

## Carved in Stone

Embracing God's Value System

### Children's Lesson Four

# An Idol By Any Other Name Would Still Be An Idol

## PURPOSE

To help the children understand about idols and how to worship the true God. Children, now more than ever, are bombarded in the media with images of heroes and idols. A youngster on a commercial sings "I want to be like Mike." Teen singing idols or athletes are gazed upon, children watching their every move and copying every nuance of the person, from mannerisms to dress. The children need to know that this idol worship is wrong. No one or no thing should become more important than God.

## OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- Be able to state the definition of an idol.
- Understand what an idol is.
- Understand how even today we can make idols that take the place of the one and true God in our lives.
- Learn how they can worship God and keep him first in their lives.

## SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 20: 4

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Commandment Crest and the second badge
- Glue
- Pictures of idols referred to in the Bible
- Pictures of famous people, current popular idols
- Copies of *I Will Worship God* worksheet
- A copy of the story for each child
- Sturdy paper plates (like Chinet or plastic)
- Small jingle bells (approximately 12 mm or larger)
- Yarn or string
- Glitter, stickers, markers, etc.
- Containers for offering
- Hole punch
- Copy of second commandment to place on bulletin board



## Setting the Scene

1. **Commandment Crest.** Have the children find their Commandment Crests and glue on the second commandment Badge, "You shall not make for yourself an idol."

2. **Idols, idols, everywhere.** Children may understand about the idols of the Bible, but they may not associate today's idols in the same category. This is the goal of this section of the lesson. Ask the children what the following people or things have in common: the golden calf, Ninurta (an Assyrian god), Diana of Ephesus, Ba'al. (If you have a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia you might want to show pictures of these idols. Or if you have other resources that may have pictures of these or other biblical idols, you may want to use those.) Answer: **All of these items or people were used as idols.** Ask **What is an idol?** (Possible answers, something that is looked up to, something of value, something that is important. An idol is an object of worship; a thing or person who gets all of our thoughts and importance.)

**Then ask the children What do these people and things have in common? Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Dale Earnhart, Celine Deon, John Elway, a mustang convertible, a firefighter or a policeman.** (If you can find pictures of these people or others the children might think important you might want to show them.) Answer: **These people might be considered idols also. People look up to them and make them more important than others. They want to become like them.** (Stress that the person is not bad, it's putting them on a pedestal that makes it bad for us.)

## TRANSITION

Say **The second commandment requires us to worship only God—to hold no one above him.** Place a copy of the second commandment on Bulletin Board. Read the second commandment and then have the children repeat it after you. Say **Let's see what The Commandment Kids can tell us about this second commandment.**

## STORY

Use story sheet included with this lesson. You may want to read it to the children, have the students read it in parts or even act it out.

## QUESTIONS

1. **What is an idol? Who did Chelsea make into an idol?** (Someone or something we give our attention and love to. Nicole.)

2. **Why is what she did so wrong? Was she not just being friendly?** (Her friendship went into idol worship because that one friend became so important to her that she forgot everything and everyone else. All of her energies were going to admire and glorify Nicole.)

3. **What caused her friendship to cross over to idol worship?** (Chelsea put Nicole on a pedestal and began to think she was more important than anyone else in the world.)

4. **What can we do to keep God first and only worship him?** (Worship only him, keep him first as the first commandment tells us. Other practical ideas may be offered by the children such as go to church, obey him, etc.)

## TRANSITION

**God wants us to put him first and worship only him. There are many ways to worship God. But what do we do when we worship God? Worshiping God involves us giving our attention and love to him. By singing songs, coming to church, and other activities we show God that he is first place in our lives and that we are thankful for all that he has done for us.** You may want to ask them to name different ways they feel they can worship God. If you feel your children would benefit from a Bible study about worshiping God the following verses might help. You could have a sword drill with these verses before you move on to the next activity. (Joshua 22:27; 1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 23-26, 34-36; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7; Psalm 98; Psalm 100; or any other verses you deem appropriate.)

**Now we are going to work on an activity that will help us worship God.**

## **Activities**

1. **Sing His Praises.** One good way to worship God is with our voices. In Old Testament times people not only sang praises to God but used their instruments to worship God also. For this activity the children will make a tambourine.

- A. For a tambourine the children need one sturdy paper plate. Before class, the teacher needs to punch holes in the paper plate along one half of the paper plate, every inch or so, one hole for each jingle bell you want to use.
- B. Give each child a paper plate with the holes punched in them. Also hand to them jingle bells corresponding to the number of holes you punched.
- C. Hand each child pieces of yarn or string about two inches long. They will use this yarn or string to tie the jingle bells on the plate. They should have the same number of pieces of yarn as holes in the plate.
- D. Show the children how to thread the yarn or string through the hole in the jingle bell and then through the hole in the paper plate. Tie the yarn with a knot securing the jingle bell to the paper plate. Complete this for all of the holes in the plate.
- E. The children may want to decorate the plate with stickers, glitter, colored glue, markers, etc., whatever you have on hand.

To finish the class the children might enjoy putting their tambourines to good use as they sing several praise songs they know.

2. **Giving Offerings.** Another way to worship God is give our offerings of time and money to the Lord. When we give God our time and our money, we show him we are thinking of him and want to put him first in our lives. For this activity the children will be making offering boxes to take home and put offering in to bring back next week. All sorts of containers can be used for this activity. The best container to use is the small, hard papier-mâché boxes found in hobby stores. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but a box approximately 3"x3" works well. If these boxes are not available, butter bowls, larger match boxes, or any other small container would work.

- A. Give each child a container. The first thing they need to do is write "offerings" on the top of it.
- B. Next, let the children decorate it how they want to. If you are using a container that has writing on it, the teacher may want to try to cover up the words with paint, paper sack wrap, etc.
- C. Almost any item on hand can be used to decorate the offering container (buttons, glitter, stickers, colored glue, construction paper in small shapes, markers, beads, etc.)
- D. Tell the children to put money for God in the box and bring it back to give to God next week.

3. **Worship worksheet.** This week try to worship God each and every day. Use the Worship Activity Sheet this week to plan how you can worship God each day. Once the children are through, let them tell the class a couple ways they plan on worshiping God this week.

You might want to encourage the children to continue practicing the commandments one and two and begin memorizing the third commandment.

**End with a prayer.**

## Story

- Narrator: The Commandment Kids are gathered on the playground for their first recess of the day. They see Chelsea following around the new girl.
- T.J.: Have you seen how Chelsea is following around that new girl? Just because she comes from the fashion section of New York, doesn't mean she is that cool.
- Charlotte: Yeah, Chelsea hasn't spent any time with us all week.
- Frankie: Chelsea has been following Nicole around like a puppy on a leash. Whatever Nicole wants to do Chelsea wants to do. It is as if Chelsea worships her.
- Kassy: Have you even noticed how Chelsea is starting to dress like Nicole? If Nicole wears orange sandals, Chelsea wears orange sandals, and did you see them dressed alike the other day with their t-shirts and matching shorts. We should start calling them the twins.
- Geoffrey: T.J., you need to talk to Chelsea. It's okay to want to be with friends you like, but this has gone way further than that. Remember what the second commandment says guys.
- Narrator: Together in unison the group recited the second commandment.
- Group: You shall not make for yourself an idol.
- Kassy: But I thought that meant something like the golden calf during Moses' time. An object. Can an idol be a person too?
- Geoffrey: You bet! Anything you make more important than God can become an idol. People can be idols too, when we make them more important than other people, and when we think they can do no wrong. T.J., do you think Chelsea needs a little reminder of the second commandment?
- T.J.: I don't know, but we can certainly find out.
- Narrator: At lunch that day T.J. made sure he was behind Chelsea in the lunch line so he could talk with her. He overheard Chelsea talking to another girl in the line.
- Chelsea: Have you met Nicole? You just have to. She knows everything. And she said she would take me to this cool store on Sunday where all of the clothes are half-price and she says they have the best selection of shoes and purses too. I can't wait to go. I'm so glad Nicole moved here, she is the best in the world.
- T.J.: Hey you Hey Chelsea, aren't you forgetting that on Sunday we are having that special service at church. You won't want to miss it.

Chelsea: Oh that ol' service. I don't care if I miss that. I want to be with Nicole and do the things she does. She doesn't go to church, so I think I can miss a couple of services and it will be okay.

Narrator: Right then and there T.J. knew The Commandment Kids needed to get together to devise a plan to help Chelsea get things back into proper perspective. The group met after school under the large oak tree that was their base camp.

T.J.: I heard Chelsea say she was going to miss church to go shopping with Nicole this weekend. We need to do something. Chelsea needs a refresher course on the second commandment.

Charlotte: What if we talked to her about the golden calf incident in the Bible and then tell her about idols?

Frankie: That sounds like a good plan. How can we get her together with us?

T.J.: I'll send out an all-points bulletin for a meeting tomorrow and I know she'll come.

Narrator: The Commandment Kids thought that was a good idea and went home to pray for Chelsea and Nicole. After school the next day, The Commandment Kids were together under the oak tree and had their Bibles open for devotions, something they did quite often.

Charlotte: Hey Chelsea, we're glad you could make it.

Chelsea: I'm here, but not for long. Nicole wants me to help her plan her wardrobe for next week, so I need to leave pretty soon.

Frankie: Since you will be here for just a little bit, why don't you read our Bible passage, Chelsea.

Chelsea: Okay. Exodus 32:1-4: "When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, 'Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' Aaron answered them, 'Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed to him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'" That's pretty silly, I think. Everyone knows the second commandment states that we are to make no idols and not to worship anyone but God.

T.J.: Yes, it seems silly, but did you know, Chelsea, that people can be idols too. We can make people out to be more important than others and even worship who

they are and what they do.

Chelsea: How do you worship a person or even an object?

Charlotte: Worshiping requires us to show respect and adoration for someone. We worship God by giving him all of our praise, adoration and attention. When we give some one else all those things God becomes less important.

Narrator: As The Commandment Kids prayed that Chelsea would understand what they were trying to say, Chelsea had a troubled look on her face. The group realized that Chelsea was beginning to figure out what she had been doing to Nicole.

Chelsea: I owe all of you an apology. I have been ignoring you and putting Nicole first in every aspect of my life. She even replaced God because I was willing to give up church for her. Will you all pray with me now to rededicate my life and feelings back to God and fully live the second commandment?

Group: Yes, we will. We have been praying for this for several days.

Narrator: Chelsea realized that things and people can become idols and that is dangerous. Idols take the place of God so that we can no longer love and worship God. The Commandment Kids once again were able to use The Ten Commandments to direct and give focus to their lives and that is why God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites in the first place. The second commandment helps all of us keep God first and worship only him.



# I will Worship God This Week

Monday \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday \_\_\_\_\_

Friday \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

**I will worship God each day this week!**