

# Carved in Stone

Embracing God's Value System

## Teen Lesson Thirteen

### On the Tablet of Our Hearts

#### SCRIPTURE

- John 15:1-13
- Jeremiah 18:1-6

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- A copy of Handout #13.1 for each student
- Bibles
- Piece of fruit
- Piece of artificial fruit
- Play dough
- Vines and wire from a craft store
- A Ten Commandment card for each student, available at a Christian book store



#### PURPOSE

**To know:** God calls us to surrender our lives and allow him to change us from the inside out through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**To value:** Just like any relationship, our relationship with God requires time to grow. Setting aside deliberate time for prayer, scripture reading, and the other disciplines is essential if we are to abide in Christ.

**To apply:** Set aside 15 minutes a day for the Lord this week. You can use this time for meditating on scripture or praying.

#### PREPARATION

**This is the final lesson for this curriculum. Its purpose is to review the overall content and thrust of the material. We hope that the students have picked up on the interwoven themes that run through all of the commandments. John 15 is a scripture that captures the heart of the Ten Commandments. The emphasis we have placed on relationship preceding behavior is inherent in this scripture.**

The problem with the Israelites who first received the Ten Commandments was that they never allowed the law to penetrate their hearts. The Ten Commandments were only inscribed



on the tablets of stone; they never permeated their hearts.

In many ways we struggle with the same temptation. You cannot take an artificial piece of fruit, stick it on a tree and expect it to grow. To grow, it must be attached to the vine and find its life-giving sustenance through abiding on the vine.

Use this last lesson to reflect on the nature of the Ten Commandments and the life to which Christ has called us. Allow the students to process how the world of the commandments speaks to their world of school, activities, and relationships.

## Interactive Lesson Guide

### GETTIN' GOIN'

In the first lesson of this series the teens were asked to write as many of the Ten Commandments as they could. Start this final lesson in a similar way. Distribute Handout #13.1, God's Top Ten List. Form groups of three or four students and instruct the students to write out the Ten Commandments from memory in the left column. Have each group write at least one life application for each commandment in the right column. Tell the students that they will have an opportunity to complete the final exercise on the worksheet in a moment.

When the groups have completed their work, go through the list as a class. Briefly review each commandment and discuss the life applications the groups wrote for the commandments. Show how the various commandments relate to each other. For example, the opening commandments speak of living in right relationship with God while the last group of commandments speak of living in right relationship with one another.

When you have finished discussing the list, ask the students to work in their small groups to summarize the Ten Commandments in a sentence of two. Spend some time reflecting on the students' summaries

### DIG IT

Ask a student to read John 15:1-13. Once the student has finished reading the scripture, place a piece of fruit on the table/desk next to an artificial replica of that fruit. (If you are unable to find an artificial piece of fruit, roll up a piece of colored paper and ask the students to use their imaginations.) Ask **What is the difference between these pieces of fruit? Suppose they looked absolutely identical on the outside, what would be the difference? Why would Jesus use the image of fruit to talk about our relationship with God and behavior in life? How does this relate to the discussion of the Ten Commandments?**



Say **The problem with the Israelites who first received the Ten Commandments was that they never allowed the law to penetrate their hearts. The commandments were only inscribed on tablets of stone and never written on their hearts. In many ways we struggle with the same problem. We sometimes follow the rules on the outside without really being changed on the inside. You cannot take an artificial piece of fruit, stick it on a tree and expect it to grow. For it to grow, it must be attached to the tree and find its life-giving sustenance through abiding on the tree.**

Read John 15:5-8 again. Ask **What does this teach us about living the Ten Commandments? Practically speaking, how do we abide in Christ?**

Say **Jeremiah 18 deals with the need we have to be molded by God using the image of the potter and clay.** Ask a student to read Jeremiah 18:1-6. Point out that the potter took something that was imperfect and molded it into the best pot. God will do that for us if we allow God to work in our lives.

Give each student a small piece of play dough. Ask each student to mold a piece of fruit to represent his or her life. After a few minutes ask the students **Is God able to do this with you? Are you allowing him to form you into the person he wants you to be?** Before the class session, form a vine using wire and leaves available at a craft store. Fashion several wires where "fruit" can be attached to the bare ends. Invite the teens to place their play dough fruit on the vine as a symbol of their commitment to abide in Christ. After each student has placed his or her fruit on the vine, lead a prayer of commitment. If it is possible, you might want to leave the vine and fruit in the room for a few weeks as a visual reminder of the lesson.

## TAKE OUT

Say **The Israelites attempted to remember the commandments by attaching notes on the doorposts and little boxes strapped to their bodies. These physical reminders were an effort to keep the commandments in mind at all times.** Ask **What can we do to remember how we are to live?** After the students have shared their ideas, distribute a Ten Commandment card for each student. These are available at a Christian book store, or you could make your own using a computer. Encourage the students to put the card in a place where it will remind them of God's plan for life.

**The problem with the Israelites who first received the Ten Commandments was that they never allowed the law to penetrate their hearts. The commandments were only inscribed on tablets of stone and never written on their hearts. In many ways we struggle with the same problem.**

# God's Top 10 List

Write the Ten Commandments in the left column. Write at least one life application of each commandment in the right column.

## Table of Stone

## Tablet of My Heart

1	
2	
3	
4	
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9	
10	