Lesson 6

Moses – The 3rd Commandment

Objective

Study Exodus 20, the 3rd Commandment – Do misuse God's name and how it relates to Jesus.

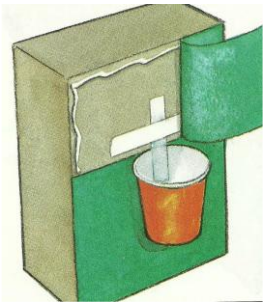
Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Songs About Moses – one per two students and one for teacher
- 10 Commandments Visual Aid – one for teacher from lesson 4
- 10 Commandments Poster – one per student from lesson 4

Basketball game

- Ping pongs or small balls – one per student that will fit into a paper cup
- Small sturdy box – one per student (twice the size of a paper cup)
- Paper cup – one per student
- Scissors – to share
- Tape – to share
- Construction paper – various colors – one to two pieces per student
- Glue – to share



Optional Supplies

Print From the Site:

- 3rd Commandment Activity Sheet – one per student
- Snack: 3 Fruit Slices or Crackers – 3 per student
- Napkins – one per student

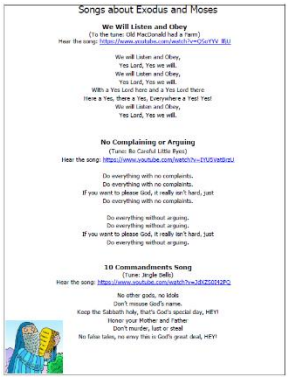
Teacher Tips

★ See Lesson 1 for ideas.

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and take attendance.

Does anyone remember what we studied last week? We studied the second commandment of the Ten Commandments God gave the Israelites through Moses on the mountain of Sinai.
Can anyone recite the second commandment from Exodus 20:4? You shall not make for yourself an idol!
Can anyone remember the first commandment from Exodus 20?
1st Commandment – You will have no other gods before me.


Songs about Exodus and Moses

We Will Listen and Obey
(To the tune: Old MacDonald had a Farm)
Hear the song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JcrYV_8IU

We will Listen and Obey,
Yes Lord, Yes we will.
We will Listen and Obey,
Yes Lord, Yes we will.
With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there
Here a Yes, there a Yes, Everywhere a Yes! Yes!
We will Listen and Obey,
Yes Lord, Yes we will.

No Complaining or Arguing
(Tune: Be Careful Little Eyes)
Hear the song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IrUSVnSRrU

Do everything with no complaints.
Do everything with no complaints.
If you want to please God, it really isn't hard, just
Do everything with no complaints.

Do everything without arguing.
Do everything without arguing.
If you want to please God, it really isn't hard, just
Do everything without arguing.

10 Commandments Song
(Tune: Jingle Bells)
Hear the song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dnZ0004DPQ

No other gods, no idols
Don't misuse God's name.
Keep the Sabbath holy, that's God's special day, HEY!
Honor your Mother and Father
Don't murder, lust or steal
No false tales, no envy this is God's great deal, HEY!

Today we will look at the third commandment and how it relates to us now that we have the New Testament.

Do you think God cares about what we say? Let students answer.
We will see that God does care very much about what we say and gave us a rule we need to follow that reflects how we are to behave in relation to God.

Let's sing a song to get started. Hand out song sheets.
Sing the **10 Commandments Song.**

2) Class Time - Third Commandment 10-15 minutes

<u>Prep</u>
Have Bibles and Visual Aid ready. Hand out a Bible to each student who didn't bring one.

Let's turn to Exodus 20. (Help students.)
Ask for a volunteer to read from
Exodus 20:1-7 or read yourself. Show visual aid.

These first three commandments are focused on God and how the Israelites were to worship and serve Him.
What was the third commandment? You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Some versions say, "Do not say the Lord's name in vain."

Let's look at what vain or misuse mean.

Vain: Producing no result; useless; for no reason. Having no meaning or likelihood of fulfillment.
In an irreverent or disrespectful manner: took the Lord's name in vain.
Synonyms: futile, useless, pointless, for no reason, hopeless, in vain

Misuse: To use (something) in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose. The wrong or improper use of something. To mistreat or abuse.

Let's read **Exodus 20:7** again
What does that mean – not misusing the name of God or not saying the name of God in vain? How do people do that today? Taking God's name in vain or misusing His name refers to the abuse, misuse, blasphemy, cursing, or manipulation of the Lord's name.

It involves:
1. Trivializing His name by looking at it as being insignificant. For example when people say God's name without really asking for His help. Oh my…
2. Trying to use it to advance negative purposes. For example, people who mention God but not because they love or care about God, or even believe in Him but because they want to fit in or want something from others. They say, "I swear by the name of God that…" rather than just living an honest life.
3. Using it in worship thoughtlessly. For example talking about God without really knowing what they are saying. Assuming He is ok with something that the Bible says He is not ok with.
4. Using profanity or blasphemy is obvious violations of the 3rd Commandment. Sometimes people substitute words (euphemisms) for the name of God. For example, "Oh Gee" or "Oh Golly" is sometimes used in exclamations. Or speaking negatively about God. Or saying God's name when angry or defiantly.
5. False Oaths & Hypocrisy. Claiming to represent God, swearing falsely by His name, or calling oneself a Christian while acting opposite to Jesus' teachings.

The commandment is directed against abuse of the name of God, *not against any use*. We can say Jesus, God and Holy Spirit but we need to use their names with respect and honor. I can say, "Oh God, You are so wonderful!" and mean it. But I can't say that same sentence if I didn't really mean it, or

don't really care about God. Do these examples make sense? Let students answer.

Let's look at the New Testament to see what it says about Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit's names.

John 3:18
*Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the **name** of God's one and only Son.*

What happens if you don't believe in Jesus' name? John 3:18 – says you are condemned (you are guilty and will face punishment).

Philippians 2:9-10 – In talking about Jesus
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
*and gave him the **name** that is above every name,*
*10 that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**,*
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Whose name is above every name? Jesus!
When people hear Jesus' name what should they do? Bow down in respect and worship or think about Him with respect and admiration for all He has done and does for us.
When people in the world use Jesus' name today are most using His name with respect and in worship? No, usually they are saying it casually, flippantly, or in a sarcastic, rather than respectful, way.

2 Peter 2:12
*But these people **blaspheme** in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.*

Blaspheme: speak irreverently about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. A negative, bad, or profane act, word, or writing concerning God.

In 2 Peter, what does Peter call those who speak disrespectfully and blaspheme God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Like unreasoning animals!
So, how important is Jesus' name in the following verses? Very, we need to be careful how we speak of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

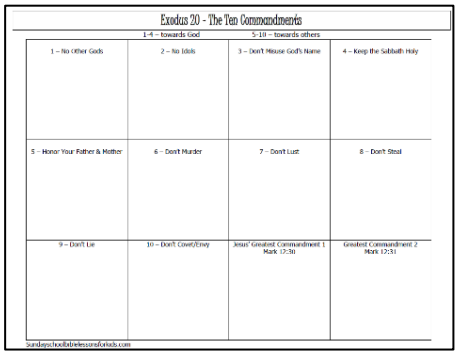
Should we respect and honor God's names then? YES!
Should we say or write O.M.G! (Oh My God) when not actually praying or talking to God in love? No! That's like saying (Insert a child's name or your name) into Oh my _____ and say it in the way people say it today – in a sarcastic derogatory way.
Would you want your name used that way and people don't even know you and are using your name disrespectfully? No! So don't do it to God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit whom we know and love.

So even though the 3rd Commandment was written in the Old Testament, the New Testament says we too must only use the Lord's name respectfully. We should not use the Lord's name in vain! If we do we are blaspheming and disrespecting God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

So next time you get upset, or worried, or talking to friends, make sure if you talk about God you are respectful when you do. Don't just casually throw the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit's names around, be thoughtful and careful to always show them love and respect, just like you would want others to do the same when speaking about you.

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity. You can contact Sundayschoolbiblelessonsforkids@protonmail.com if you need help answering them.

3) 10 Commandments Poster 10-15 minutes



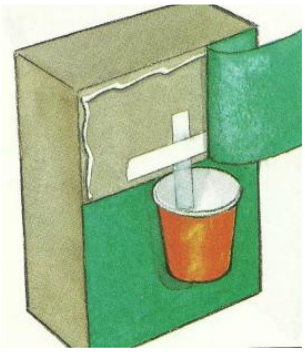
Hand out one page to each student along with markers or pencil crayons. Explain to them that: **Each week we are going to study a commandment that God gave the Israelites that would guide them on to how to behave and act.**

We can see so far that the first 3 commandments are also mentioned in some way in the New Testament. The New Testament says we are to worship God only, have no idols and only use God's name respectfully and appropriately. Today we are going to fill in the third commandment. Go to Exodus 20:7 and let's read it together, then either write the words and/or draw a picture to show how: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God! Show visual

aid for the 3rd Commandment to help students see a visual example of someone not doing it correctly.

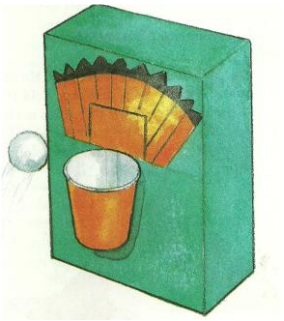
Help students come up with ideas on how to represent this commandment.
Re-read the verses you studied at the beginning of class from the New Testament once they start working to reinforce the idea.

4) Craft: Learning the Commandments 10-15 minutes



Prep
Gather basketball game supplies enough for each student. Or if you don't have enough, you can make one for the class in advance. The paper cup needs the bottom removed carefully, if you don't think your students will be able to do so, you might want to take an exacto knife and cut the papercup bottoms out in advance for them.
*Make sure to tell students that these will stay in class for this week and be sent home next week as these will be used twice.

Craft
Hand out one paper cup to each student and tell them to cut out the bottom of the cup to make a tube for a ball to go through. Next tape the cup (see picture) to the side of a study small box. (Hand out boxes). Next, hand out construction paper and have students cover the box with the paper (see picture again).



Cut out a "backboard" from construction paper and glue it above the basket. (See second picture). Decorate the backboard. Have students write their name on the back of the box.

Get a ping-pong ball or foam ball and shoot some hoops through the basket or bounce the ball on the table and then into the cup.

Game Rules
Now we are going to play a game. Every time you score a goal into the cup – try to recite the first commandment – if you can't recite it, go to Exodus 20:3 and read it aloud. Then try again – go through until you can recite each commandment correctly three times before moving onto the next. The goal is to name all commandments from memory.

We will keep these in class as we will use them again next time. This may take a few weeks to memorize all the commandments so practice at home. Use your Bible to make sure you are memorizing correctly.

*The goal of this quarter will be for the students to memorize Exodus 20 – the Ten Commandments and Jesus' quote in Mark 12:30-31 of the two greatest commandments we follow today, which help us follow all the other commandments in the Bible. Help them start this week by reciting the first three to four commandments found in Exodus 20.

*If you don't have time to finish this craft this week, they can continue next week as they will use it next week to help practice.

5) Optional: 3rd Commandment Activity 20-30 minutes

Hand out activity sheets with pencils and crayons as well. Read directions aloud, help as needed. Let students color. Do as time allows.
Talk about how we can and should talk about God in a loving way and how would we do that in church, at home, and at school or with friends.

Answers:
3rd Commandment
Exodus 20:7

6) Activity: 10 Commandments Memory Activity 5 minutes

Have students learn the 10 Commandments by doing finger actions for each command. Add a new finger action every week:

1. Hold up their 1 finger and point to God – **I will have no other God before me.**
2. Hold up the pointer finger on each hand, and bow down one finger to the other. – **I will have no idols.**
3. Hold up first 3 fingers in a W for watch your words. Take the fingers and cover your mouth. – **I won't take God's name in vain.**
4. Bring 4 fingers together and put under head as if having a rest – **The Jews were to keep the Sabbath holy.**
5. Salute with all 5 fingers in a "yes, sir." – **I will honor my parents.**
6. Make 2 guns in each hand with 3 fingers each = 6 (pointer, middle and thumb) and

shoot. – **I will not kill.**
7. Hold up 2 fingers on the left and 5 on the right. Say, "there are 2 people in a marriage, not 5." – **I will not commit adultery.**
8. Hold up 4 fingers on each hand = 8. Make prison bars over the eyes: stealing can lead to jail. – **I will not steal.**
9. Hold up 4 fingers on the left, 5 on the right = 9. By hiding your thumb it looks like you are lying about something by hiding the truth. – **I will not lie.**
10. Pretend to reach out and grab with all 10 fingers like you are "wanting/coveting" something. – **I will not want what others have; I won't covet.**

7) Optional Activity – Singing 5 minutes

Sing the 10 Commandments song.

8) Optional Memory Verse 5 minutes

This entire quarter students will be learning the 10 Commandments, which they can also practice at home. **Exodus 20:2-17.** Only go through a few of the verses each week adding a verse or two as you go.
*If you choose, bring treats for those who remember the verses over the coming weeks.

9) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities have been cleaned up.

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Write them down to help you remember. Then ask all students to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Start below if you need help and then add the other prayer requests of the students.

Thank You God that You have given us Your Word so we know what pleases You and is best for us. May we always remember to say Your name with respect and love. Thank You that You teach us what makes You happy and in turn makes our lives happy as well when we follow Jesus. We pray we will not misuse Your, Your Son's, or the Holy Spirit's name. We know others use Your name in ways they shouldn't. We pray for them that they see our good example and learn not to do the bad things they are doing.

We pray for those who could not come to worship today because of illness or weakness, help them to get better so they can return to us soon.
Thank You for our families. Thank You for Jesus, Your Son, and thank You for all the beauty You provide in Your Creation. It is in Jesus' name, Amen.

10) Optional Snack – 3rd Commandment 5 minutes

Prep
*Check for Allergies. Gather three pieces of fruit or crackers for each student.

Snack
You've all done a great job this morning. As we go through the Ten Commandments, we are going to have a snack that matches the number we are studying. So this week we will have 3 pieces to represent the third commandment:
Exodus 20:7 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Hand out a snack to each student. **While we eat our snacks, let's talk about the different things you learned.** Provide a napkin for students to clean their hands.

Questions:
What did we learn today?
What was your favorite part of the lesson or story and why?
What was the third commandment for the Israelites? Let students answer.
Does this rule apply to us today as well? Yes!
Any questions about what we learned today? Answer the ones you can, tell them you will get back to them next week with the ones you can't. Make sure to write them down so you can get the answer.

11) Things to Remember

Thank the students for coming.
Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.
Take their activity sheets home.
Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!