical detail about you was seen and planned from the beginning: your height, the dexterity of your hands, the color of your eyes, the range of your voice and the clarity of your vision. Even the weak parts of your body can be part of God's design for you to carry His message.

Remember the story of when Jesus healed a man who had been blind since birth?

**2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"**

**3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life" (John 9:2-3).**

God has planned every physical detail about you for a reason, so that His work may be displayed in your life.

Inmost Being

**"You created my inmost being..."**

**Question: What is your inmost being that the Bible refers to?** [Your soul and your spirit]. God not only created your physical body, but He created and gave you a spirit and a soul. You were not only designed for life on this earth but were created to spend eternity in God's presence. God has not only prepared for you a temporary physical body, but an eternal spiritual body that is fit for heaven.

Written

**"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."**

**Question: What is your favorite Bible story?** [Moses and the Burning Bush, David & Goliath, Daniel in the Lions Den, the First Easter Morning].

**Question: What would happen, for example, if David or Jesus were taken out of that story?** [The story would not be complete]. You are also part of God's story. Without you, His - story is not complete. God has a purpose for creating you. He has given you a story to tell.

**Question: For what purpose did God create you?** The Bible says, **"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"** (Ephesians 2:10).

You were created to do the work of God - to serve Him and others by doing what is good. He has prepared the time and place for you to serve Him. It's why you weren't born 100 years ago or 100 years from now. It's why you are a member of the family you are growing up in, and why God made you like you are.

**Question: Why did God create us to do good works?** [To meet the needs of others]. The Bible says,

**14 "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.**

**21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you" (1 Corinthians 12:14-21)."**

**Question: What is this story that God created you to tell?** [You are a story - a message that God cares about all people]. You cannot look at any person and say, "I don't need you."



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Think about it. A mom or dad helps guide you. A teacher helps you learn. A coach helps your team learn to work together. A farmer helps feed you. A carpenter helps put a roof over your head. A minister helps teach you God's word. We need each other for our own good.

The sixth commandment is **"You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13)**. Put another way, it means, "respect the lives of others."

**Question: Why does God tell us to respect the lives of others?** Let's revisit our opening Scripture verse:

**13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."**

Let's use some of the key words from this verse that we discussed earlier to answer why God tells us to respect the lives of others:

**"You created my inmost being..."**

Murder vandalizes God's creation. Murder is disrespect for human life; even more, it is disrespect for God.

**"...you knit me together..."**

Murder unravels God's work.

**"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."**

- Murder can have eternal consequences. Murder affects a person not only in this life, but can affect a person for the life to come. Murder may deny an eternal soul the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven.
- Murder leaves God's story unfinished, because the messenger may not get the chance to fully deliver the intended message. In the case of abortion, the child's story never has a chance to be told.

Each person has needs. You have been designed by God to help meet other's needs. God has made others to help meet your needs. When another purposefully takes life, the needs of others remain unmet.

**Question: Why is human life valuable?** The Bible says, **"the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7)**.

Birds and fish and cattle and other living creatures were created by God, but man is endowed with the very life and nature of God. For God made man **"a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:5)**.

The Bible also says, **"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by a man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man" (Genesis 9:6)**.

God made man to reflect and enjoy being with Him and in His creation. You have been given an eternal soul. You are designed to spend an eternity with God in His Heaven, which separates you from and elevates you above all other living creatures.

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God has created each person on this earth in His likeness and has designed us to meet the needs of others. This is why God places the highest value possible on human life. This is why God says, "Respect the lives of others."

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In our next lesson, we'll talk about anger; why it is so dangerous and how you and I can live a life full of peace.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 21: PREVENT DEFENSE (Part 1)

Commandment # 6:  
**You shall not murder**  
(Respect the lives of others)

#### Homework Review

#### **Questions & Memory Verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold" (Ephesians 4:26-27).**

#### Character Quality

#### **Self - control**

#### Discussion Question

#### **What are your pet peeves?**

#### Introduction

John Perkins was a sharecropper like most blacks in Mississippi in the 1930-40s. When his brother was shot and killed by a white deputy outside a movie theater, John's family moved him to California. There he accepted Jesus Christ into his life, and began preaching in both black and white churches. It was then that God told him to go back to Mississippi to help young people, where John started Voice of Calvary and Mendenhall Ministries.

One night, in 1969, John received a phone call regarding a group of students who had been arrested and taken to jail. John had organized a boycott in Mendenhall. Whites owned everything but depended on blacks to buy. If blacks refused to buy, maybe the whites would listen to what blacks wanted: justice and fairness. The boycott was aimed at something else: false arrests of blacks and beatings in jail. Now a local college student had been arrested and beaten in jail, to "teach the boycotters a lesson."

John gathered a few men and drove over to the jail in the next county to see if they could post bond for the students. John and his friends were slapped, punched, and kicked. John saw hate and rage in the officers' eyes. But John couldn't hate them back. He didn't want hate to do to him what it had done to others. In time he was able to forgive (Adapted from Hero Tales, by Dave & Neta Jackson, Bethany House, 1997, pp. 129-136).

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Anger leads you to choose words or actions that you might not choose when you're calm or have a clearer perspective on the situation. John Perkins found a way to deal with his emotions that didn't result in anger.

Today, we'll talk about actions or emotions that can cause anger. We'll also talk about how you can choose to respond peacefully in situations where it would be very easy to respond in anger.

#### Prevent Defense (Part 1)

(Text: Matthew 5:21-24)

**21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, [the word "Raca" is a Middle East term used to "dis" someone] ' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother**

has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

**Question: What two ways are illustrated in this passage that can cause you or someone else to become angry?** [Certain words can cause you or another to become upset; certain actions can cause you or another to become angry].

**Question: Why does Jesus say that it's dangerous to be angry with someone?** [Jesus knows that angry thoughts can lead to actions or words that are harmful to you and to others].

What we're going to do now is present situations where the response given can cause anger or result in peace. Keep in mind this passage of Scripture as you come up with answers for each situation:

**14** “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Situation

A classmate wins the part in the school play that you also tried out for

- **Question: What emotion, if allowed to stew could make you angry toward your classmate?** [Envy].
- **Question: What is a more gracious response?** [Rejoice with him].

Situation

A classmate's project receives first place in the school science contest

- **Question: What is a way that your classmate could really get you mad by how she acts after winning the contest?** [Boasting or bragging].
- **Question: What response can ease any tension you may feel?** [Praise her accomplishment].

Situation

You are the game's high - scorer for your school basketball team and are asked to grant an interview for the school paper

- **Question: What attitude could you display that could get your teammates really angry with you?** [Being a “glory hog” - taking all the credit for your great feat].
- **Question: What is a more accommodating response you could offer toward your teammates?** [Humbleness (or giving credit to another) like your teammates who passed you the ball so you could score].

Situation

Friends you're with are making demeaning comments toward a classmate

- **Question: What reaction of yours could hurt your classmate?** [Rudeness - laughing at the comments your friends make].
- **Question: What could you do to help keep your classmate from becoming angry?** [Don't take delight in your friend's comments - apologize to your classmate for your friends].

Situation

Your family buys a new computer just for the kids

- **Question: What's a really good way to get your brothers and sisters mad at you?** [Selfishness - hog the computer time].

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- **Question: What is a better way to keep peace?** [Share - offer to let your brother or sister use the computer first].

### Situation

Your friend is always running late and keeps you waiting every time you do something together

- **Question: How can you choose to let your anger to build toward your friend?** [Keep a record of all the times that you're friend keeps you waiting].
- **Question: How can you prevent resentment or anger from building?** [Be forgiving].

Let's look at a few more examples of attitudes or actions that can produce anger, and answers that the Scriptures suggest as to how you can prevent anger from coming about.

### Lies

**"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body"** (Ephesians 4:25).

### Harsh Words

**"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"** (Proverbs 15:1).

### Unresolved Differences

**"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold"** (Ephesians 4:26-27).

### Conceit or Arrogance

**"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others"** (Philippians 2:3-4).

### A Hot Temper

**"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control"** (Proverbs 29:11).

- **Question: Is it ever OK to be angry?** [Yes - when it's a righteous anger].
- **Question: What is righteous anger?** [Anger at what is not right].

**Question: Do you remember when Jesus came into Jerusalem and went to the temple?**

The Bible describes the scene:

**12 "Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 "It is written," he said to them, " `My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a `den of robbers' " (Matthew 21:12-13).**

What Jesus displayed is a righteous anger. The priests at the Temple were using the sacrificial system to take advantage of the poor. To Jesus, this was not acceptable and he wasn't afraid to speak out for what was right.

**Question: What are examples that the Scriptures give us of righteous anger?** [Anger toward injustice, wickedness, evil, taking advantage the poor & the weak].

**Question: Who or what are examples that you see in your school, or church, in the news or even in your home that you should not stand for?** [Students who put down classmates, friends who do not give their money, time or abilities to their church, elected officials who knowingly do wrong, physical or verbal abuse in your family].

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

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In our next lesson, we'll talk about a radical way to handle and prevent anger

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 22: PREVENT DEFENSE (Part 2)

Commandment # 6:  
**You shall not murder**  
(Respect the lives of others)

#### Homework Review

#### **Questions & Memory Verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"**  
(Matthew 4:4).

#### Character Quality

**Love**

#### Discussion Question

**What tends to make you angry?**

#### Review

In many ways the Bible is like a playbook for any sports team. It contains an offensive strategy that is designed to help you live a life pleasing to God. It also contains a defensive strategy that is designed to protect you from ungodly influences of the world.

One emotion that God's defensive plan can help protect you against is anger. Anger is a powerful emotion. Anger leads you to choose words or actions that you might not choose when you're calm or have a clearer perspective about the situation.

In our previous lesson we talked about actions or emotions that can cause anger and how you can choose to respond in a way that can help keep or bring peace.

#### Introduction

In today's lesson we're going to continue to find ways to prevent anger from coming about, and talk about a radical way to handle anger when you see it approaching.

#### Prevent Defense (Part 2)

(Text: Matthew 4:1-11)

**<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "**

**<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " `He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "**

**<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the**

**Lord your God, and serve him only.' " 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."**

The Bible can help you construct a defense system to prevent anger from overtaking you in times when it would be very easy to respond to a situation in anger.

**Question: What are three specific defensive strategies in the passage you just read that Jesus used to prevent anger from coming about?** [Scripture, self-control & common sense].

Let's take a look at God's prevent defense against anger.

#### Scripture

**"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' " (Matthew 4:4).**

God not only created you, but He sustains you - He fills you with what you need for your own good.

**Question: When Jesus was hungry and being tempted by Satan in the desert, how did He respond?** [With Scripture - with the Word of God]. Jesus realized that the best way to handle His anger and prevent from becoming angry is to let the Word of God fill Him so there was no room for anger.

**Question: What does Jesus mean when He says that man lives by the Word of God?** [That every word of Scripture will guide and teach you about how to live according to the way that God originally intended].

#### Self-Control

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).**

**Question: How can you control yourself when you get angry?** [By eating a piece of fruit]. When you allow God's seeds of truth to be planted within your heart, the fruits of: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will be produced within you. When you are in a situation where you feel you might become angry, just pick off a piece of fruit. It will help equip you to handle any situation that approaches you.

#### Common Sense

**8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9).**

**Question: According to this passage what is the best way to prevent anger?** [Concentrate on those things that lead your mind away from an angry response and lead your mind toward a peaceful response].

**Question: What are some examples of things that you can think about to calm you down when you feel angry?** [Think about what the right response is, think about what is good in that situation, think about being gentle and kind].

Now let's talk about a radical way to handle your anger: love.



Radical Love

**38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.**

[Note: this verse is often misunderstood to mean that as a Christian, you should be a doormat and let people walk over you. Instead, the original meaning of this passage means not to retaliate by like means, but rather, to react with love, and not react the same way the person reacted toward you].

**40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.**

**41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect"**

[Another note: this verse is also often times misunderstood. God wants us to continually be conformed to the likeness of Jesus. While we will fail at times, God wants us to never lose sight of this process]. (Matthew 5:38-48).

**Question: How does the world say to handle your anger toward someone who does wrong to you?** [Repay evil for evil, hate those who do wrong to you].

**Question: How does God say to handle your anger toward someone who does wrong to you?** [Love those you don't like as well as those you do].

**Question: What is different about radical love?** [It allows you to be free from anger].

**Question: What ways does this passage suggest how to handle your anger?** [Love vs. hate, pray vs. curse, resist vs. attack, forgive vs. harbor anger, give vs. turning someone away].

**Question: Think about a person who makes you angry. Think about what makes you angry toward this person. Now, what strategy outlined in Matthew 5:38-48 can you employ to prevent you from becoming angry with this person?** [React with love, kindness, understanding; be the one to show the example of love].

**Question: Think about a situation that makes you angry. How can you replace your angry response with one that is more peaceful?**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 23: TV TIME-OUT

Commandment # 4:

**Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy**  
(Time out for time with God)

#### Homework Review

#### **Questions & Memory Verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory"**  
(Colossians 3:4).

#### Character Quality

#### **Setting your mind and heart on things above**

#### Introduction

Author's note: I was recently watching the Winter Olympic Games on TV with the sound turned down low. Lying quietly in my arms was my 12-day-old daughter. She had finished her lunch and I was waiting for her to go to sleep so I could put her down in her crib. During a TV time-out for clever Olympic commercials, I flipped through a few channels until the games came back on. During my surf session, I came upon a lovely movie where two gladiators were locked in a cage and only the victor would emerge alive. Charming.

At that point I turned the TV off and looked down at the pure, innocent little baby in my arms. I wondered, "What kind of things is she hearing, what kind of things is she seeing? What images are being impressed upon her little mind?"

**Question: What impact do your viewing and listening choices have upon your heart and your mind?**

#### TV Time-Out

(Text: Colossians 3:1-6)

**<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming."**

The Bible says that one day you will appear with Jesus in heaven. You will stand with Jesus before the presence of God the Father Almighty - Maker of heaven and earth.

Imagine that a couple of days before your trip to glory land, an angel of the Lord appears to you and hands you a large suitcase.

"Your bags are packed and ready to go for your trip," the angel tells you.

"What's in the suitcase?" you ask.

"In this suitcase are all of the thoughts & memories you ever had, all of the words you ever said, and all of the deeds you ever did while you lived on earth. When you appear before God, you will open your suitcase and present these before Him."

**Question: On the day that you stand before God, what thoughts, words and deeds are going to be in your suitcase?**

The Importance Of Evaluating The TV Shows And Movies That You Watch

**Question: What do the TV shows or movies you watch have to do with the day you appear before God?** [What you see and hear has an effect on your thoughts, words and actions]. They will be packed away in your suitcase.

Let's say that you are doing a book report for English class. You're putting all of the information you need for the report into your computer. Every bit of that information you put into the computer is stored into its memory. When you want the information, you ask the computer to retrieve it, and the computer will display it for you to use in your report.

Like a computer, your mind stores away images in your memory. That information is available any time you want it. If the same types of images are repeatedly being introduced to your mind, whether they are positive or negative, they will influence your thinking and your behavior, positively or negatively.

**Question: Why is it important to evaluate the movies or TV shows that you watch?** [So that as much as possible, you are introducing positive values into your mind].

**Question: How do you know what values are positive and what values are negative?** [Let's look at two passages in the Bible that can help you know what are positive values, and what are negative values].

1) **1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

**<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them" (Ephesians 5:1-7).**

**Question: According to the passage you just read, what kinds of negative values in TV shows and movies should be avoided?** [Values that are improper for God's holy people: sexual immorality, impurities, obscenities, dirty jokes]. The Scripture passage says to not be partners with these values - do not embrace them..

2) **"Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things... [and] put [them] into practice." (Philippians 4:8-9).**

**Question: According to the passage you just read, what kinds of positive values in TV shows and movies should be embraced?** [Whatever is true, right, pure, admirable]. These are the values that you should be partners with.

TV Challenge: How Do Your Favorite TV Shows And Movies Rate?

What we're going to do is compare the values being promoted in popular TV shows and movies with values that are in line with the Bible's standards of what is right and pure.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### Negative Values

Negative values are values that the Bible says you should not have in your life. Here is a look at some of the negative values that are included in many popular shows and movies:

- Immorality, i.e.: lying, drunkenness, sexual activity outside marriage
- Anger, i.e.: fighting, revenge
- Lust, i.e.: lack of self-control for sexual desires, power, possessions
- Evil desires, i.e.: stealing, violence
- Greed, i.e.: being a Scrooge, an emphasis on the importance of possessions for happiness
- Obscenity, i.e.: dirty words or actions
- Coarse joking, i.e.: humor that puts down or makes fun of people, dirty jokes

### Positive Values

Positive values are values that the Bible says you should have in your life. Here is a look at some of the positive values that you should look for in TV shows and movies:

- Honesty
- Love, gentleness, peace, joy
- Sexual purity, self-control
- Kindness, goodness
- Giving, sharing
- Thanksgiving
- Encouraging words, prayer
- Clean language

Your Exploring the Bible sheet for this lesson is a guide to help you and your family measure the values of the TV shows and movies that you watch by Biblical standards.

The idea of this lesson is not to get you to stop watching TV or movies. The purpose of evaluating the shows and movies you watch is to help you be aware of what kinds of messages are being stored up in your mind.

Remember, the Bible says that one day you will stand with Jesus before the presence of God the Father. What you see and hear does affect your thoughts, words and actions. Take a TV Time-out and make sure that what you introduce to your mind is positive according to God's standards, because they will be packed away in your suitcase.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 24: I BREAK FOR GOD

Commandment # 4:

**Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy**  
(Time out for time with God)

Homework Review

**Questions & Memory Verse**

Today's Lesson verse

**"I will meditate on your wonderful works" (Psalm 145:5).**

Character Quality

**A spirit of worship**

Introduction

**<sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:8-11).**

The fourth commandment is primarily concerned with our attitude toward the Sabbath and how we can keep it holy.

- **Question: What is the Sabbath?** [A day of rest & worship of God].
- **Question: What does "holy" mean?** [Holy means to be set apart for God's use].
- **Question: What does it mean then, to keep the Sabbath holy?** [Reserve a special day to worship and honor God].

Ever heard of S. Truett Cathy? How about the cows and the "eat mor chickin" billboards? Chick-fil-A is one of the most successful restaurant chains in the country. Want to know the reason for their success?

Mr. Truett opened his first store in shopping mall store in 1967. He wanted to honor God by resting on Sunday, so he made the decision to close on the first day of every week. Statistically speaking, Sunday is the third-busiest day for restaurants, but Chick-fil-A remains closed. Despite this policy (or because of it?), in most malls they generally make in six days what the other restaurants make in seven.

Periodically, the Chick-fil-A board re-evaluates their closed-Sunday policy and each time they come to the conclusion that it remains honoring to God. All the store operators agree to abide by the corporate purpose: "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A."

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While we should honor God everyday, the Sabbath is set apart from every other day of the week for the specific purpose of honoring and worshipping God.

I Break For God  
(Text: Psalm 145)

<sup>1</sup> “I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. <sup>4</sup> One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. <sup>6</sup> They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. <sup>7</sup> They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. <sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. <sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. <sup>10</sup> All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. <sup>11</sup> They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, <sup>12</sup> so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. <sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. <sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. <sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. <sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. <sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. <sup>20</sup> The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. <sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.”

**Question: How does observing the Sabbath honor God?** [Observing the Sabbath honors God by showing your obedience to Him, showing your trust in Him & bringing your attention to Him].

Observing The Sabbath Shows Your Obedience To God

**DT 10:12** And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

**Question: How does observing the Sabbath show your obedience to God?** [Because you are obeying His command].

**Question: Why does God command you to rest?** [For your own good]. God knows that people need to rest.

In fact, God knows that you need rest so much that He commands you to rest - and for a very good reason. Studies have shown that you body works best if you give it a day off from all of your work and activities. We are not energizer bunnies. In the real world, if you keep going and going and going you wear down and run the risk of getting ill or burned out. And then you can't be good at whatever it is that you're doing. God commands you to rest because He cares about you.

Observing The Sabbath Shows Your Trust In God

**PS 145:13** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises

and loving toward all he has made. <sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing” (Psalm 145:13-16).

The Beginning of the Sabbath

**Question:** Think back to when the people of Israel were in the wilderness after the Exodus from Egypt. Do you remember how long they camped in the desert? [40 years].

**Question:** Do you remember how God fed them during those 40 years? [God gave manna to the people of Israel to eat in the desert].

The Bible says:

- <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days" (Exodus 16:4-5).
- <sup>29</sup> Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where he is on the seventh day; no one is to go out." <sup>30</sup> So the people rested on the seventh day" (Exodus 16:29-30).

Later, after the people of Israel had somewhat settled down and become farmers, the Lord told the people, "Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest." (Exodus 34:21).

**Question:** What is the most important times of the year for a farmer? [Planting & harvesting season]. Yet God told the people of Israel to rest even during the most important times of the year.

And even after many years had passed and the people of Israel no longer did only farming, God applied the same rule to the different jobs they did; work six days and rest on the seventh.

**Question:** How does observing the Sabbath show your trust in God? [You can trust that God will provide for your needs even if you take a day off].

The Bible says,

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10).

God wants you to honor Him with the first of your resources and I believe, with your time.

The Sabbath day was originally and is still observed by the Jewish people and some Christians on Saturday, the seventh day of the week. But early Christians changed their observance of the Sabbath to a Sunday, the day that Jesus was raised to life again. And so today, most Christians observe the Sabbath on Sunday, the first day of the week.

Dedicate the first day of the week to be a special day of honoring God. Give to Him the first of your time and He will honor your trust in Him.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### Observing The Sabbath Brings Your Attention To God

**“I will meditate on your wonderful works.” (Psalm 145:5).**

Psalm 145 is a wonderful guide to help you reflect on what God has done for you.

**Question: What reasons does this Psalm give you to praise God?** [He is near to you, He hears & listens to you, He strengthens you through difficult times, He provides for all of your needs].

**Question: What are simple ways to call upon the Lord as a family?** [Prayer & praise at a meal, family devotion, worship together].

**Question: What are the benefits of observing the Sabbath?** [A stronger family by spending time together, increased appreciation for God’s blessings, an opportunity for parents and children to learn together, physical rest].

**Question: How can your family make the Sabbath a special and enjoyable day?** [Family fun at home, an outing to see the beauty of God’s creation, playing Bible trivia, family members taking turns teaching a family devotion].

If the 4th commandment were to be rewritten for us today, it might read as follows:

*“Go to the office, go to soccer practice, do your homework and do your grocery shopping 6 days out of the week. For out of 7 days in a week, I have given you 6 days to do all of these things. But on the seventh day, make sure that you set that day aside to spend time reflecting on what I have done for you.”*

In our communities it is difficult to observe the Sabbath. There are so many activities we involve ourselves in, there are so many choices to fill up our time. Many of these choices are available to you on Sundays.

While it’s difficult and at times inconvenient to set aside a day for God, it’s not impossible; And God’s commandments have not changed. The command to set aside a day of worship and rest still stands.

Sit down as a family and decide how you can observe the Sabbath. Sunday at lunch would be a wonderful time.



## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 25: HANDLE WITH CARE

Commandment # 8:

**Do not steal**

(Do what is good for others)

Homework Review

**Questions & Memory Verse**

Today's Lesson Verse

**"Love does no harm to its neighbor..." (Romans 13:10).**

Character Quality

**Respect for others**

Discussion Question

- **Have you or anyone in your family ever had anything stolen from you?**
- **How did it make you feel?**

Introduction

Your actions are a direct result of what you are thinking. Therefore, it's important that you have the right thoughts in your mind.

Today we're going to talk about different ways that people steal from others and why God says, "Do what is good for others."

Handle With Care

(Text: Selected Verses)

**Question: What reasons can you come up with as to why people steal?** [People steal for many different reasons, none of which are right]:

- Our hearts are not clean. The Bible says, <sup>9</sup> **"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure" (Jeremiah 17:9)**. Our natural character tells us to do wrong.
- Some people are not content with what they have & they want more - sometimes without wanting to wait for it or work for it.
- Some people have strayed from God's commands.
- Some people don't care about other people's feelings.
- Some people don't trust that God will provide what they need.

**Question: What are three ways that people can steal from others?**

- Taking property without permission
- Stealing respect or authority
- Stealing time or opportunities

Let's talk about some examples:

**Question: What is an example of how students steal from their teachers?** [By not listening in class].

Miss Smart spends a lot of time preparing lessons to teach your class. If Billy Bob is talking to his friends during class and interrupting the lesson, and Miss Smart has to stop and address his behavior, Billy Bob has just stolen her time.

**Question: What is an example of how students steal from their classmates?** [By disrupting class].

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At the same time that Miss Smart is addressing Billy Bob's disrespectful behavior, his classmates' opportunity to learn has also been stolen.

**Question: What is an example of how you might steal from your parents?** [By disobeying]. Sugar Sweet has been asked by her parents to turn off the TV and do her homework. If Sugar refuses, her parents' respect has just been stolen, because Sugar has shown disrespect for the authority that is rightfully theirs [see honor your father and your mother].

**Question: What is an example of how teammates can steal from each other?** [By skipping practice].

If Samantha Grassfield skips soccer practice just because she feels like it, she has stolen her teammates' opportunity to develop their skills and develop as a team because Coach Midfielder needs all of her players present to conduct a good practice.

**Question: What are the dangers of stealing?**

- Stealing another person's property can get you into trouble with the law.
- Stealing can ruin friendships
- Stealing can take away people's trust in you.
- Stealing can lead to telling lies in an attempt to cover up the stealing.
- Stealing can lead to more stealing.

**Question: What Bible verses can help you learn to respect and do what is good for others?**

- **"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11).** Be content with the many blessings you have.
- **"How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9).** Put God's words into your heart.
- **"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4).** Before you act, check to see if your desires are helpful to other people.
- **"...Hate what is evil..." (Romans 12:9).** Recognize stealing as something that is evil and hate it.

**Question: How should you react if someone steals from you?** [Be kind rather than take revenge]. The Bible says, **"Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always be try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).**

God hates stealing because it damages relationships. As Christians, we are told, **"...Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor" (Romans 13:9-10).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 26: A THANK YOU NOTE

Commandment # 8:

**Do not steal**

(Do what is good for others)

Homework Review

**Questions & Memory Verse**

Today's Lesson Verse

**"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good he has given you" (Deuteronomy 8:10).**

Character Quality

**Respect for God**

Discussion Question

**Have you ever written a thank you note? Who did you write it to and why did you write it?**

Introduction

Today we're going to talk about one way that people steal from God: by robbing God of the honor and glory that is rightfully His.

Background

The people of Israel are just about to enter the land promised to them by God after wandering in the desert for 40 years after leaving Egypt. Moses now warns the people not to forget how God provided for all of their needs during those 40 years.

A Thank You Note

(Text: Deuteronomy Chapter 8:1-14)

**<sup>1</sup> Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. <sup>2</sup> Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.**

**<sup>6</sup> Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land--a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup> a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup> a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills" (Deuteronomy 8:1-9).**

**Question: What are some of the ways God took care of the people of Israel in the desert?**

[God led them through the desert, fed them with manna, kept their clothes from wearing out, kept them from injury as they traveled a great distance].

**Question: What was Moses concerned about when the people of Israel got to the Promised Land?** [Moses was concerned that once the people of Israel got into the Promised Land, they would forget that God had taken care of them while they were in the desert]. They would forget to give God credit for all the blessings that they were about to receive.

**Question: What were some of the blessings that God was going to give to the people when they reached the Promised Land?** [Streams & pools of water, food, natural resources]. They would have everything that they needed to live.

Let's continue the story.

**10** When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. **11** Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. **12** Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, **13** and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, **14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery” (Deuteronomy 8:10-14).

**Question: What important lesson can you learn from this Bible story?** [When you forget to thank God for anything that is stealing from God, since everything is God's in the first place].

The Scriptures say that, “**The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.**” (Psalm 24:1).

He wants you to remember to thank Him for all things: the air that you breathe, the water that you drink; even your body which enables you to enjoy the good gifts He gives you.

**Question: There are 3 ways that we can steal from God. Do you remember what they might be?** [With our abilities, with our money, with our words and actions].

**Question: What is an example of how you can keep from stealing from God with the abilities He has given to you?** [By giving Him thanks for your talents and abilities].

Just like the people of Israel, when you forget to thank God for giving you the ability to learn math or reading, or play sports, or play a musical instrument, that is stealing from God because it robs Him of the honor and recognition that He deserves for what He has given you.

Remember to thank God for your abilities. And then use them well.

**Question: What is an example of how you can keep from stealing from God with your money?** [By giving tithes and offerings].

The Scriptures say, “**[God says]...you rob me...in tithes and offerings**” (Malachi 3:8).

God asks you to give back to Him a small part of what He has given to you. When you don't, you rob God of an opportunity to help others in need with what He has given to you. Remember to give back to God a small part of the abundance He has given to you.

**Question: What is an example of how you can keep from stealing from God with your words or actions?** [Speaking in a way that honors God].

The Bible says, “**These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me**” (Isaiah 29:13).

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

When you say one thing that honors God, but then turn around and act in a way that doesn't honor God, you have stolen from God's reputation and His name; and God becomes less and less important to you and to others.

Honor God with your words and your actions.

**Question: What are some of the good things that God has given to you and to your family?**  
[A home, food, clothes, health, friends, church home, His Son Jesus].

**Question: How can you thank Him for these things every day?** [Write a thank you note by honoring God with your talents and abilities].

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 27: IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

Commandment # 8:

**Do not steal**  
(Share with Others)

Homework Review

**Questions & Memory Verse**

Today's Lesson verse

**"...if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously" (Romans 12:8).**

Character Quality

Giving

Discussion Question

**What types of things are you good at doing?  
How can you use what you are good at to help others?**

Review

So far, we've looked at two ways people can steal: From others and from God.

- **Question: In What Ways Do People Steal From Others?** [By taking other people's property without their permission, by stealing other people's dignity or authority].
- **Question: In What Ways Do People Steal From God?** [By not being responsible with the abilities He has given to us, by not being responsible with the things He has given to us, by robbing God of His honor & glory].

Introduction

Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland in 1835. His family's poverty taught Carnegie a lesson. When the Carnegies came to America in 1848, Andrew determined to bring prosperity to his family.

Carnegie climbed from the slums of Pittsburgh to the mansions of New York. By 1868 Carnegie, was worth \$400,000 (nearly \$5 million today). For three decades, he dominated the steel industry. By 1900, Carnegie Steel produced more steel than the entire British steel industry. When he sold the company to J.P. Morgan in 1901, Carnegie personally earned \$250 million (approximately \$4.5 billion today).

Today he is most remembered for his generous gifts of music halls, educational grants, and nearly 3000 public libraries. By the time of his death in 1919, he had given away over \$350 million (more than \$3 billion in today's dollars).

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In this lesson, we're going to talk about one other way that people can steal: From themselves.

It Is More Blessed To Give

(Text: Mark 12:41-44)

**41 "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.**

**"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.**

**But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.**

**Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.”**

Very quietly with no fanfare, this poor widow put in everything she had to live on. By contrast, the teachers of the law, the leaders of Israel, liked to call attention to themselves; walking around in flowing robes, seen by everybody, having the most important seats in their church and places of honor at big banquets.

**Question: What did Jesus say that made this widow’s small gift the biggest one given?** [She gave everything she had to live on]. What made her gift the largest was her attitude toward giving.

It is this attitude of giving generously that we’re going to explore today.

**Question: Has anyone given more generously than God?** [No].

**Question: How has God given to us?** The Bible says, **“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it...”(Psalm 24:1)**. Everything that we have comes from what God has given us.

- **“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it...”(Psalm 24:1)**. Everything that we have comes from what God has given us.
- **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)**. God gives us eternal life as a gift.
- **“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9)**. God will give us more than we could ever imagine.

**Question: What is it that makes people give?** [People give because God put in us a desire to give. It makes God happy when you give, because it helps other people].

Let’s talk a little bit now of why we should give, what we should give, how we should give, & when we should give:

**Question: Why Should You Give?**

The Bible says, **“Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8)**. Give because you have received much from others.

The Bible says, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:25)**. It’s always nice to get things or have things done for you, but God says it helps you and it helps others when you give.

**Question: What Should We Give?**

The Bible says, **“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion [because you have to], for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)**. Give what you have because you want to.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

The Bible says, “**My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways**” (Proverbs 23:26). Give your attention to God so that you can learn to live a life that is full and meaningful.

### **Question: How Should We Give?**

The Bible says, “**...the righteous give without sparing**” (Proverbs 21:26). Give as you are able. Remember, the widow did not have much to give, but gave as she was able.

### **Question: When Should We Give?**

The Bible says, “**Share with God’s people who are in need**” (Romans 12:13). Share when the opportunity arises.

The Bible says, “**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints**” (Ephesians 6:18). Pray when you are aware of a need.

The Bible says, “**Never tire of doing what is right**” (2 Thessalonians 3:12). Ask God for strength to continue to give.

**Question: Who are people that have given to you?** [Parents who show you God’s love; teachers who help you learn in school; coaches who help you learn to play sports, people who serve in the armed forces to keep our country safe]. Think about how good it feels when someone takes time to help you.

**Question: How can you steal from yourself?** [By not giving generously]. God asks you to give back to Him a small part of what He has given to you. When you don’t give, you steal from yourself the joy that comes from helping others by giving.

**Question: How can you help others today by giving with your time or your abilities or your money?**



## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 28: TREASURE IN HEAVEN

Commandment # 10:  
**Do not covet**  
(Desire the right way)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

Today's Lesson verse

**"...store up for yourselves treasure in heaven" (Matthew 6:20).**

#### Character quality

Contentment

#### Introduction

In 1998, American Heritage Magazine compiled a list of the 40 richest Americans in history, based on 1998 dollars. There were 39 men and one woman on the list. The richest American woman who ever lived was Hetty Green, whose fortune when she died in 1916 was estimated at more than \$100 million (over \$17 billion in today's dollars). But...Hetty Green was famous not as much for her great wealth as for her great stinginess.

What do you think about this? On her 21st birthday Hetty refused to light the candles on her birthday cake so as not to waste them. The next day she wiped the cake off the candles and returned them to the store for a refund.

After her husband died in 1902, she moved from his hometown of Bellows Falls, Vermont to Hoboken, New Jersey to be closer to her money that was in New York City. She didn't own a home, but lived in a series of grungy leased rooms, spending as little as \$5 a week for living expenses. She wore the same dress day after day until it was in tatters. Lunch would be a serving of oatmeal warmed on an office radiator. I think we're safe in assuming that donations to charity were out!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Introduction

Hetty Green was the worst of coveters. It all had to do with her attitude. The first nine commandments have to deal with actions - things that we should or should not do or think. But coveting has to do with our attitude. Coveting means to desire the wrong way.

**Question: What types of things do you like to collect?** [Baseball cards, autographs, coins, stamps]. You wouldn't desire something that wasn't neat, or cool, or unattractive to us. You have a desire to acquire and accumulate things that we like & that are attractive to us.

**Question: What types of things would you like to be good at doing?** [Sports, drawing, a friend, singing]. You have a desire to succeed. You probably like to play sports that you're good at doing. You like to succeed in your schoolwork and receive good grades. God made us so that we would want to achieve things and do well with them.

**Question: What types of things do you like to make or build?** [Models, a tree-house, paintings, cookies]. You have a desire to make or create things because God instills in us the desire & ability to create.

**Question: Is there anything named in the Bible that would be desirable for you to have?** [Love, joy, peace, goodness, wisdom].

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

Listen to this one: **“The laws of the Lord are true and right. They are more precious than gold; they are sweeter than honey” (Psalm 19:9-10).** God says that you can find a way of living that is right in the Bible that is very desirable.

The word “covet” comes from the same word that means “delight” or “desire.” There is nothing wrong with desiring certain things. Just like what we’ve been talking about, God has given us desires and many things for us to enjoy. But, along with the desires and the many good things that God has given us, are some things He has said are off-limits.

**Question: Earlier in this lesson, we said that coveting means to desire in the wrong way. How can you desire something the wrong way?** [When your desires lead you toward wrong actions, if you will do anything to get it, if you desire things that are illegal].

Let’s look at a Bible story that shows us how one person desired the wrong way, and then we’ll talk about the correct way to desire.

### The Rich Young Man (Text: Luke 18:18-23)

<sup>18</sup> “A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”  
<sup>19</sup> “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good--except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’ ” <sup>21</sup> “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” <sup>23</sup> When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.”

**Question: What did Jesus say that the young man needed to do?** [Jesus didn’t tell the man he needed another possession to have eternal life - Jesus told him he needed to do something: Not to have more things, but to give].

**Question: Why was the young man sad when Jesus asked him to sell all he possessed?** [He made his wealth the most important thing in his life - even more important than God. Jesus could have met all of the man’s needs, but the rich man didn’t want to believe that. He loved his wealth too much].

**Question: Why did Jesus tell the man that he needed to give all of his possessions away to inherit eternal life? Why didn’t Jesus say, “Believe in me and you will have eternal life?”** [Because Jesus knew of the man’s love for his possessions. If the man had sold all of his great wealth, Jesus would have known that the man truly believed in him and trusted him as Savior and Lord].

Listen to what the Gospel of Luke tells us: **“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15).** The rich man did not look at his wealth properly & his desiring the wrong way resulted in greed.

**Question: Does wealth always mean money? Can you be greedy in things other than money?** [Attention, praise, position, abilities, knowledge, possessions].

Let’s find out how we can desire the right way, and not become greedy:

- **“Share with God’s people who are in need” (Romans 12:13).** Share when the opportunity arises.
- **“...give without sparing.” (Proverbs 21:26).** Give as you are able.

**Question: What opportunities do you have to give?** [Church tithe, charities, stories in the newspaper, on tv or radio, Sunday school or class projects].

- **“Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).** Give because you have received. Everything we have comes from God, and He expects us to use what He has given us to help others in need.

**Question: Is it wrong to have wealth?** [No].

**Question: Is it wrong not to share some of it with people in need?** [Yes].

Jesus said, **“...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” (Matthew 6:20).** You can have treasure in heaven by giving on earth.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 29: SEEK YE FIRST

Commandment # 10:  
**Do not covet**  
(Desire the right way)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33).**

#### Character quality

**Contentment**

#### Discussion Question

**What things or places are labeled, "off-limits" to you by your parents?** [Cookies before dinner, crossing a busy intersection, certain video games or movies, dad's change jar].

#### Review

In our last Bible study lesson we talked about how being greedy takes away from you the joy of giving to others. Sharing or giving some of what you have to others, helps you develop the right attitude about toys, money, and other important stuff that are yours.

Today, you're going to hear a Bible story that shows us how some people desired things that God said were off-limits. Then we'll talk about making good choices about things that have been labeled "off limits" to you and me.

#### Seek Ye First

(Text: Genesis 2:4-9, 15-18, 3:1-7)

**GE 2:4 "This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.**

**When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens--<sup>5</sup> and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground,<sup>6</sup> but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground--<sup>7</sup> the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.**

**<sup>8</sup> Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.<sup>9</sup> And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."**

**GE 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."**

**3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Our God, the very same God who breathed life into Adam, the very same God who planted the garden for Adam & Eve, loves you.

**Question: What is one way that you know that God loves you?** [One reason you know that God loves you is because God gives you choices]. God gives you the choice of whether to love Him or not.

**Question: What is one way that you can show God that you love Him?** [One way that you can show God that you love Him is to obey His commands].

Question: Why does God give us commands in the first place? [For our own good].

The Bible says,

**12** "And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

If you remember, one underlying theme that runs through the Ten Commandments is that God created us to work best when we operate according to His instructions. He created our mind to work best when it is filled with His knowledge.

God says to us, "I made you a certain way and you work best when you follow my instructions, but it's your choice whether you obey or not. Remember though, with your choices come consequences (results of your decisions)."

You're free to make decisions, but you're not free to choose the consequences of those decisions.

**Question: What did God tell Adam & Eve about the fruit from the tree in the Garden?** [God told Adam & Eve not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden; in fact, according to Eve, to not even touch it].

Even though the fruit looked good, and was very desirable, for whatever reason He had, God placed it off-limits to Adam & Eve. But Adam & Eve disregarded what God had told them and directly disobeyed Him. And there were consequences to their disobedience.

**Question: What was and is the consequence of Adam & Eve's acting on their desire for what was off-limits?** [The biggest consequence is that sin entered into the world].

The Bible says, **"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).**

**Question: Why do you think your mom & dad place certain very desirable things off-limits to you?** [Again for your own good: for your protection, for your well being, to instill character & values that are important].

More than likely your mom or dad have good reasons and probably have your best interest in mind when they place certain things off-limits.

God says it is wrong to desire things that are off-limits. Many times if we act on our wrong desires, our actions lead to trouble.

**Question: How can you make good choices about things that are off-limits to you?** The Bible says, **"Seek first what is good and right and all these things [that you need] will be given to you." (Matthew 6:33).** Think of what the right thing to do is before you act.

**Question: Why is it wise to think before you act?** [If it's a dangerous situation, thinking can keep you safe, if it's an illegal choice, thinking ahead can keep you out of trouble].

The Bible says, **"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:2).** Read the Bible and get to know what the Scriptures have to say about what is wrong and what is right.

**Question: What is the benefit of concentrating on what is right?** [If you concentrate on what is right, doing right will become a habit, when you focus on what is right, you cannot focus on what is wrong].

The Bible says, <sup>8</sup> **"Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. <sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God" (Proverbs 30:8-9).** Be content with what you have.

**Question: Why does the Psalmist say not to want too much or too little?** [If you have too much you may stop depending on the Lord, if you have too little you may spend all your time thinking about what you want].

**"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19).** Remember that God will supply all that you need.

**Question: How does God meet your needs?** [Through your parents, abilities you have, other people].

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Sometimes you & I desire things that are off-limits. That's because sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience to God, and as a result of his choice, you & I sin.

The good news is that Jesus gives you the power to make good choices about things that are off-limits. Ask Jesus to help you be content with what you have and remember that God will supply all that you need.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 30: HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

Commandment # 9:

**Do not lie**  
(Live truthfully)

#### Review

**Last week's homework questions & memory verse**

#### Today's Lesson verse

**"Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor" (Romans 13:10).**

#### Character quality

**Honesty**

#### Introduction

The ninth commandment says, **"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16)**. More simply put, "Live truthfully."

**Question: Why do you think God included this in the Ten Commandments? Why does God demand for you to live truthfully?** The answer lies in whom God is.

#### Honesty Is The Best Policy

(Text: Romans 13:8-10)

**"<sup>8</sup>Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to its neighbor..."**

The ninth commandment says, **"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)**. More simply put, "Live truthfully."

**Question: Why do you think God included "do not lie" in the Ten Commandments?** [The answer lies in the very nature of God – of who He is].

#### God Is Truth

At the very center of God's character is Truth. Jesus, who is, **"...the image of the invisible God..." (Colossians 1:15)** says: **"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..." (John 14:6)**.

#### God Is Light

In Scripture, light is always equated with truth. The Scriptures say, **"This is the message we have heard and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5)**. God is full of truth. There is no room in Him for anything other than truth.

#### God Created People To Be Like Him

**"Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place." (Psalm 51:6)**. Since you have been created in God's image, God wants you to reflect his character in your life. God wants you to live truthfully.

#### Lying Is The Opposite Of Truth

**"<sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3:8-10).**

**Question: Why does the Bible say to not lie?** [Because lying hurts people]. Our opening Scripture verse says that love does what is right and that love does not hurt anyone. And intentionally making statements that are not true can and do hurt people.

Let's look at three examples of what lying does:

1) Lying Hurts A Person's Reputation

**"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful." (Proverbs 12:22).**

Remember the story of Daniel and the lion's den (Daniel Chapter 6)? Let's visit the beginning of that story:

**"<sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." (Daniel 6:3-5).**

**Question: Why were these officials unable to find any charges against Daniel?** [Daniel was honest and could be completely trusted with anything he was given to do].

**Question: How was Daniel rewarded for living truthfully?** [He was made the highest administrator in the whole kingdom].

**Question: Do you remember what happened to the officials who lied about Daniel to the king?** [After Daniel was found to be innocent, the king tossed the bad guys into the lion's den]. Certainly in Daniel's case, honesty was the best policy.

2) A Lie Places A Heavy Weight Upon A Person

**"The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight." (Proverbs 11:1).**

Remember Zacchaeus? Let's take a look at the burden Zacchaeus placed upon people by his dishonesty, and then how God's power changed Zacchaeus life.

**"<sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' " <sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham" (Luke 19:1-9).**

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and tax collectors were notorious for collecting more than what was due, and withholding some of that money for themselves. Jewish people despised them, and it is easy to see why.

**Question: How did Zacchaeus' dishonesty burden people?** [The people had to pay more taxes than they really owed].



**Question: How did Zacchaeus change?** {By meeting Jesus}. The result of God's power working in Zacchaeus' life enabled him to live truthfully. For Zacchaeus, honesty became the best policy.

3) A Lie Hurts Peoples Feelings

**"...a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).**

Remember a few lessons back (Lesson # 22) when we squeezed a whole tube of toothpaste out onto a piece of newspaper and then offered you \$10 if you could get it all back into the tube? You didn't get the \$10 did you?

**Question: Do you remember what we tried to illustrate by doing that?** [That once said, you can't take those hurtful words back].

**Question: Why do insulting and teasing words and lies hurt so much?** [Once those words are put in your mind, they stay there and are remembered for a long time].

**Question: Instead of hurting people what should our words do?** [Our words should encourage people].

Encouragement means to help give someone hope or courage or confidence. The Bible says, **"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." (Ephesians 4:29).**

Make sure that honesty is your policy.

So far, we've talked about three ways that lies or dishonesty can hurt a person:

- A lie can hurt a person's reputation
- A lie can place a heavy weight upon a person to carry
- A lie can hurt a person's feelings

**Question: Can you think of some other reasons why God says, "Live truthfully?"**

- A lie creates mistrust toward the person who lied to you. Once you have been lied to, it's hard to trust that person again.
- A lie leads to telling more lies to cover up the last lie.
- A lie can ruin friendships. It's hard to be friends with somebody who lies.

**Question: What are some reasons why God gave to us the Ten Commandments?** [To teach us how to love God, how to live and get along with each other, to protect us from making bad decisions and choices that would harm you or others].

God's word tells us:

**"Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor" (Romans 13:10).**

When we lie, we only hurt others and hurt ourselves. When we live truthfully, we reflect God's character. This is why God says, "Live truthfully." It's why honesty is the best policy.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### THANKSGIVING

#### A TIME FOR THANKS & FOR GIVING

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.” (Psalm 105:1-2).**

Thanksgiving is all about being thankful for what we’ve been given. Let’s think about what we’ve received for a moment. Read the following verse:

**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it...”(Psalm 24:1).**

**Question: Where does everything you have come from?** [Everything that we have comes from what God has given us].

**Question: Has anyone given more generously than God?**

- **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).** God gives us eternal life as a gift.
- **“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).** God will give us more than we could ever imagine.

God does assure Christians (those who have invited Jesus Christ into their life as Savior and Lord) that one-day they will live forever with Him in His mansion in heaven! BUT...sometimes we forget about another fantastic promise God makes to us:

**“...I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).** Jesus says that not only does He offer to you citizenship in heaven, but also you can have the best life possible on this side of heaven! God offers to us the best of both worlds!

**Question: Who are people that have given to you?** [Parents who show you God’s love; teachers who help you learn in school; coaches who help you learn to play sports, people who serve in the armed forces to keep our country safe]. Think about how good it feels when someone takes time to give to you.

We certainly have been given much, so we have plenty to be thankful for. Let’s do a little warm-up before a fun game at the end of this lesson:

**Question: September 11, 2001 – the day men flew airplanes into the World Trade Center buildings in New York - what was there to be thankful for?** [That God allowed less destruction than there could have been, many people have put their faith and trust in Jesus as their Savior, an outpouring of patriotism and giving, renewed prayer life and church attendance].

**Question: There’s a severe illness in your family. What can you find to be thankful for?** [Health that you enjoy, Christ’ love in action as people help, hope for a better future].

**Question: Your sports team is dead last in the league. What can you find to be thankful for?** [Physical health just to be able to play, learning and growing in understanding of the game, learning good lessons that you can use outside of sports: self-control, patience, kindness].

**Question: Look around your home. What can you find to be thankful for?** [Family, that you have a home, clothes, food, etc.].

**Question: Look around your church. What can you find to be thankful for?** [Jesus Christ, your pastor, place to worship freely and openly].

**Question: Let's say you meet a homeless person and he/she asks you, "What do I have to be thankful for?"** [God meets your needs, people care and help - you are not forgotten, you have opportunities to get back on your feet].

We have lots to be thankful for. But the second part of ThanksGIVING, is the giving. So let's talk about giving.

**Question: There are 3 good ways that you can give. What do you think they are?**

1. We can give with our time
2. We can give through our abilities
3. We can give our money.

**Question: Why Should You Give?** The Bible says:

**"Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).** [Give because you have been given to].

The Bible says, **"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion [because you have to], for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).** Give what you have because you want to.

**Question: When Should We Give?** [Share when the opportunity arises]. The Bible says, **"Share with God's people who are in need" (Romans 12:13).** Anytime is the right time!

Since Thanksgiving opens up the "Holiday Season," it's a time when we naturally look for ways to give.

**Question: How can you practice using your abilities, your time, and your money to give?**

I can use my abilities:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| @ home by           | Helping plan a family activity.             |
| @ school by         | Helping a classmate with a science project. |
| @ church by         | Singing in the choir.                       |
| in the community by | Helping an elderly neighbor rake leaves.    |

I can use my time:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| @ home by           | Doing chores before t.v.                                 |
| @ school by         | Helping with a fund raising project.                     |
| @ church by         | Helping in the nursery.                                  |
| in the community by | Participating in a charity or community service project. |

I can use my money:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| @ home by           | Buying a special gift for the whole family. |
| @ school by         | Buying lunch for a friend.                  |
| @ church by         | Giving 10% of your allowance to the church. |
| in the community by | Giving to a family who needs help.          |

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LESSON

#### Today's Lesson verse

**“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus” (Luke 1:31).**

#### Discussion Question

**What are some of your favorite Christmas memories?**

#### The Story of Christmas

(Text: Luke 2:1-7)

**“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria). And everyone went to his own town to register.**

**So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”**

The Christmas Story, It's A Wonderful Life, Miracle On 34th Street. It's easy to miss the true meaning of Christmas. If all you know about Christmas is what you see on TV, or in the stores, you might think that Christmas is all about buying and getting presents, having parties, and Santa Claus. But Christmas is much, much more.

**Question: What is Christmas?** [Christmas is the celebration of a historical event that took place nearly 2000 years ago].

**Question: When did Christmas really begin?** [The Christmas story actually begins in the heart of God before the planet earth was created].

In the beginning, God created the earth and said it was good. Then God created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. They were the jewels of His creation. In the beginning - they were perfect - just as God wanted them to be.

**Question: God had a test for Adam & Eve's love. What was God's test?** [God's test of people's love for Him was obedience]. But Adam did not choose to be, as God wanted him to be. He decided to disobey God and at that moment became less than perfect. Now Adam was always thinking the way he wanted to. He was not who God originally intended for him to be any longer.

**Question: What happened because of Adam's disobedience?** [Because of Adam's disobedience, you and I are separated from God].

The Bible says that, **“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death [separation from God] came through sin, in this way death came to all people, because all people have sinned” (Romans 5:12).** Every person since Adam has inherited his nature to choose to be disobedient to God. Another name for disobedience to God is “sin.” And because our God is Holy – set apart from sin – a sinful person cannot stand in God's presence. Even the earth that God created lost its original beauty and goodness.

**Question: What did God do?** [He made a promise. The promise is this: “I will not leave you in this condition forever – without a way to be rescued from sin and separation from Me. I will provide a “Way” so the great chasm that separates you from Me will be bridged, and you can

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come to Me. The “Way” that I will provide will show you the love I have for you, and the love that I want you to have for Me and for each other”].

Ever since God made this first promise, there have been those who have believed it. These are people who have put their faith and trust in God’s Word.

About 2000 years ago, when the time was just right, there lived a young girl named Mary in the little village of Nazareth in Galilee. Mary was a virgin, not married, but engaged to a man named Joseph.

Mary believed in the promise God had made. She trusted God. One day as she prayed, an angel, a messenger from God came to her.

**Question: What did this messenger tell her?** [The angel told her not to be afraid - she would have a baby, created in her through the power of the Spirit of God. She was to give Him the name Jesus, which means Savior - or God saves].

This was God’s plan to provide the “Way” for our return to Him, as He had promised. The angel appeared to Joseph also. Mary and Joseph were filled with joy to be chosen as the parents of this baby Jesus - who would show us how much God loves us.

While Mary was waiting to give birth to this baby, the governor of the land told everyone to go to his or her hometown to be counted in a census. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, and just as they arrived, it became time for Mary to have her baby. Bethlehem was so crowded, that all the hotels and inns were full, but Mary and Joseph found shelter, and Mary delivered her baby and laid him in a manger.

**Question: What is a manger?** [A manger is an animal’s feeding trough].

**Question: Who is this baby called Jesus?** [This baby was God’s gift to the world - a real live human being, born to a woman, yet He was God’s Son. Jesus was 100% God, 100% person. As God directed, Joseph and Mary named Him Jesus (the popular name for Jesus today would be “Joshua,” meaning: God saves, and God is with us), for He was to be the Savior of the world].

At this time in the fields outside of Bethlehem, there were shepherds caring for their sheep. Suddenly, they saw a great light in the night sky and an angel appeared to them.

**Question: What did the angel say to them?** [The Scripture says, “**Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people. Today, in the town of David [Bethlehem] a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger**” (Luke 2:10-12)].

Suddenly, a great number of angels appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “**Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men on whom His favor rests.**” The shepherds were among those who believed God’s promise, so they hurried to the manger and knelt and worshipped the baby Jesus.

**Question: On the night that Jesus was born, why do you think that the angels appeared to shepherds instead of kings or government officials or the religious leaders?** [You see, because of their dirty, nasty, stinky job, shepherds were outcasts from society. They were people no one wanted to associate with – perhaps much like the homeless of today. Jesus came to be with the poor - those who have the greatest needs. For Jesus, no person is too lowly to come to]. Can you imagine how joyful those shepherds were when the angels of heaven appeared to them first on that night when Christ was born?

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In another part of the world, then called Persia, now called Iran or Iraq, there were wise men, advisors to their king, who were studying the stars. To their great surprise, a bright, new star suddenly appeared. They had also heard the promise God had made. So they began their journey, following this star to see where it would lead. We don't know for sure how many wise men came to see Jesus, but we do know that they brought three gifts.

**Question: What were the gifts that the wise men brought?** [Gold, frankincense & myrrh].

**Question: What do these gifts represent?** [Each gift represents a part of Jesus' life and the mission that God sent Him to accomplish]. Gold is the gift for a king, for Jesus is our heavenly King. Frankincense is the incense used in the worship of God, for God revealed Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ. Myrrh is a fragrant spice used in the preparation of a dead body for burial, for the reason Jesus came was to die and through his death, pay the full price required for the forgiveness of our sins committed toward God.

What you have heard so far is the story as it is usually told at Christmas. But it would have little meaning without the part that follows.

Mary and Joseph returned with their child to Nazareth. Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God. He lived a perfect life. He was always obedient to God.

**Question: What did Jesus call God?** [Jesus called God "daddy"]. Jesus reminds us that what God wants is a real personal relationship with you, much like a loving father wants with his son or daughter. Jesus reminds us that God loves and accepts you just the way you are, and in the same manner, God desires that you to love each other.

**Question: What did Jesus come to do?** [Jesus came to give a new and different life to any who ask for it]. It is the best quality of life that anyone can imagine. This life that Jesus gives is also eternal - and it begins the moment you put your trust in Him.

At the age of 33, after He had taught and done many things, Jesus was put to death on a cross by men who would not accept Him for who He was. These were men who once again rejected God's love.

**Question: For what did Jesus die?** [Jesus did not die for any act of disobedience on His part - His life had been one of absolute perfection. Rather, He died as an act of obedience to God - His Daddy]. Jesus died so that He could make a way for any who choose to be rescued from sin and separation from God.

When we sin, we commit an offense against God. Because we're people, only a person can pay the penalty. But because the offense is against an infinite God, only God Himself could pay the penalty. That's why God sent His Son Jesus to us. Jesus, 100% human, lived a sinless - perfect life. Jesus, 100% God, has the capacity to take the sins of all and remove them from us. **"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).**

When Jesus died, he took upon himself all the wrongs that you and I have done or ever will do. These wrongs have kept you separated from God. But the moment you decide to ask Him into your life, you are no longer separated from God. Jesus is the "Way" back to God that was promised to you long, long ago.

Three days after He died and was buried, Jesus arose from the dead, and once more walked about earth as a living person. Jesus' resurrection is proof that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice for all people.

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There is so much more to the story. But perhaps now, during this Christmas season, especially as gifts are exchanged, you will remember the greatest gift ever given - one given by God to all of us - Jesus Christ. He is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

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### EASTER: THE CRUCIFIXION

#### Today's Lesson verse

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).**

#### Introduction

To understand the reason why Christians celebrate Easter, you have to understand the meaning of Christmas. So let's review our earlier lesson about Christmas.

In the beginning, God created the earth. Then God created a man and a woman. In the beginning - they were perfect - just as God had wanted them to be. But Adam chose to disobey God and at that moment he became less than perfect. At that moment, sin came into the world.

The Bible says that, **“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death [separation from God] came through sin, in this way death came to all people, because all people have sinned” (Romans 5:12).**

Every person since Adam has sinned, because we inherited sin from Adam. Because of that choice, you and I are separated from God, with no way on our own to get back to Him. We need to be rescued from our sins.

When the time was right, God sent the angel Gabriel to a girl named Mary. Gabriel announced that she would have a baby, created in her through the power of the Spirit of God. She was to call His name Jesus, which means Savior - or God saves. This was God's plan to provide the “Way” for our return to Him.

God always has a plan. And the plan for our salvation rests upon a sacrifice. And this is where Easter picks up from Christmas.

#### Setting The Stage For The Crucifixion

**Question: What does it mean to be saved?** [To be rescued].

**Question: What do we need to be rescued from?** [Sin].

**Question: What is sin?** [Sin is any disobedient act toward God].

**Question: Why do we need to be rescued from sin?** [When we sin, we commit an offense against God. Because we're people, only a person can pay the penalty. But because the offense is infinite against an infinite God, only God Himself could pay the penalty. That's why God sent His Son Jesus to us. Jesus, 100% human, lived a sinless - perfect life. Jesus, 100% God, has the capacity to take the sins of all and remove them from us].

**“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).**

The Good News is that God says that you can be rescued from your sins if you believe that God raised (brought to life again) Jesus from death, & invite Jesus to come into your life.

Listen to the description of what happened to God's own Son, Jesus, so He could rescue you from sin and open the way back to God. On the night of the Last Supper, after Jesus broke bread and gave it to his disciples, and took the cup, gave thanks, and offered it to them, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



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### The Crucifixion

(Text: Matthew 26:36-39 & Luke 22:43-44)

#### Gethsemane

**“<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup>He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” <sup>39</sup>Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”**

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**“<sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup>And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground” (Luke 22:43-44).**

Even before the crucifixion, Jesus was beginning to experience in Gethsemane the horror of what He was going to go through physically and spiritually to rescue us – to fulfill God’s plan of salvation for you and for me. Jesus was so emotionally strained that God had to send an angel to strengthen Him. Jesus prayed three times that He would not have to go through with the experience of the crucifixion - yet He prayed that not His will but His Father’s will be done.

#### Jesus’ Arrest

That night, one of Jesus’ disciples named Judas, turned against Him and led an angry crowd of men to Jesus. They arrested Jesus and took Him to Caiphas, the high priest and the members of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Supreme Court. There, they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists (Matthew 26:67).

**“The next day, early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound Him, led Him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor” (Matthew 27:1-2).**

Pilate then ordered Jesus to be scourged and crucified. The instrument used in the punishment of scourging was called a flagra. It consisted of about 12 leather strips with sharp pieces of metal or bone tied to the ends. Jesus was tied to a pole and then lashed at least 39 times on the back with this.

**“<sup>27</sup>Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. <sup>30</sup>They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup>After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him” (Matthew 27:27-31).**

#### The Crucifixion

After this the Roman soldiers made Jesus, weakened from loss of blood and beatings, carry his own cross as they led him out to a place called Golgotha to crucify him. When he could go no farther, they seized a man named Simon, from Cyrene, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross (John 19:16-17, Mark 15:21).

When they finally reached Golgotha, they stretched Jesus, upon the cross beam and took a long metal spike and drove the spike into the lower part of the wrist. Then they took the other hand and pinned it to the cross. Every time the hammer pounded down, I can imagine Jesus saying, “Father, forgive them, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing.”

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Then the soldiers took and stretched out His feet and left His knees just slightly bent, because this is part of the Roman technique of crucifixion. Then they drove the spikes into his feet.

With Jesus pinned to the cross, they raised it straight up and then dropped it into a hole in the ground. The jar probably dislocated Jesus' shoulders. Immediately the horror and agony of crucifixion began.

You see, during the crucifixion, Jesus could breathe in, but it was physically impossible for Him to exhale - He couldn't get the air out of His lungs.

But the Romans knew what they were doing. That's why they left Jesus' knees slightly bent. When Jesus needed to take a breath, He could push Himself up just enough to let His breath out. Then He would fall back down. And He fought there for hours. Historians tell us that people being crucified said the most awful words to those around them. The Bible says,

**"<sup>38</sup>Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup>Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. <sup>42</sup>"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' "<sup>44</sup>In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him" (Matthew 27:38-44).**

**Question: What is a sacrifice?** [A sacrifice is when something of value is given up for the benefit of others]. Jesus sacrificed His very life for us so that we could be rescued from sin.

**Question: What do you think was the reason why Jesus was beaten, and spit upon and had insults hurled at Him?** [This was Satan's (the devil's) final chance to defeat God's plan of salvation for all people including you and me]. Satan orchestrated the beatings, the spitting, the insults, the taunts, the jeering and the mocking. Just one angry thought, one angry word from Jesus, and salvation for you and me would be lost.

**Question: If Jesus had sinned by becoming angry with the people who hit Him or spit upon Him or insulted Him, why would God's plan of salvation have been defeated?** [You see, the one being sacrificed for all mankind - Jesus - had to be perfect - one without blemish - one without sin].

Time was running out on Satan, so he turned up the heat. The painful scourging, more insults, more taunting, cursing, the excruciating physical agony of the crucifixion, the crowd around him yelling out their insults. Surely Jesus would get angry just once. But instead, **"Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).**

But the horrible thing that Jesus feared wasn't the beatings, the insults, or even the crucifixion. It was what was about to happen. It is what Jesus asked His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane to not have Him go through.

**Question: What do you think it was that Jesus feared so much?** [The Bible tells us].

**"<sup>45</sup>From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup>About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46).**

Jesus was now separated from His Father – from God. From before the beginning of time, Jesus had been in a perfect relationship with His Father. But remember that sin cannot stand in the

presence of the Holy God. Jesus, God's sacrifice, the perfect lamb of God, received the penalty of the sins of all mankind - the full measure of God's wrath - upon His body. And Jesus cried out in a loud voice **"It is finished!" (John 19:30).**

**Question: Why is Jesus called "the Lamb of God?"** [During Jesus' life, there was a daily sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem. The sacrifice, usually a lamb, was slaughtered at 3:00 (the 9<sup>th</sup> hour) in the afternoon, including the day of the Passover]. At that time, the priest stood at the highest point of the temple and blew a shofar, or ram's horn as a signal that they were about to sacrifice the lamb.

As Jesus hung on the cross, He heard the piercing blast of the horn carry across the city. Jesus recognized that the time of His sacrifice had come. When the priest killed the Passover lamb, Jesus looked up into heaven and said, "It is finished!" At that moment, the Passover lamb and God's substitute - Jesus - our Passover Lamb - died at 3:00 p.m.

The Bible says that when Jesus yielded up His Spirit, the veil in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Historians tell us that the veil of the temple was so finely woven and so thick, that if four horses were tied to the veil at the corners, they couldn't pull it apart. The veil in the Temple separated ordinary man from the inner sanctuary called the Holy of Holies, where God's presence would come into.

**Question: Why do you think that the veil in temple was torn in two?** [God tore it in two, to let everyone know that man would not have to be separated from Him any longer because of sin].

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Jesus said, "It is finished!" And it is finished. There is nothing that you can add to God's salvation. It's God's gift to you. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away your sins and the sins of all people who believe that He is the Son of God and ask Him into their life as Savior.

**Question: Have you asked God's Son to rescue you from your sin? Have you invited Jesus into your life as your Savior?** If you haven't, and you want to, you can today, right now. If this is what you want to do, please pray this prayer, silently in your heart or in a quiet voice with me now:

Dear Jesus,  
I acknowledge to you that I am a sinner. Please forgive me of all my sins. I want to accept you now as my personal Savior. Please come into my life and begin to make me the person you want me to be. Amen.

**SPECIAL PRAYER LESSON \***  
For The National Day Of Prayer

**“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

The United States Congress set aside a day called “The National Day of Prayer” in 1952. It is a day set apart where all Americans are asked to pray for our country: its leaders, and its people.

Today, we’re going to pray for people in 5 groups:

- Government
- Churches & Ministry Organizations
- Businesses & Industries
- Families
- Ourselves

Suggestions or examples of individuals in each group are given to help you think of people to pray for. Also, one or two Scripture verses accompany each group to help you think of what to pray about for them.

As you gather individually with your son or daughter, or as a group of families, let’s humble ourselves, turn away from wrong and toward good, and call upon Him, that He will hear from heaven and will forgive our sins and will heal our land.

**“Give ear to my words, O Lord...” (Psalm 5:1).**

Our Government

**“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1-2).**

Pray that our leaders will ask God to help them make good decisions, and stand by them, even they are unpopular

- Federal Leaders: President, US senators & representatives, appointed leaders
- Local Leaders: Governor, state senators & representatives, mayors, elected positions
- Judicial System: US supreme court, state supreme court justices,
- Armed Services: Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Reserves

**“Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29).**

Churches & Ministry Organizations

**“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap [bring in] a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).**

Our nation desperately needs to know that there is One God, and that He has set a standard of truth for all. Pray for:

- Your pastor, your church leaders and teachers, your congregation, your denomination; that the Word of God will be spoken boldly and unashamed and that the Church will be a pure and bright light in a dark world.
- Ministry organizations that you support or help your family, i.e.: Salvation Army, Focus on the Family, Christian Camps, Practice Ministries; that lives will be changed, for God’s words to be put into practice everyday.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### Those Imprisoned & Persecuted

**“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave or forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6).**

- Many times, those people who are in prison because of wrong deeds need to have their hearts (their thoughts and attitudes) made pure so that they do not commit their crimes again. Only Jesus can change a person’s heart. Pray for their hearts to be changed.
- Some people are “made slaves” to illegal drugs, excessive alcohol use, wrong beliefs about God, and are they are “imprisoned or held hostage” to them. Only Jesus has the key to unlock the chains that hold these people to their captors. Pray for their release.
- Sometimes Christians are made fun of or looked down upon. In other parts of the world, Christians are sometimes put in prison, physically harmed, or have jobs, homes or even family members taken away from them. Pray for their safety and that God will be honored by their words and actions.

### Our Society & Cultures

**“Blessed are they who keep his laws and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. You have laid down rules to live by that are to be fully obeyed” (Psalm 119:2-4).**

Everyday we are influenced by what we see, hear, read or are told; whether it is right or wrong, good or bad, Godly or ungodly. Pray for the influence of the wrong the bad and the ungodly to be stopped, and that what is right and good and Godly will be seen, heard, read and told.

Perhaps pick one or two groups from the following list and apply your prayers to people in these fields:

- Business & Industry
- Community Services
- Educational System
- Scientific Community
- The Media
- The Entertainment Industry
- Communications, financial, law, manufacturing.
- Charitable organizations, police.
- Coaches, students, teachers.
- Research & Development.
- Television, radio, newspapers.
- Film, music, print, sports.

### The Family

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts and you shall teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).**

- God designed the family to be where His truths and ways are taught. Pray for parents, and especially fathers to lead their family by the example that God and heroes in the Bible set for us.
- Pray for your family members, your friends, your neighbors, your teammates, for broken families, for those who don’t have families.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### Personal Renewal & Moral Awakening

**“Search me O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way that is everlasting [true and right]” (Psalm 139:23-24).**

- Pray that God will show you parts of you that don't make Him smile, and allow Him to help fix those areas.
- Pray for all people in our country, that they will look for God, and turn around from thinking & doing wrong, and think & do what is right.

**“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14).**

\* This lesson is adapted from the Dallas Leadership Prayer Breakfast Guide, 1997.

STORY TIME

Today's Lesson verse

**"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25).**

Introduction

In 2001, I helped develop a course called "Story Tellers" for a local church in Dallas, TX, to help people develop and learn how to share their story – how they came into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Story Time is an abbreviated form of this course, but the purpose is still the same – to help you testify to the transforming power of Jesus Christ in your life.

One of the most powerful and intimate moments that you and the kids in your Bible study will experience is when a dad or a son or a daughter simply tells their story.

Whenever you decide to do this as a group, it's time to put aside the Bibles, the workbook, and just listen. It's an awesome time to spend together. (See note on how to proceed with your group at the end of this lesson).

Story Time

(Text: John 9:1-25)

<sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup>"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>8</sup>His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

<sup>10</sup>"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. <sup>11</sup>He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." <sup>12</sup>"Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup>Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. <sup>19</sup>"Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

<sup>20</sup>"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for

already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ<sup>1</sup> would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God " they said. "We know this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

### Telling Your Story

The thought of "telling your story" can be a little uncomfortable. Perhaps you're afraid of failing or that you won't know what to say. That's why I've put this section on "Story Time" together. Everyone has a story to tell, and learning how to tell your story may be just what it takes to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into someone's life.

### So...What's Your Story?

"So...tell me your story." If you were asked that question, what would be your answer? "Well...I don't think I have much of a story to tell."..."I suppose I've got a story, but it's not very interesting." It's natural to feel that way, but it's far from the truth. We all have a special, unique and meaningful story to tell unlike that of anyone else. If you've met Jesus, you have a story to tell.

Perhaps you already know it well. Perhaps you still need to develop it. Either way, writing and sharing your story can be a powerful reminder of how God is at work in your life. It can provide a powerful witness to those who hear it – especially to your son or daughter!

That's the purpose of sharing your story - to tell of the transforming power of Christ in your life. When you share your story, you're telling the Gospel through your story, a Gospel made real and tangible in your life.

So, here we go...

If you've never thought much of how to tell someone your story, or had the wonderful experience of putting your story down on paper, here are some ideas and suggestions for putting your story together.

### Conversion

If you remember a specific time, place or event when you accepted Jesus Christ into your life, then perhaps "conversion" fits best. If conversion fits best, try shaping your story around these questions:

- What was your life like before you invited Jesus into your life?
- What led (events, conversation, etc.) you to accept Jesus as your Savior?
- How and when did you receive Christ as Savior? As Lord?
- How has Jesus changed your life?

### Journey

If your faith seems more like a journey, then perhaps "Spiritual Journey" fits best. Try these questions:

- What have been some key events in which God has worked in your life?
- What experiences, circumstances or people have helped to develop your faith in Christ?
- How would your life be different without Jesus? (i.e.: lifestyle, attitudes, priorities, relationships, etc.).



Sharing The Gospel Through Your Story

**“In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19).**

The Gospel is the story of Jesus. The story of Jesus is part of the larger story of scripture, spanning the Creation, through the Fall, to the Redemption (or rescue) that Jesus brings. That's a big story, yet there is one theme that runs throughout that story: **Reconciliation!** One powerful way to share the good news of Jesus Christ is by weaving the Gospel into your own story.

Try fitting these questions in your story:

Creation

How do you understand God’s purpose in creation?

**“...to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 1:5).**

How do you understand your purpose in life?

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength...Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:27-29).**

Fall

How have you experienced sin in your life?

**“If you love me you will obey my commandments” (John 14:15).**

What are (were) the consequences of that sin?

**“But your iniquities have separated you from your God” (Isaiah 59:2).**

Rescue

How did you come to put your faith in Jesus Christ (the solution)?

**“For it is by grace (undeserved mercy) that you have been saved, through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

How have you been reconciled to God (what were the results)?

**“...we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” (Romans 5:11).**

What role has the church or others played for you?

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).**

Putting Your Story Together

- What elements of your story might be interesting to someone else?
- What Bible verses might you include under each of the previous questions?
- What experiences in your life can form illustrations to help you tell your story?
- Write your story as if you were telling someone else
- Keep it between 3-5 minutes

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Story Time In Your Bible Study

Some of the dads and kids in your group will be willing to share their testimony. Others may feel that they are not ready. That's OK.

Before you do this lesson, I suggest that you announce a week ahead of time that this is what the lesson will be. I also suggest telling the group that either you will volunteer to lead off, or have one or two dads who you feel would be willing to lead off agree to do so.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

You may spend one session on this or several, as there won't be enough time to do more than one or two each week. I do encourage you to make enough time to let all who want to give their testimony to be able to do so.

A work sheet for this special lesson is found in the **Exploring the Bible** section of this Practice Ministries Leader's Guide.

# EXPLORING THE BIBLE ANSWERS

### STUDY LEADER'S GUIDE TO EXPLORING THE BIBLE

This study leader's guide to **Exploring the Bible** is designed for two reasons:

1. To give the answers to questions asked in the **Exploring the Bible** sheets with specific Scripture references.
2. To give suggested answers to some open ended questions.

The suggested answers given are by no means the answer to many of the questions, but ones that we hope will help you foster ideas and discussion as you lead your group through the **Exploring the Bible** section of the lesson.

**Exploring the Bible** can be a great way for kids and their dads to learn about the Bible together, and also bring the whole family to a deeper understanding of God's Word.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 1: TEN WAYS TO BE TOTALLY COOL

Read Exodus 20:3-17

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What are the two competing standards of what is right, good and acceptable?**

1. The world (2 Corinthians 10:2).
2. God's word (Psalm 119:160).

**2) How are they different?**

The world's definition of what is right and acceptable is directly opposed to God's ways. The world's definition is always changing; God's ways are always true forever.

**3) Match these ten ways to be totally cool with their meaning:**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <u>  </u> f <u>  </u> | You shall have no other gods before me.                     |
| <u>  </u> e <u>  </u> | You shall not make for yourself idols.                      |
| <u>  </u> j <u>  </u> | You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.         |
| <u>  </u> d <u>  </u> | Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.                |
| <u>  </u> b <u>  </u> | Honor your father and your mother.                          |
| <u>  </u> a <u>  </u> | You shall not murder.                                       |
| <u>  </u> i <u>  </u> | You shall not commit adultery.                              |
| <u>  </u> h <u>  </u> | You shall not steal.  |
| <u>  </u> g <u>  </u> | Do not lie.   |
| <u>  </u> c <u>  </u> | You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. |

- a) Encourage and help others.
- b) Be honoring so you can be honorable.
- c) Be thankful.
- d) Rest so you can do your best.
- e) Get to know God by spending time with Him.
- f) Choose to please God rather than others.
- g) Live truthfully.
- h) Do what is good for others.
- i) Remain pure in your body, thought, word and action.
- j) Be Jesus' personal representative in everything you do.

**4) Do the Ten Commandments themselves help you to live according to God's ways?**

*No, the Ten Commandments are like a mirror. They're a standard.*

**5) How then can you live the way the Ten Commandments tell you?**

*Only through the power of Jesus Christ can you live a life differently from the world (Colossians 3:16).*

Good Words To Remember

**"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." (Colossians 3:16).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 2: BOAST ABOUT THIS...

**“Be Jesus Christ’s Personal Representative In Everything You Do.”**

Read **Jeremiah 9:23-24; Proverbs 2:1-20**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is wisdom?**

*Wisdom is the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong (Proverbs: 2:9).*

**2) Where does wisdom come from?**

*Wisdom comes from the Lord (Proverbs: 2:6).*

**3) What are two reasons that wisdom is desirable?**

*Help you know what is appropriate behavior, choose good friends (Proverbs 2:9-20).*

**4) Where does strength come from?**

*Strength comes through Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:13).*

**5) How do the Scriptures say you should be rich?**

*Rich in knowledge of God and the Bible (Colossians 3:16).*

**6) If you’re going to boast about anything, what should you boast about?**

*That you know and understand God (Jeremiah 9:24).*

**7) What are three qualities that God has that help us know who He is better?**

*Kindness, justice & righteousness (Jeremiah 9:24).*

**8) What is another word for kindness?**

*Compassionate (Ephesians 4:32).*

**9) What is the true meaning of justice?**

*Mercy and compassion (Zechariah 7:9).*

**10) What does it mean to be righteous?**

*To do what is right according to God (Exodus 15:26).*

**11) How can you practice honoring God this week by:**

Showing kindness      *Saying a kind word, offering a prayer, helping someone in need.*

Showing justice      *Forgive someone who hurt you.*

Being righteous      *Being honest, respecting other’s feelings.*

Good Words To Remember

**“For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved but the one whom the Lord commends” (2 Corinthians 10:18).**

LESSON # 3: LIVING BY EXAMPLE

**“Know How God Desires For You To Worship Him.”**

Read Romans 12:1; Colossians 3:17

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is worship?**

*Worship is expressing your love and devotion to God.*

**2) Why should you worship?**

*One reason is to make known to others what God has done for you (1 Chronicles 16:8).*

**3) How can you please God through your athletic abilities?**

*By using your abilities to their fullest potential (Colossians 3:17).*

We live in a society that places an extremely high value on physical appearance - what it sees on the outside - an outward beauty. But God is more concerned with your inside beauty.

**4) What is inside beauty?**

*Caring, compassion, gentleness, goodness, kindness (Galatians 5:22).*

**5) Why do you not need to rely on your outward appearance for popularity?**

*God made and formed all of you - body, mind, personality, and qualities into His beautiful creation (Psalm 119:73).*

6) What are some talents or abilities that you feel God has given to you?

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**7) How can you express your love and devotion to God with your talents and abilities:**

With Family	<i>Lead a family devotion, earn money to help with expenses.</i>
At School	<i>Lead a Bible study, try out for the school play, tutor</i>
At Church	<i>Write a short skit for Sunday school, lead singing.</i>
In Activities	<i>Give a full effort in practice or game, help others learn their part.</i>

Good Words To Remember

**“Whatever you do work at with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”  
(Colossians 3:23).**

LESSON # 4: PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 1)

**“Honor Others So You Can Be Honorable”**

Read **Matthew 25:14 - 21**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is the servant’s privilege in this story?**

*Being entrusted with a large amount of his master’s money (Matthew 25:14-15).*

**2) What is the servant’s responsibility in this story?**

*To make good investments with that money (Matthew 25:16).*

The servants were given the privilege of being entrusted with something that was very valuable. Their master expected them to do a good job with what they were given to do. God tells us that with privileges come responsibilities.

**3) What responsibility has God given to your parent(s) toward you?**

*God expects your parents to do a good job of taking care of you.*

**4) What are some ways that your parents take care of you?**

*A home, food, clothes.*

Read **Deuteronomy 6:5-7**

**5) What are some of God’s instructions that He wants your parents to teach you?**

*Honesty, respect, purity, doing good, encouraging others (Exodus 20:3-17).*

**6) What are ways that your parents teach you God’s instructions?**

*By their example, discussions about events that happen at school or at practice, dad-son or dad-daughter Bible studies.*

**7) What is one reason that your parents teach you God’s instructions?**

*So that you can teach your children God’s word, and your children can teach their children God’s word (Deuteronomy 6:7).*

**8) Pick 3 of the Ten Commandments (See lesson 1 in this book). How can you practice them this week?**

With Your Family

*Honesty: Tell the truth in every situation.*

At School

*Do good to others: Be an example by encouraging classmates.*

With Friends

*Purity: Watch only shows that would please God.*

Good Words To Remember

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commands I give to you today are to be impressed upon your hearts” (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).**



LESSON # 5: PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 2)

**“Honor Others So You Can Be Honorable”**

Read **Ephesians 6:1-4**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is a privilege that you enjoy in your family?**

*A roof over your head, food, clothing, phone, an allowance.*

**2) If you receive an allowance, what kinds of things do you do with it?**

*Buy things, save up for something you really want, give some to the church.*

**3) In what way is your allowance a privilege?**

*A privilege is a benefit you enjoy, not as something you are owed, but as a privilege.*

**4) In what way is your allowance a responsibility?**

*You have a responsibility to use your money wisely.*

**5) What is one way to be responsible with your allowance?**

*Give a part of it to God.*

**6) Why would you want to give part of your allowance to God?**

*We should give a portion of money we receive for God’s purposes (Leviticus 27:30).*

**7) What is important to remember when you receive a privilege?**

*What will you do with it and how will you use it?*

**8) What is the privilege that you receive from your parents?**

*God’s words and instructions on how to live your life (Ephesians 6:4).*

**9) Why does God say to honor your father and your mother?**

*“When you obey your parents, it’s the right thing to do because what you’re really doing is obeying Me” (Ephesians 6:1).*

**10) How can you honor your father or mother today?**

*Be responsible with what they give to you to do, live according to God’s instructions.*

Good Words To Remember

Kids: **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1).**

Dads: **“Fathers, do not upset your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).**

LESSON # 6: THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

**“Choose To Please God Rather Than Others”**

Read John 17:14-18

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is “the world” that Jesus refers to?**

*The world is anyplace where God’s ways or values are opposed or ignored.*

**2) What are some examples of the world’s values?**

*Giving God’s virtues and immoral choices equal value, a “me-first” attitude, demanding acceptance of ungodly or immoral lifestyles (Ephesians 5:3-4).*

**3) What does Jesus mean when He says that you and I are “not of the world”?**

*As Christians you and I are not to get our values from the world (1 John 2:15).*

**4) Why did Jesus ask God to protect us from the world?**

*Jesus knows that the world’s views and ways can be very attractive (1 John 2:17).*

God tells us that although we are surrounded by a menu of tempting choices the world offers, we are not to choose items from that menu. But God also gives us the freedom to make that choice. A person can have Jesus Christ in his or her heart, and yet still choose to live by the world’s values. That’s why you need to allow Jesus to help you live His ways and think His thoughts. Only Jesus can give you the power to live the way that you should - to live by His values and not the world’s.

**5) Why should you honor (respect) those in authority (especially parents) who choose to live by the world’s standards?**

*God’s command to honor your father and mother still stands (1 John 5:3).*

**6) How can you honor someone in authority who is not honorable?**

- *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).*
- *You be the one to live by God’s standards and help them see the truth about life and about God (Matthew 5:13-14).*
- *Pray for your parents and teachers that they will live to please God and not the world (1 Timothy 2:1-2).*

**7) How can you practice living by Jesus’ values and not the world’s?**

Choose to live by Jesus’ values, pray about & seek wise advice about activities and opportunities that present themselves, memorize Scripture to help you live a Godly life.

Good Words To Remember

**“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14).**

LESSON # 7: PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 3)

THE PRIVILEGE OF ETERNAL LIFE

**“Be Jesus Christ’s Personal Representative In Everything You Do”**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is eternal life?**

*Eternal life is living in the presence and majesty of God forever (Revelation 21:3).*

**2) Is eternal life a guaranteed right we have or is it a privilege?**

*God offers eternal life as a gift - as a privilege (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

**3) How can you receive this gift?**

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).*

**4) In what 3 ways is God’s gift of eternal life a privilege?**

1. *God did not have to offer eternal life to anyone - it’s called grace (Romans 5:8).*
2. *God chose you to receive eternal life (2 Thessalonians 2:13).*
3. *God’s gift comes at a great cost to Him (John 3:16).*

Read **Acts 3:1-10**

**5) How is God’s gift of eternal life to you similar to Peter & John helping the crippled beggar?**

*Peter & John chose to help the beggar, just as God chose to save you (Acts 3:3-4).*

**6) How are you and I similar to the crippled beggar?**

*The crippled beggar could not have possibly healed himself. Likewise, God’s gift of eternal life is one that you can never achieve on your own (Acts 3:6-7).*

**7) What responsibility do you have in return for the privilege of eternal life?**

*Be Jesus Christ’s personal representative in everything you do (Luke 6:46).*

God loves you very much. Because of His great kindness and mercy, even though you fail to live up to His standards, God wants you to be spiritually alive - to live in His presence and majesty forever. And the only way you can be spiritually alive is to reach out and accept the gift of eternal life that He offers to you.

Good Words To Remember

**“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression [sin] - it is by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-5).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 8: PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES (Part 4)

#### A THANK YOU NOTE

#### “Be Jesus Christ’s Personal Representative In Everything You Do”

Read Acts 4:1-20

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is the purpose that God made you for?**

*To bring Him honor and glory (Psalm 34:3).*

**2) Think about what a mirror does. What does it mean to bring glory to God?**

*Bring attention to God by reflecting His thoughts and His ways.*

Read Psalm 139:13-14

**3) How can you thank God this week for who He made you to be?**

*Use your skills in athletics, acting, singing, teaching, leading to honor Him.*

Read 1 Peter 3:15

**4) If a good friend asks you, “What’s this Jesus thing about,” what would you say?**

*Salvation is found only in Jesus (Acts 4:12).*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20

**5) What would you say is one of your responsibilities as a Christian?**

*Love God and love others, represent Jesus in all you do and say, obey God’s commands.*

**6) What are some ways that you can represent Jesus to others this week?**

*Be kind even when others are not, be joyful during a difficult time, exercise self-control.*

**7) What did the Jewish religious leaders notice about Peter & John?**

*That Peter & John had spent time with Jesus (Acts 4:13).*

**8) Question: How can you spend time with Jesus this week?**

*Invite Him to school, to soccer practice, to go over to your friend’s house with you.*

Good Words To Remember

**“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together” (Psalm 33:4).**

LESSON # 9: GUNK IN YOUR GAS (Part 1)

**“Remain Pure In Your Body, Thought, Word & Action”**

Read Daniel 1:8-16

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) In what way does Daniel show respect for his body?**

*Daniel cared what kinds of food and drink went into his body (Daniel 1:8).*

**2) How can you prevent gunk from getting into your body?**

Put only good things that will help you into your body, exercise, adequate sleep.

**3) How is your mind like a computer?**

*What goes into your mind stays in there.*

**4) How is your mind like fertile soil?**

*Words and thoughts are planted and take root and can be produced in your actions.*

**5) What happens when you plant truth seeds into your mind?**

*The truth grows and comes out.*

**6) How can you prevent gunk from getting into your mind?**

*Think of the truth, things that are right and pure (Philippians 4:8).*

**7) What is adultery?**

*Anything you do knowingly that makes you impure.*

**8) Why is adultery such a serious offense?**

*Your body is God's temple. What goes into God's temple should be pleasing to Him (1 Corinthians 3:16).*

**9) This week, how can you practice being pure with:**

God                      *Practice Philippians 4:8 (question 6)*

Others                  *Think of how Jesus would treat them.*

Yourself                *Put what is good and right into the body and mind that God gave to you.*

Good Words To Remember

**“...Keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 10: GUNK IN YOUR GAS (Part 2)

#### DO NOT OPEN 'TIL MARRIAGE

#### “Remain Pure In Your Body, Thought, Word & Action”

Read **Genesis 2:19-25**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) God has given the gift of sex to whom?**

*God gives the gift of sex to a man and a woman in marriage (Genesis 2: 24).*

**2) Why does God give the gift of sex to a man and a woman in marriage?**

*Because they are united to each other and become one flesh (Genesis 2:24).*

**3) If sex within marriage unites a man and woman, what does sex before or outside of marriage do to a person or family?**

- *Adultery lessens the quality of your life (1 Thessalonians 4:3).*
- *Adultery tears apart families and relationships (Genesis 2:24).*

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4**

Being sexually impure can ignite a series of consequences that you have no control over.

**4) What do you think that some of the consequences of adultery are?**

- *Your example & attitude of disobedience to God can pass down to others.*
- *You can get pregnant or get someone pregnant.*
- *Makes relationships less meaningful*
- *Guilt, shame and fear will follow your bad decision*
- *Lessens the quality of your life and your family's life*
- *Possible disease and infections*
- *You can get into trouble. It's illegal according to what is morally right.*

**5) What do you think are some reasons why you should remain sexually pure?**

- *Your example and attitude of obedience to God will pass down to your family.*
- *Abstinence is the only 100% way to avoid becoming or getting someone pregnant.*
- *Makes relationships more meaningful.*
- *Live with a clear conscience.*
- *Increases the quality of your life and your family's life.*
- *You can give the gift of sexual purity to your husband or wife.*
- *Protection from the danger of the consequences from a bad decision.*
- *Keep yourself and your family healthier physically and emotionally.*
- *To be obedient to God and His commands out of love and respect for Him.*

Good Words To Remember

**“...Keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22).**

LESSON # 11: GUNK IN YOUR GAS (Part 3)

A LETTER FROM JOHN

“Remain Pure In Your Body, Thought, Word & Action”

Read Galatians 5:22  
1 John 2:15

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What are different types of pollution you can think of?**

*Air pollution, water pollution.*

Just as there is air and water pollution there are also types of pollution that make your mind and your body impure. Introducing impurities into your mind or body is called adultery.

**2) Why is putting impurity into the air and water dangerous?**

It lessens the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.

**3) Why is putting impurity into your mind and body so dangerous?**

*They lessen the quality of your life, and are extremely addictive.*

**4) How can you keep from ordering from the world's menu?**

*Do not order from the world's menu (1 John 2:15).*

**5) What choices does God's menu offer? What kind?**

*Fruit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self - control (Galatians 5:22).*

**6) Think of God's words as seeds. Think of your mind as fertile soil. How can God's words help keep you from introducing impurities into your mind and body?**

*If you will plant God's words in your mind, and if you will think about them often and decide to live by them, they will take root and begin to produce the fruits in you that we just read about.*

God has given you the power to help you remain pure and stay gunk - free, but the decision is up to you. You are free to order items from the world's menu, but you are not free to choose how they will affect you. Or you can order from God's menu and have the best He can offer you.

**7) Which menu will you order from?**

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Good Words To Remember

**“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).**

LESSON # 12: HOW DO YOU KNOW GOD EXISTS? (Part 1)

**“Choose To Please God Rather Than Others”**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) How does the Bible say God has made himself plainly known?**

*Through His creation. The Bible says you can just look around you - and there's no excuse for not believing that God exists (Romans 1:19-20).*

**2) Match the evidence that God exists with the Bible verse**

- a) \_\_\_5\_, \_\_\_8\_\_\_ The design of nature
- b) \_\_\_2\_\_\_ The order of the universe
- c) \_\_\_3\_\_\_ A belief in a supreme god among all people groups
- d) \_\_\_6\_\_\_ A universal belief of moral laws
- e) \_\_\_1\_, \_\_\_4\_\_\_ Creation of life itself
- f) h) \_\_\_7\_\_\_ Jesus Christ

- 1) Genesis 1:21
- 2) Psalm 19:1-4
- 3) Psalm 46:10
- 4) Psalm 139:13-14
- 5) Proverbs 8:25-29
- 6) Hosea 14:9
- 7) John 1:14
- 8) Romans 1:19-20

**3) What is our best answer to how we know that God really exists?**

*The person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14).*

Good Words To Remember

**“...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Romans 1:19-20).**



LESSON # 13: IS JESUS CHRIST GOD? (Part 2)

**“Choose To Please God Rather Than Others”**

Read **Matthew 26:57-64**

Opportunities to explore the Bible

**1) Jesus claimed to be:**

- 1) *The Son of God (Matthew 26:63-64)*
- 2) *Equal with God (John 10:30-33)*
- 3) *God (Exodus 3:13-14, John 8:58)*

**2) Jesus' claims were either true or false. If Jesus' claims are false then he was:**

- A Liar because     d      
A Hypocrite because     b      
A Demon because     c      
A Fool because     a      
Crazy because     e

- a) He only thought that he was God.
- b) He told others to live truthfully when he did not.
- c) He told others to trust in him for their eternal destiny.
- d) Jesus knew that he was not God.
- e) His claims led to his crucifixion.

If Jesus' claims that he is God are true, then you have two choices:

- 1) Reject Him as Savior and Lord and be willing to accept the consequences.
- 2) Accept Him as Lord and Savior.

If you choose to do nothing and make no decision, then you have accepted the first choice. If you have never considered making a decision to ask Jesus into your life, please consider accepting Him as your Savior today. This is the most important decision that you or anyone will ever make, for the results of your decision affect you not only now, but forever & forever.

Good Words To Remember

**“I have come to give [you] may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).**

LESSON # 14: IS JESUS CHRIST GOD? (Part 3)

**“Choose To Please God Rather Than Others”**

Jesus claimed that he was the Son of God, equal with God, that he was God! But His claims must stand on the evidence of His resurrection

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) If Jesus was not resurrected, what does Paul say about us?**

*Close the church doors, turn off the lights & go home (1 Corinthians 15:14).*

**2) What is the truth about the resurrection of Jesus Christ?**

*HE HAS RISEN INDEED! (1 Corinthians 15:20).*

**3) Where was Jesus' body laid after he was crucified?**

*In a new tomb (John 19:38-42).*

**4) What did the Jewish religious leaders do to make the tomb secure?**

*Sealed the stone and posted a guard (Matthew 27:62-66).*

**5) What did Mary see on Sunday at the tomb? What did Peter & John see?**

- *Nothing! (John 20:2-7).*
- *Only some strips of linen, and the burial cloth for the head (John 20:2-7).*

Some people cannot accept the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and have introduced theories to try to explain why the tomb was empty that first Easter morning.

**6) What evidence suggests that Mary went to the right tomb?**

*The disciples Peter & John went to the same tomb (John 20:1-3).*

**7) What evidence suggests that Jesus really did die on the cross?**

*One of the soldiers pierced him and found him to be dead (John 19:31-35).*

**8) What evidence suggests that the disciples did not steal the body?**

*The grave clothes were still there (John 20:6-7).*

**9) What evidence explains why the Jewish authorities did not produce the body?**

*They didn't have it! (Matthew 28:11-15).*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ happened. Because of His resurrection, Jesus' claims that He is God are true. And because Jesus Christ is indeed God, then we know that the all of the Bible is true. Jesus Christ is the only avenue to a relationship with God, the only source of forgiveness for your sins. He is the only way to salvation.

Good Words To Remember

**“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).**

LESSON # 15: STICKS AND STONES

**“Encourage And Help Others”**

Read **Matthew 5:21-22**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What did Jesus say is worse than murder?**

*Being angry (Matthew 5:21-22).*

**2) Why do you think that Jesus would say it is bad to be angry with someone?**

- *It stirs up trouble and leads to doing wrong (Proverbs 29:22).*
- *Being angry is not the attitude that God wants you to have (James 1:19).*

**3) What’s one of the quickest ways to cause someone to become angry?**

*Say something to upset them (Proverbs 15:1).*

**4) What does the Bible say that our words should do?**

*Encourage and help others (Ephesians 4:29).*

**5) What does encouragement mean?**

*To give someone hope or courage or confidence.*

6) Who is one person you know that needs to be encouraged this week?

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7) What is one thing that you can do to encourage this person during the week?

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Good Words To Remember

**“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” (Ephesians 4:29).**

LESSON # 16: RESERVED FOR GOD

**“Know How God Desires For You To Worship Him.”**

Read Colossians 1:15-18

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What is an idol?**

*An idol is anything that becomes more important to you than God.*

**2) Why is it dangerous to make people or things more important than God?**

*You may want them so badly that you will do anything to get them.*

**3) Why does God want to be more important to you than anyone or any thing else?**

*Because of the way He created you (Colossians 1:16).*

**4) Why did God create you with a “reserved for” space?**

*So that He might have first place in your life (Colossians 1:18).*

Sometimes you & I remove the “reserved for God” sign from His parking space and allow other things to park there. When you allow God to be removed from His reserved parking space, what you allow to go into that space becomes an idol – even if it’s something that’s generally a “good thing.”

**5) What are some things that people try to fill their “reserved for God” space with?**

*Popularity, clothes, drugs, athletic accomplishments, doing what it takes to be accepted.*

**6) What happens when you allow idols to park in God’s space?**

*You pay attention your pretend god and less attention to your Creator God. You begin to do what your pretend god wants you to do instead of what your Creator wants you to do.*

**7) How can you keep even good things like sports and friends from becoming more important than God?**

*Continue to allow God to keep His parking place in your life.*

Read Colossians 1:9-12

**8) How can you practice giving God first place in your life every day?**

*Pray and have others pray for you, please Him in every way, grow in the knowledge of God, give thanks.*

Good Words To Remember

**“Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15).**

LESSON # 17: STAY ON THE TRAIL

**“Know How God Desires For You To Worship Him.”**

Read **Joshua 23:6-8**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What meaning does this verse have for you concerning your choice of friends or influences?**

*Do not associate with individuals, influences or activities that have turned their back on God or His Word.*

**2) If you don't hold onto or spend time with God, what is likely to happen?**

*You may very well forget about God and how He wants you to live.*

**3) The world today does not make it easy to keep God number one in our communities. How can you stay on God's trail in your community today?**

*“...But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).*

Read **Matthew 5:14-16**

**4) What does salt do?**

*Salt preserves, flavors, and permeates what it comes into contact with.*

**5) Why does Jesus compare you to salt?**

*Salt remains unchanged by what it comes into contact with, but changes the flavor of what it comes into contact with. Jesus wants you to not take on the flavor of the culture, but rather influence the culture around you.*

**6) What are ways that you can be salt?**

*Preserve the Word of God in your mind, encourage others with Scripture, be noticeable.*

**7) What does light do?**

*Light dispels or shines through darkness.*

**8) What are ways that you can be a shining light in your community?**

*Attend church, Bible study, raise money for a missionary, volunteer to help others.*

Good Words To Remember

**“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14).**

LESSON # 18: GOOD AS GOLD

**“Honor Your Father And Your Mother”**

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What do you learn from your parents at home?**

*How to get along, honesty, responsibility, manners, help with homework, tithing.*

**2) How can you learn from your parents outside the home?**

*Vacations, camping, errands, sports practice, worshipping together.*

**3) What can you learn before bedtime?**

*Hygiene, lessons about what happened during the day, prayer.*

**4) What important lessons can be learned early in the day?**

*Scheduling, being ready on time, importance of prayer or Bible study.*

**5) What does Deuteronomy 6:5-7 imply or tell you without saying it?**

*It is your responsibility to listen and learn from your parents (Proverbs 1:8).*

**6) What does the Bible say about making choices as a young person?**

*A young person who listens and learns right from wrong and does what is right brings joy to his parents. A young person who knows right from wrong but chooses to do wrong is foolish (Proverbs 10:1).*

**7) Boys (Girls), how can you spend time with your parent(s) today?**

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**8) Dads, how can you make time to spend with your son or daughter today?**

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**9) How can you practice honoring your dad or your mom this week?**

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Good Words To Remember

**“Listen, my son to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching” (Proverbs 1:8).**

LESSON # 19: IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU

**“Encourage And Help Others”**

Read Acts 3:1-10

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) Put yourself in the crippled man's place. If you sat at the front door of your church every Sunday morning begging, how do you think people would treat you?**

*You might get a few coins, ignored, avoided, you might not even get eye contact.*

**2) How would you feel if a person stopped to take time to talk with you?**

*Someone cares about me, hopeful, cheered up.*

**3) How did the crippled man respond when he was healed?**

*He walked and jumped and praised God (Acts 3:8-9).*

**4) How else do you think his life was changed by a kind act from two people?**

*He was given a sense of value, he knew someone cared about him, definitely cheered up.*

**5) To encourage means to give hope, courage or confidence. What are three ways that you can encourage someone?**

1) *Words (Proverbs 12:25).*

2) *Prayers (Acts 16:25).*

3) *Actions (James 1:17).*

**4) Who can you say a kind word to this week to encourage him or her?**

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**5) Who can you pray for this week to encourage him or her?**

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**6) What can you do for someone to encourage him or her this week?**

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Words and acts of encouragement are powerful. They can heal, they can lift people's spirits, they can bring about change in a person's life. But words and actions that are not encouraging are just as powerful. They can wound deeply and hurt people's feelings.

**7) What should you be careful of about your words and actions?**

*That they build up, not tear down (Ephesians 4:29).*

Good Words To Remember

**“But encourage one another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13).**

LESSON # 20: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

**“Respect the lives of others”**

Read Psalm 139:13-16

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What words in this passage let you know that you are highly valued by God?**

*Created, knit together, wonderfully made, ordained, written.*

**2) What sorts of elements did God include as He knit together into you?**

*Your physical body, personality, interests, soul, spiritual gifts, abilities.*

**3) Why did God create you the way He did, even if you're physically challenged?**

*So that the work of God might be displayed in your life (John 9:3).*

**4) What is your inmost being? Why is it important to have one?**

*Your soul and your spirit. You were created not only for life on this earth, but also to spend an eternity with God in His heaven.*

**5) What significance does Psalm 139:16 hold for you?**

*God has a purpose for creating you. Without you, His - story is not complete.*

**6) For what purpose did God create you?**

*To do good works which God has prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10).*

**7) Why did God create us to do good works?**

*To meet the needs of others (1 Corinthians 12:25).*

**8) Why does God tell you to not murder?**

*Murder is disrespect for human life and disrespect for God, murder has eternal consequences, in the case of abortion the child's story never has a chance to be told, murder leaves needs unmet.*

**9) Why is human life valuable?**

*Man is endowed with the very life and nature of God (Genesis 2:7).*

Good Words To Remember

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).**



LESSON # 21: PREVENT DEFENSE (Part 1)

**“Respect the lives of others”**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

Read **Matthew 5:21-24**

**1) What are two ways that can cause you or someone else to become angry?**

*Words and actions.*

**2) Why does Jesus say that it’s dangerous to be angry with someone?**

*Angry thoughts can lead to actions or words that are harmful.*

Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

**Dads: List two or three things that tend to make you angry:**

*Co-worker who is late, rude drivers, golf game*

**Kids: List two or three things that tend to make you angry:**

*Not getting to play as much as your teammates, someone who picks on you*

**3) How can you use 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 to help prevent you from becoming angry?**

*Be patient, be kind, share, do not keep records of wrongs.*

**4) How you can help prevent anger from developing in these situations:**

Someone lies to you?

*Speak truthfully (Ephesians 4:25).*

Harsh words are spoken?

*Respond with a gentle answer (Proverbs 15:1).*

A person is arrogant?

*Be humble (Philippians 2:3-4).*

Tempers are flaring?

*Keep yourself under control (Proverbs 29:11).*

Read **Matthew 21:12-13**

**5) What is righteous anger?**

*An anger at what is not right.*

**6) What things do you sometimes see that you should not stand for?**

*Students who put down classmates, friends who do not give to their church, physical or verbal abuse.*

**7) Is there someone with whom you’re upset because of what happened between you?**

**How can you take care of this today?**

*Call or visit this person to resolve your differences quickly (Ephesians 4:26-27).*

Good Words To Remember

**“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26-27).**

LESSON # 22: PREVENT DEFENSE (Part 2)

**“Respect the lives of others”**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

Read **Matthew 4:1-11**

**1) When Jesus was being tempted by Satan in the desert, how did He respond?**

*With Scripture: “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).*

**2) What does Jesus mean when He says that man lives by the Word of God?**

*Every word of Scripture will fill you so that you can live the way God intends.*

**3) How can you control yourself when you get angry?**

*By eating a piece of fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).*

**4) According to Philippians 4:8-9, what is the best way to prevent anger?**

*Concentrate on those things that lead your mind toward a peaceful response.*

**5) What are things you can think about to calm you down when you feel angry?**

*What is right, what is good in that situation, being gentle and kind.*

Read **Matthew 5:38-48**

**6) How does the world say to handle your anger toward someone who wrongs you?**

*Repay evil for evil, hate those who do wrong to you.*

**7) How does God say to handle your anger toward someone who wrongs you?**

*Love those you don't like as well as those you do.*

**8) Think about a person or situation that makes you angry. How can you replace your angry response with one that is more peaceful?**

*Love vs hate, pray vs curse, resist vs attack, forgive vs harbor anger, give vs turning someone away.*

Good Words To Remember

**“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 23: TV TIME-OUT

#### “Time out for time with God”

Read **Ephesians 5:1-7**  
**Philippians 4:8**

This edition of Exploring the Bible is a guide to help you and your family measure the values of the TV shows and movies that you watch by Biblical standards.

Pick 2 or 3 of your favorite shows or movies. While watching, rate your show according to the number of negative messages versus the number of positive messages you see and hear (examples are given in the chart below):

Negative messages (values that the Bible says you should not have in your life)  
Immorality \* Anger \* Lust \* Evil desires \* Greed \* Obscenity (Ephesians 5:1-7)

Positive messages (values that the Bible says that you should have in your life)  
Honesty \* Love \* Gentleness \* Peace \* Joy \* Sexual purity \* Self-control \* Kindness \* Goodness \* Giving \* Sharing \* Encouraging words \* Clean language (Philippians 4:8)

- 1) Make a tic mark for every negative and for every positive message you see or hear
- 2) Each negative mark counts -1 point, each positive mark counts +1 point
- 3) At the end of the show count up your marks. Rate your show either + or - by the number of marks over or under zero

#### TV / MOVIE CHALLENGE

Show / Movie	Negative Messages	Positive Messages	Rating
1) _____			
2) _____			
3) _____			

**What did the results of the shows or movies you rated tell you about them?**

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**Is there a change you need to make in your entertainment choices?**

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Have your whole family do the ratings challenge. Compare results and talk about them after the show is over. Did everyone in your family rate the show the same way?

Good Words To Remember

**“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” (Colossians 3:2).**

TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

LESSON # 24: I BREAK FOR GOD

**“Time out for time with God”**

Exploring The Bible

Read Exodus 20:8-11

**1) What does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy?**

*Reserve a special day to worship and honor God.*

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13

**2) How does observing the Sabbath show your obedience to God?**

*Because you are obeying His command.*

**3) Why does God command you to rest?**

*For your own good.*

Read Psalm 145

**4) How does observing the Sabbath show your trust in God?**

*God meets all of your needs (VS 13-16).*

**5) What reasons do you have to praise God?**

*He is near to you, He hears & listens to you, He strengthens you through difficult times.*

**6) What are simple ways to call upon the Lord as a family?**

*Prayer & praise at a meal, family devotion, worship together.*

**7) How can your family make the Sabbath a special and enjoyable day?**

*Family fun at home, an outing to see the beauty of God's creation, playing Bible trivia, family members taking turns teaching a family devotion.*

**8) Outline your schedule during the week. Include school, activities, homework, chores, etc.**

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Re-Read Exodus 20:8-10

**9) Now, rewrite the 4th commandment as it applies to your schedule:**

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**10) What changes can you make to fit everything into your schedule in 6 days so you can take time out for time with God on the Sabbath?**

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Good Words To Remember

**“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” (Exodus 20:8).**

LESSON # 25: HANDLE WITH CARE

**“Do What Is Good For Others”**

Read Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What are three ways that people can steal from others?**

*Taking property without permission, stealing respect or authority, stealing time or opportunities.*

**2) What are the dangers of stealing?**

*Stealing another person’s property can get you into trouble with the law, ruin friendships, take away people’s trust in you, telling lies to cover up the stealing, stealing leads to more stealing.*

**3) What Bible verses can help you learn to respect and do what is good for others?**

- *Keep your mind pure. Live according to God’s words (Psalm 119:9-11).*
- *Recognize stealing as evil and hate it (Romans 12:9).*
- *Be nice (Romans 12:18).*
- *Consider other people’s feelings before you act (Philippians 2:4).*
- *Be content with what you have (Philippians 4:11).*
- *Remember that God will meet your needs (Philippians 4:19).*

**4) How can you practice being responsible with other people’s property?**

*Keep them in a safe place, treat it as very precious.*

**5) How can you practice being responsible with other people’s time?**

*Be on time, commit to showing up*

**6) How can you practice being respectful toward your:**

Family	<i>If you use something that isn’t yours, bring it back</i>
Teacher	<i>Listen when he or she is talking</i>
Sunday School Teacher	<i>See above</i>
Friends	<i>Offer to do what they want to do first</i>

**7) How should you react if someone steals from you?**

*Be kind rather than take revenge (1 Thessalonians 5:15).*

Good Words To Remember

**“Love does no harm to its neighbor” (Romans 13:10).**

LESSON # 26: A THANK YOU NOTE

**“Respect What Belongs To Others”**

Read Deuteronomy Chapter 8

Background

The people of Israel are just about to enter the land promised to them by God after wandering in the desert for 40 years after leaving Egypt. Moses now warns the people not to forget how God provided for all of their needs during those 40 years.

Opportunities to Explore the Bible:

**1) What was waiting for Israel in the Promised Land?**

*Water, springs, food, resources. Everything they needed (verses 7-9).*

**2) What did Moses tell the people of Israel to do in return for God’s goodness?**

*Praise God for the good things He had given to them (verse 10).*

**3) What was Moses concerned about when Israel got to the Promised Land?**

*The people would forget about God and fail to follow His commands (verse 11).*

**4) What is an example of how you can keep from stealing from God with the abilities He has given to you?**

*Remember to thank God for your abilities. And then use them well (verse 18).*

**5) What is an example of how you can keep from stealing from God with your money?**

*Give back to God a small part of the abundance He has given to you (Malachi 3:10).*

**6) What is an example of how you can keep from stealing from God with your words or actions?**

*Honor God with your words and your actions (Isaiah 29:13).*

**7) List some of the things you are thankful for.**

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Write a thank you note to God. Tell Him how you can honor Him by how you live.

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Good Words To Remember

**“Remember the Lord your God...” (Deuteronomy 8:18).**

LESSON # 27: IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

“Share With Others”

Read Mark 12:41-44

1) In the Parable, why was the widow’s offering pleasing to God?

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2) Special Activity:

Three ways to give are with your time, abilities & money. In the chart below, list any giving that you currently do, & then challenge yourself to use your time, abilities or money to give in a new area. For example: I can use my ability in math to help a classmate at school, or I can give some of my money to my Sunday School class mission project.

I can give with my abilities:

@ home by	<i>Helping with clean up after dinner.</i>
@ school by	<i>Helping classmates with math.</i>
@ church by	<i>Singing in the choir.</i>
in the community by	<i>Helping an elderly neighbor with their garden.</i>

I can give with my time:

@ home by	<i>Doing my chores before t.v.</i>
@ school by	<i>Helping our custodian keep the hallways clean.</i>
@ church by	<i>Helping to make Christmas gifts for charities.</i>
in the community by	<i>Keeping my neighborhood clean.</i>

I can give with my money:

@ home by	<i>Helping to buy mom or dad a special present.</i>
@ school by	<i>Giving to a special charity project.</i>
@ church by	<i>Giving one dime out of my dollar allowance.</i>
in the community by	<i>Contributing to a family who needs help.</i>

Good Words To Remember

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:25).

LESSON # 28: TREASURE IN HEAVEN

**“Desire The Right Way”**

Read **Luke 18:18-30**

Background

Coveting means to desire the wrong way. One way we sometimes covet is to desire things excessively, which can make us greedy.

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What did the ruler in the story have?**

*Lots of wealth or riches (Luke 18:23).*

**2) What did Jesus ask him to do? Why?**

*Sell everything he had and give it to the poor. It would show he loved God more than money (Luke 18:22).*

**3) How did the young man react to what Jesus asked him to do? Why?**

*He became very sad. He loved his money more than God (Luke 18:23)*

**4) Write down two things that you really like to have or collect.**

*Baseball cards, autographs, stuffed animals, coins...*

**5) If you were asked to share or give some away, would you? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No.**

If you answered “yes”, then you have a good attitude about your possessions. The young man in the parable could not share his wealth. His possessions were more important than anything else to him. He was greedy. Jesus says that is wrong.

**6) Jesus says to watch out and be on guard against being greedy. The amount of stuff that you have is not the most important thing in your life. What is one way that you can avoid being greedy?**

*Share with God’s people who are in need (Romans 12:13).*

**7) We can share with our time, things we are good at doing, and our money. How can you practice sharing with someone this week?**

- *Help a classmate with their homework.*
- *Send some of your allowance to a missionary.*

Good Words To Remember

**“...store up for yourselves treasure in heaven” (Matthew 6:20).**



## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### LESSON # 29: SEEK YE FIRST

#### “Be Content With What You Have”

Read **Genesis Chapter 2; Genesis 3:1-7**

Coveting means to desire the wrong way. One of the ways we sometimes covet is by wanting things that God has placed off-limits to us.

Opportunities to Explore the Bible:

**1) What did God tell Adam & Eve that they could do?**

*Eat from any tree of the garden (Genesis 2:16).*

**2) What did God tell Adam & Eve that they could not do?**

*Eat from the tree of good and evil (Genesis 2:17).*

**3) Which did Adam & Eve choose:**

     Obedience   X   Disobedience (Genesis 3:6)

**4) Why does God give us commands in the first place?**

*For our own good (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).*

**5) You and I are free to make choices. What are we not free to choose?**

*The consequences of those choices.*

**6) What happened because of Adam & Eve’s decision to not obey God?**

*Sin (disobedience to God) and death (separation from God) began (Romans 5:12).*

**7) What are some things that are off-limits to you at your home?**

*Cookies before dinner, dad’s change jar.*

The Bible says that you and I are just like Adam & Eve, and that sometimes we want things that are labeled off-limits. You have a choice to make, whether or not you choose to act on your desire.

**8) Below are 4 ways that can help us make good decisions about things that are off-limits.**

**Match the number with the letter that goes best:**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1) Think about the right thing to do before you act  | a) <u>  2  </u> Psalm 1:2       |
| 2) Read the Bible and think about what it says       | b) <u>  3  </u> Proverb 30:8-9  |
| 3) Be content with what you have                     | c) <u>  1  </u> Matthew 6:33    |
| 4) Remember that God will give you all that you need | d) <u>  4  </u> Philipians 4:19 |

Good Words To Remember

**“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33).**

LESSON # 30: HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

**“Live truthfully”**

Read **Zechariah 8:16**

**1) What is important to God in the way that we live and treat each other?**

*Speak truthfully, judge honestly, do good.*

**2) Why is it important to God that you live truthfully?**

- *Truth is at the center of God's character (John 14:6).*
- *There is no room in God for anything other than truth (1 John 1:5).*
- *God wants you to reflect his character (Psalm 51:6).*

Read **Colossians 3:8-10**

Malice is an intentional desire to hurt someone. Slander is an intentional desire to hurt someone by making false statements about that person.

**3) Why does the Bible say to rid yourself of malice, slander and lies?**

*Love does what is right and that love does not hurt anyone. Intentionally making statements that are not true hurt people (Romans 13:10).*

**4) What are three characteristics that helped Daniel live truthfully?**

*Honesty, trustworthy, being careful in his work (Daniel 6:3-5).*

**5) How did God's power change Zacchaeus?**

*God's power enabled Zacchaeus to live honestly (Luke 19:1-9).*

**6) Why do insulting and teasing words and lies hurt so much?**

*Once those words are put in your mind, they are remembered for a long time.*

**7) Instead of hurting people what should our words do?**

*Our words should encourage people (Ephesians 4:29).*

**8) Can you think of some other reasons why God says, “Live truthfully?”**

*Lies create mistrust, lies lead to more lies, lies can ruin friendships.*

When we live truthfully, we reflect God's character. When we lie, we only hurt others and hurt ourselves. This is why God says to you, “Live truthfully.” It's the best policy.

Good Words To Remember

**“Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor” (Romans 13:10).**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS 2

### THANKSGIVING A TIME FOR THANKS & FOR GIVING

Read **Psalm 105:1-2**

#### Opportunities to Explore the Bible

1) *Where does everything you have come from?*

*The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it (Psalm 24:1).*

2) *What has God given to us?*

- **Eternal life as a gift (John 3:16)**
- **An abundant life (John 10:10)**
- **More than we can imagine in the life to come (1 Corinthians 2:9).**

3) *How can you be thankful even in difficult circumstances?*

*God can always bring good out of bad (Genesis 50:20).*

We have lots to be thankful for. But the second part of ThanksGIVING is the giving. The Bible says, **“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion [because you have to], for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).**

Since Thanksgiving opens up the “Holiday Season,” it’s a time when we naturally look for ways to give (Question 4 is an extension of Exploring The Bible Lesson 27).

4) *How can you practice using your abilities, your time, and your money to give?*

A brand new way I can use my abilities to help others

- **In my community is:** *read at a children’s hospital*
- **Outside my community is:** *go on a family short term mission trip*

A brand new way I can use my time

- In the community is: *organize a neighborhood clean-up*
- Outside my community is: *be a pen-pal*

A brand new way I can use my money

- In the community is: *contributing part of my allowance to a charity*
- Outside the community is: *help sponsor a missionary*

#### Good Words To Remember

**“Make known among the nations what [the Lord] has done” (Psalm 105:2).**

CHRISTMAS

Read **Luke 2:1-7**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) When did Christmas begin?**

*In the beginning (Genesis 1:26).*

**2) God had a test for Adam & Eve. What was God's test?**

*Obedience (Genesis 2:15-17).*

**3) What happened because of Adam's disobedience?**

*Sin entered the world and all people are separated from God (Romans 5:12).*

**4) What has God done about this?**

*He provided a "Way" to rescue us from sin and separation from God (John 3:16).*

Jesus called God "daddy." Jesus reminds us that what God wants is a real personal relationship with you, much like a loving father wants with his son or daughter.

When we sin, we commit an offense against God. Because we're human, only a person could pay the penalty. But the offense is infinite because the offense is against an infinite God, and only God Himself could pay the penalty. That's why God sent His Son Jesus to do just that. Jesus, 100% human, lived a sinless, perfect life. Jesus, 100% God, has the capacity to take the sins of all and remove them from us.

When Jesus died, he took upon himself all the wrongs that you and I have done or ever will do. These wrongs have kept you separated from God. But the moment you decide to ask Him into your life, you are no longer separated from God. Jesus is the "Way" back to God that was promised to you long, long ago.

There is so much more to the story. But perhaps now, during this Christmas season, especially as gifts are exchanged, you will remember the greatest gift ever given - one given by God to all of us - Jesus Christ. He is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

Merry Christmas from Practice Ministries!!

Good Words To Remember

**"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God" (1 Corinthians 5:21).**

EASTER

Read **John 3:16**

Background

On the night of the Last Supper, after Jesus broke bread and gave it to his disciples, and took the cup, gave thanks, and offered it to them, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

**1) What did Jesus ask God to do three times in the Garden of Gethsemane?**

*To not go through the crucifixion and separation from God (Matthew 26:39).*

**2) After Jesus was arrested, what did the Roman soldiers do to Jesus in the palace?**

- *Stripped him.*
- *Put a crown of thorns on his head.*
- *Mocked him.*
- *Spit on him.*
- *Hit him. (Matthew 27:27-31).*

**3) As Jesus was being crucified, what types of things did people say to him?**

- *Insults and curses.*
- *Save yourself if you're the Son of God.*
- *Come down from the cross and we'll believe in you.*
- *Let God rescue you if He wants you (Matthew 27:38-44.)*

**4) What was Jesus' response?**

*Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing (Luke 23:34).*

Traditionally, the daily sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem happened at 3:00 in the afternoon, including the day of the Passover. At that time, the priest stood at the highest point of the temple and blew the shofar, or ram's horn as a signal that they were ready to sacrifice the lamb. As Jesus hung on the cross, He heard the piercing blast of the shofar carry across the city. Jesus recognized that the time of His sacrifice had come. As the priest killed the Passover lamb, Jesus looked up into heaven and said, "**It is finished!**" (**John 19:30**). At that moment, the Passover lamb and God's substitute - Jesus - our Passover Lamb - died at 3:00 p.m.

"It is finished!" And it is finished. There is nothing that you can add to God's salvation. It's God's gift to you. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away your sins and the sins of the world. Have you asked God's Son to forgive you for your wrong actions and attitudes? Have you accepted Jesus into your life as your Savior?

Good Words To Remember

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).**



STORY TIME

The thought of “telling your story” – how Jesus Christ came into your life, can be a little uncomfortable. Perhaps you’re afraid of failing or that you won’t know what to say. But if Jesus Christ is in your life, you do have a story to tell, and learning how to tell your story may be just what it takes to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into someone’s life.

So, here we go...if you’ve never thought much of how to tell someone your story, here are some ideas and suggestions for putting your story together.

Conversion

If you remember a specific time, place or event when you accepted Jesus Christ into your life, then perhaps “conversion” fits best. If conversion fits best, try shaping your story around these questions:

- What was your life like before you invited Jesus into your life?
- What led (events, conversation, etc.) you to accept Jesus as your Savior?
- How and when did you receive Christ as Savior? As Lord?
- How has Jesus changed your life?

Journey

If your faith seems more like a journey, then perhaps “Spiritual Journey” fits best. Try these questions:

- What have been some key events in which God has worked in your life?
- What experiences, circumstances or people helped develop your faith in Christ?
- How would your life be different without Jesus? (i.e.: lifestyle, attitudes, priorities, relationships, etc.).

Sharing The Gospel Through Your Story

Try fitting these questions in your story:

- How do you understand God’s purpose in creation? (Ephesians 1:5)
- How do you understand your purpose in life? (Matthew 22:27-29)
- How have you experienced sin in your life? (John 14:15)
- What are (were) the consequences of that sin? (Isaiah 59:2).
- How did you put your faith in Jesus Christ (the solution)? (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- How have you been reconciled to God (what were the results)? (Romans 5:11).
- What role has the church or others played for you? (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Putting Your Story Together

- What elements of your story might be interesting to someone else?
- What Bible verses might you include under each of the previous questions?
- What experiences in your life can form illustrations to help you tell your story?
- Write your story as if you were telling someone else
- Keep it between 3-5 minutes

On the following page, write out your testimony – your story - of how you invited Jesus Christ into your life as your Savior and Lord!

