

Lesson 11: Moses –and the Ten Commandments – 8th and Valentine’s Day

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 20 and see that God had laws for the Israelites that included 4 laws concerning God and 6 laws concerning how to treat others.
- 2) Study this week on the eighth commandment God gave the Israelites and how it relates to the New Testament and Jesus
- 3) Make a craft to give to someone special to remind ourselves it is better to give than to receive.
- 4) Continue to memorize the 10 commandments God gave to the Israelites.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster – one sheet printed on white cardstock paper per student use the one from previous lesson unless a new student arrives then hand them a new one.
- Plastic bottles with labels removed (may need to wash sticky glue off first) – one per child
- Ribbon – one per child to tie a bow on bottle
- Construction Paper – cut in half – one half for each child to draw a message for the bottle And possibly one half to wrap around the bottle and decorate.
- Elastic band – one per message
- Tape to share
- Heart or appropriate shaped stickers – 5-10 per child
- Who to Love Break the Code Sheet – one per child

Optional:

- Small wrapped candies that fit in the bottles students will be making to hand out.
- Song lyrics to Ten Commandment Song –one per student from previous lessons
- 10 Commandments Crossword – one per student if didn’t complete from last week
- Sharpie Marker – to write names on bottles

Snack:

- 8 Small Heart Shaped Strawberry Slices (to represent 8th Command) 8 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Once children are seated say:

Does anyone remember what we studied last week? We studied the seventh commandment that God gave the Israelites through Moses on the mountain of Sinai.

Can anyone recite the seventh commandment from Exodus 20:14? You shall not commit adultery. Meaning we need to stay with the person we marry and not try to be with anyone else.

Today we are going to look at Exodus 20:15 - the 8th Commandment and how it relates to us today – You shall not steal. We will also make a gift for someone we care about to show that it is better to give than to receive.

2) The Eighth Commandment

10 minutes

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 20. Ask for a volunteer to read from **Exodus 20:1-4, 7-8** or read yourself. After you have finished the reading, say:

Remember the first four commandments are focused on who? God and how the Israelites were to worship and serve Him.

We will now look at how God wants us to treat others.

Read **Exodus 20: 12-15**

Who did God focus on in verse 12? Our caregivers or parents.

What was the fifth commandment? Honor your father and your mother

Then in verse 13 He mentions what? Not murdering – you shall not murder

What was the seventh commandment in verse 14? You shall not commit adultery.

What is the eighth commandment in verse 15? You shall not steal.

Stealing is taking anything that does not belong to you and treating it like it is yours.

What is the difference between borrowing and stealing? Borrowing means you asked permission to use something that belongs to someone else and you will return it.

If you “borrow” something without asking permission is that still borrowing or is that stealing?

That is stealing because you did not have permission to take it.

If you find something that does not belong to you is that stealing if you keep it? Yes, you can only keep those things that belong to you – you need to find the owner and give whatever they lost back or use lost and found.

If students have any questions, tell them to wait until you read from the New Testament to see if it will answer their questions. If not then answer them at the end. Bottom line – it is NEVER ok to steal or keep what doesn't belong to you.

Let's look to see the New Testament says about stealing and how it relates to us today.

Ephesians 4:28

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

What is Paul saying here – is it ok to steal? No, not only you should not steal, but instead we should use our hands or abilities and talents to make something to share with those in need.

What are things people need? Food, clothing, shelter, God, the Bible, to be able to come to church, transportation, jobs, schooling, etc.

Let's think about ways we can all help in these areas while we work on the next activity. What talent do you have or that you can develop to help people in these areas?

Maybe it is knitting, cooking, building things, growing food, bringing people to church, saving your money to buy Bibles to give to people, helping others who are having trouble in school, helping others by bring a friend to them when they are being bullied by others, etc. There are lots of ways we can help others! Pick one or two or come up with something nice on your own and plan to make or do something this week to help others with your talents!

Let's read **Exodus 20:15** again together out loud. **You shall not steal!**

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) Ways to Love Break the Code Sheet

5 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child, read the directions aloud and have the students figure out what the message is by writing the letters that match the code. Once finished, have someone volunteer to read what it says and then go to **Matthew 22:36-40** and read that aloud for everyone to see that this is the second greatest commandment that Jesus gave – Love your neighbor as yourself! This sums up all the last 6 Old Testament Commandments – if we love others as ourselves, we won't steal, harm them, take marriage lightly, or any other bad things!

4) Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster Activity

5-15 minutes

Hand out one page to each child along with markers or pencil crayons. Since most children have already started their posters, hand them back to them to continue working on for this week.

Explain to them that, **"Today we are going to fill in the eighth commandment. What is the 8th Commandment from Exodus 20:15? You shall not steal.**

Now either write the words and/or draw a picture to show God's 8th commandment in a way that is appropriate. Any questions?

When finished, do the box that has Jesus' second greatest commandment – Love your neighbor as yourself – draw or write a way to help you remember what Jesus said and that we need to do it today! Maybe you can draw or write what you will do this week to help someone else in need.

Help students come up with ideas on how to represent these commandments. Go around the room helping students if needed. Remind them they will finish the others in the coming weeks.

5) Message in a Bottle Craft for Someone We Love

15 minutes

Before class clean some plastic bottles with lids. Remove the labels and the sticky glue parts. If the glue won't come off, have the children use some scrap construction paper to cover over the glue strip and glue or tape the paper onto that during class.

Have students turn in their Bibles to **Acts** and read

Acts 20:34-36

³⁴You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Paul the apostle is talking and quoting Jesus. He is saying it is better to give than to receive. It is better to give to others than to take from others. This goes along with Jesus' saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself." It reminds us as well that stealing is wrong – and instead of stealing we actually should give instead. (Matthew 19:18-19)

Today we are going to make a craft with our hands to give to someone we care about to help us remember, not only we should not steal, we should do things to help those in need. And, to remember that it is better to give than to receive.

Hand out one half of the construction paper to each child with a crayon and have the draw or write a message of something nice for someone. Ask them who they are making the message in the bottle for.

When they have their message, wrap it tight in a roll, use an elastic band to keep it together and stick them in the bottle and screw on the lid.

Hand out stickers and have them decorate the bottle with stickers and help them put a ribbon at the top of each bottle.

*Optional: you can purchase candies and have the students place some small wrapped candies that will fit in the bottle after they have inserted their message and before they screw on the lid.

Using a sharpie marker write the child's name somewhere on the bottle. They can also write To: _____ From: _____

*IF the bottle still had some stick parts from the label, use the Other half of the construction paper to first tape or glue around The bottle before decorating with stickers. They may want to decorate the paper first before wrapping it around to make it easier to decorate.



6) Optional – Ten Commandments Crossword

5-10 minutes

*If you did not do this activity last week you can do it today.

Hand out one sheet to each student with a pencil. Read the instructions aloud for everyone and for younger students read each sentence aloud and do the sheet together for those who might not be able to read all the words. Go around the room helping students if needed and remind them they can turn to Exodus 20 for help!

7) Optional: Ten Commandments Song

2-5 minutes

Hand out one song lyric to each child. Sing the song and practice it to help the children memorize the order and condensed version of the 10 Commandments.

Exodus 20 “Ten Commandments” (To the tune of Jingle Bells)

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!

8) Optional – Snack: 8 Strawberry Slices

5 minutes

Hand out 8 Strawberry Slices to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. State that **each week 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 8 to represent the eighth commandment: Exodus 20:15 - You shall not steal.**

and since Valentine's is coming we will eat heart shaped strawberries to remind us that we should give and help others instead of taking and stealing from others.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.



9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

We pray that we will always want to give instead of take and be willing to help others with the talents God has blessed us with. Help us to realize our talents and use them to serve You God in a way that is pleasing to You. Help us to remember to never take something that does not belong to us. In Jesus precious and holy name, Amen.