

### Children's Lesson Two

# The Commandment Kids

## PURPOSE

Last week the children began a journey to discover what a Christian was like. The children discovered that there is a link between who they are in the heart and what they do. This week the children will explore the question of why we live like we do as Christians. Children need to understand that the Bible gives us specific rules to live by and these rules really free us from the chains of sin. The Ten Commandments were not only written for the Israelites of long ago, but they give moral stability and guidance to all, even today.

## OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- Understand that the Ten Commandments can be used as rules to live by for us in our times.
- Understand the basic format of the Ten Commandments.

## SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 20:1-17

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Play dough (recipe below)
- Copies of the Commandment Kid Maze
- Copies of the Ten Commandment Worksheet (blank and/or completed)
- A copy of the story for each child
- Felt or burlap or other type of stiff material, 18"x16", various colors, if possible
- Hot glue gun
- Dowel rods—2" diameter
- Construction paper
- Pencils/pens



## SETTING THE SCENE

1. **Clay tablets.** Using the recipe below the children will make their own Ten Commandment tablets.

- ¾ cup flour (use any kind except self-rising flour)
- 2 cup salt
- 12 teaspoons powdered alum (can be found in the spice section of most grocery stores)
- 12 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 cup boiling water

- A. Combine flour, salt, and alum in a mixing bowl.
- B. Add vegetable oil and boiling water. Stir vigorously with a spoon until well blended. Dough should not stick to the sides of the bowl and should be cool enough to handle.
- C. The dough will be white, but if color is desired add food coloring and knead into dough until color is well blended and the dough is the desired tint.

Makes about one cup. Ratio for this activity should be about two children per one cup of dough.

This is an excellent play dough. It has a smooth texture, takes about 15 minutes to make, and dries to a hard finish overnight. Store dough in a jar with a tight lid or a ziplock bag. Dough will keep several months without refrigeration.

Give each child a lump of play dough. Flatten the lump of clay until it's about six or seven inches square. Use a plastic knife to round the top off of the square to form the top of the tablets. Draw a line down the middle of the square. Now you have the two tablets seen in the Bible stories.

Using a toothpick or a plastic knife, have the children write "God" on the left side of the tablets and "Others" on the right side of the tablets. Carefully place the clay tablets onto a cookie sheet to dry overnight.

**Explain: The first group of commandments or rules deal with our relationship with God. The second groups of commandments deal with our relationships with others.** You may want to read the Ten Commandments and group them into the two sets for the children to hear. You can use a picture of Moses holding the Ten Commandment tablets if that is available to you. Then you could tell them God wrote on the tablets special rules the Israelites were supposed to follow to live the way God wanted them to live.

2. **Rules to live by.** On a chalkboard or large piece of paper, list things a Christian should do or how they should act. Say **Imagine that you are trying to teach someone who has just accepted Jesus into his or her heart. What would you say when they ask you "How does a Christian act? Are there any special rules I need to follow?"** Place the children's answers on the chalkboard or large piece of paper.

## TRANSITION

When we become Christians, we begin a new life. The old life of sin is gone and we try to live a new life of following Jesus. The Ten Commandments can be good rules to live by to help us live for Jesus. They help us to know how to live a moral or good life.

## STORY

Distribute copies of the story. Say **The kids from Springdale Elementary School decide to start a club so that they can meet together and help each other keep their faith in Jesus strong and active. Let's read about the kid's group and their development of rules for their club.**

## QUESTIONS

1. **Do you think the Ten Commandments are good rules for The Commandment Kids to follow?**
2. **What other rules do you think they could have used?**
3. **Do any of the Ten Commandments not make sense for us today? Why?**

## TRANSITION

**For the next 10 weeks we will be exploring why the Ten Commandments are good rules for us to live by. Now let's learn a little more about the Ten Commandments.**

## ACTIVITIES

1. **Ten Commandment Worksheet.** Use the worksheet at the end of this unit to help the students understand the format of the Ten Commandments. Copy either the blank sheet for the students to fill in or for the younger children give them a completed copy to color and decorate.

The blank sheet-Have the older students write down each commandment on the corresponding line. The children can look up the commandments in their Bibles in Exodus 20:1-17 or you can write them out for them and then they can copy the commandments from your version. This could ensure uniformity among the children, because some may have different versions of the Bible. You might want to use the wording on this worksheet for the memory verse assignments.

The completed sheet-Give the younger students the completed copy of the Ten Commandments and explain or read to them the commandments. Have the children cut the sheet out and glue on construction paper 8"x11". They could then decorate their copy of the Ten Commandments.

Encourage the children to begin memorizing the Ten Commandments using the Ten Commandment Worksheet. A special certificate will be awarded to those who memorize the Ten Commandments by the end of the 13 week curriculum.

2. **Being a Commandment Kid.** Distribute the maze included in this lesson to have the children decide if they will become a Commandment Kid also. For all of those children who want to commit themselves to memorizing the Ten Commandments and being a Commandment Kid they can sign the commitment statement at the bottom of the maze sheet.

3. **Commandment Crest.** In the days of knights and kings, people would proudly wear their family crest on their armor and hang it above their doors. The crest showed who they were and the values they believed in. Today the students will start working on their own crest. It is called a Commandment Crest and after the 13 lessons are over each child will have a crest showing the Ten Commandments on it to take home and proudly display for all.

- A. Give each child a piece of felt, burlap, or other stiff material. The size should be about 18"x16". Before class, cut an inverted triangle at the bottom of the felt so that the crest comes to a point at the bottom of the material.
- B. The child will then take the top of the material (the straight edge) and turn in over 2" to ¾". The teacher or a volunteer needs to hot glue the folded edge leaving a space to slide a dowel rod into the turned-over edge.
- C. Encourage the child to write his or her name on the back side (the side that has the folded and glued edge on it).
- D. This will become their Commandment Crests they will work on for the remainder of the lessons in this curriculum.
- E. Put crests away to dry until next week.

**Today we have learned about the Ten Commandments in general. I would like all of you to start memorizing the Ten Commandments using the Ten Commandment Worksheet we made today. Start with just the first one this week. We will be learning about the first commandment next week.**

End with a prayer.

# STORY

- Narrator: T.J. has a great idea he wants to share with the friends he has met at his new school. He passes a note to some of his new friends to meet him by the soccer goal at the next recess. At recess those present were; T.J., Frankie, Chelsea, Kassy, Charlotte, and Geoffrey.
- T.J.: Hey, I'm glad you all got my note. I had this great idea. How would you guys like to start a club, a club for Christians? We could get together and talk about how we could become stronger Christians and just help each other with school and other things. What do you think?
- Frankie: I think that is a great idea. It would be nice to talk to others who want to do what Jesus would do.
- Kassy: Yeah, I like the idea too.
- T.J.: Okay. Why don't we meet after school under the big oak tree there on the corner of the playground and we'll talk about it?
- Narrator: Well, everyone thought it was a good idea and they all looked forward to meeting after school.
- T.J.: I'm so glad all of you guys think this is a good idea. I need someone I can talk to about my faith in Jesus and I think this club could be a good place for all of us to help each other live the life God wants us to live.
- Kassy: I like the idea too. But, you know, if we are going to be a real club we need a name for our club and we need rules to follow. Any ideas?
- Charlotte: How about if we think about it for a couple of days and then we can meet back here in two days after school to talk about it?
- T.J.: That's good. Let's meet here in two days. Be thinking about a name for our club and if we need any rules for our club.
- Narrator: For the next two days all of the club members thought and thought about a good name for their club. When the next meeting time came all six of the members of the newest club at Springdale Elementary School were there.
- T.J.: All right. Are we still agreed that it would be great to have a club like we want to start?
- Geoffrey: I think we all still agree it is a good idea. Don't we?

Narrator: As T.J. looked to all of the faces, they smiled and nodded yes in agreement.

T.J.: Great! Do you think we need any rules for our club? What do you think about trying to live by the rule of questioning "What Would Jesus Do?" We could get some of those bracelets to wear and that could be like our motto for the club.

Chelsea: Oh that is so popular now. We want something catchy and something that everybody else doesn't know.

Charlotte: Well, do we want to think about how we want to live to help create a motto for our club?

Kassy: How about "Do to others what you would want them to do to you"? Our Sunday School lesson was about that on Sunday.

Frankie: That is kind of a long motto. Could we shorten it?

T.J.: You know, our Sunday School lesson last Sunday was about the Ten Commandments. Mrs. Twinkle, our teacher, said that the Ten Commandments were good rules to live by. Could we do something with the Ten Commandments?

Charlotte: I have my Bible here. I'll read the Ten Commandments to you guys and see what you think. The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20: 1-17.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

What do you think? They could be our rules that we live by.

Kassy: I like those. I had to memorize those for church one time. I think I would like to use those as guidelines for our club.

Geoffrey: Me too! Let's have a vote. All those in favor of using the Ten Commandments as a guide for our actions raise your hands.

Narrator: All of the kids raised their hands. Smiles covered their faces as they saw everyone agreed.

T.J.: How about a name for our group now. Any ideas?

Chelsea: It needs be catchy, and something that tells others about us. Oh, I have an idea. How about The Commandment Kids? That sounds grown up, it's catchy, and it tells about us.

Charlotte: The Commandment Kids ... hmmmmm. I like it. Yeah, I think it is great.

Frankie: Everyone for The Commandment Kids raise your hands. (Everyone raises their hands and gives each other a high five.)

T.J.: This is so exciting. From now on we are The Commandment Kids using the Ten Commandments as a guide for our actions. And this old oak tree can be our meeting place for our club.

Narrator: From then on, this group of six kids had a group of friends they could rely on to help them live their faith at school. They knew they could count on their new friends to help them through the joys and sorrows of school.



# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. You shall have no other Gods before me.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.

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

4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

5. Honor your father and your mother.

6. You shall not murder.

7. You shall not commit adultery.

8. You shall not steal.

9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

10. You shall not covert.

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1.

6.

2.

7.

3.

8.

4.

9.

5.

10.



# The Ten Commandments

The image shows two stone tablets, one on the left and one on the right, representing the Ten Commandments. Each tablet has a rounded top and a jagged bottom edge. The left tablet is numbered 1 through 5, and the right tablet is numbered 6 through 10. Each number is followed by several horizontal lines for writing. The background behind the tablets is a bright yellow sunburst.

# The Ten Commandments

1.  
You shall have no other  
gods before me .

2.  
You shall not make  
for yourself an idol.

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

4.  
Remember the Sabbath  
day by keeping it holy.

5.  
Honor your father and  
your mother.

6.  
You shall not murder.

7.  
You shall not commit  
adultery.

8.  
You shall not steal.

9.  
You shall not give false  
testimony against  
your neighbor.

10.  
You shall not covet.

# COMMANDMENT KID MAZE

**H**elp the Commandment Kids get to their oak tree club House. Sign the pledge below to become a Commandment Kid too!



I, \_\_\_\_\_ pledge to memorize the Ten Commandments and follow the Ten Commandments in my life.

\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ date