

Lesson 5: Moses –and the Ten Commandments – 2nd Commandments and Jesus Greatest Commandment

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 the second commandment God gave the Israelites and how it relates to the New Testament and Jesus Greatest Commandment

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Second Commandment Color Page – one sheet per student
- 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.

Optional:

- Break the Code Sheet – one per student
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Two Fruit or Cheese Slices – large (to represent 2nd Command) two 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 beginning of the Ten Commandments God gave the Israelites through Moses on the mountain of Sinai. Today we will look at the second commandment and how it relates to us now that we have the New Testament and we will see what Jesus says about the commandments we should follow today.

What was the first commandment? You shall have no other gods before me.

2) The Second Commandment

10-15 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Say to the students:

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 20. Ask for a volunteer to read from

Exodus 20:1-11 or read yourself. After you have finished the reading, say:

These first four commandments are focused on God and how the Israelites were to worship and serve Him. The remaining six of the ten focus on how to treat others. We will compare these laws with the New Testament that we are to follow today.

Our focus today will be on the second commandment Exodus 20:4-6. Let's read it again. (Have students read). **Let's look at what worship and idol actually mean so we can understand what**

God meant when He said we should not worship anything or one but God and we should not have an idol.

Define:

Worship: The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object.

Idol:

- a. An image used as an object of worship.
- b. A false god.
2. One that is adored, often blindly or excessively.
3. Something visible but without substance.

In your own words tell me what you think this law means? You should only worship God. Not any other religion, person, or thing. We should not make or do anything that would take our focus away from God.

Let's have a look at the New Testament to see what Jesus says about – You shall not make for yourself an idol.

Matthew 6:19-24

Treasures in Heaven

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

What was Jesus saying about money and God in Matthew 6? You can't serve both money and God – you can't run after money and exclude God and think you are still ok with God. Serve God and focus on Him first – then work, have a family, hang out with friends, make money. Don't work or make money at the exclusion of worshipping and doing the Lord's will.

What kind of treasures do you think Jesus is talking about? Earthly treasures such as nice things, entertainment, etc. compared to heavenly treasures such as relationship with God and Jesus, knowing you will have an eternal home in heaven, helping other people get to heaven so that all who obey can enjoy heaven, etc.

Ephesians 5:4-6

4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

So according to the New and Old Testament – whom should we follow, worship and serve? God the Father and Jesus Christ.

What does Paul in Ephesians call an idolater? One whom is immoral, impure or greedy.

What happens to idol worshippers? They will not inherit the kingdom of Christ and God.

What are examples of idols we can “worship” or give our love and attention to instead of God today? Money, games, jobs, fame, t.v., videos, etc.: anything that takes away from our desire and ability to serve and worship God and His Son Jesus.

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity. Answer from the Bible if you are able, otherwise tell them you will get back to them next week, then study the answer and do get back to them.

3) The Second Commandment Color Page 10-15 minutes

Have students color the page, and then cut out a puzzle for themselves by cutting the picture into different pieces, like a puzzle. If time, help them try to put it back together afterwards, discuss again while they color the importance of serving and worshipping God only and possibly re-read the verses you studied at the beginning of class from the New Testament while they work to reinforce the idea.

*The goal of this quarter will be for the students to memorize Exodus 20 – the Ten Commandments and Jesus quote in Matthew 22:37-40 of the two greatest commandments today, which help us follow all the other commandments in the Bible. Help them start this week by reciting the first commandments and the verse Exodus 20:3.



4) Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster Activity 10-15 minutes

Hand out one page to each child along with markers or pencil crayons. Explain to them that, **“Each week we are going to study a commandment that God gave the Israelites. These were not the only commandments they were to follow, nor are they only the commandments we need to follow today but they were the main ten principles the Israelites were to follow and these would guide them on to how to behave and act and what attitude they were to have towards God and others. It helps us today as well understand how God wants us to act, behave and the attitude we should have towards Him even though we only follow the New Testament. Today we are going to fill in the second commandment. Go to Exodus 20:4-6 and let’s read it together, then either write the words and/or draw a picture to show the command visually or written down. Any questions? Let’s read the verse and then you can begin.**

Help students come up with ideas on how to represent the importance of not worshipping anything or anyone else but God and His Son. Go around the room helping students and making sure they only do the second box – the second commandment. They will do the others in the coming weeks.

5) Optional: Love the Lord Break the Code Sheet 10-15 minutes

There is another great passage in the New Testament that discusses what Jesus stated was the greatest commandment.

Turn to and read as a class:

Mark 12:28-31

The Greatest Commandment

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind

and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

32 "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

What does Jesus say about these commandments in verse 31? There is none greater than these.

Matthew 22:34-40

The Greatest Commandment

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

What does Jesus say about this commandment in verse 40? All the Law (the Rules handed down to Moses including the 10 commandments and the words of the Prophets spoken in the Old Testament) hang or are based on these two commandments. **So the 10 commandments can be summed up by these two commandments in the New Testament.**

So what does Jesus say we need to do? Love the Lord God with all our heart, soul and mind, and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. So that means we have to love God and Jesus, love everyone around us and love ourselves too!

How do we love God with all our heart, soul and mind?

How do we love our neighbors as ourselves?

Hand out one break the code to each child, read the directions aloud and help students discover the verse. **Answer: Matthew 22:37-38**

6) Optional - Snack: 2 Cheese/Fruit Slices

5 minutes

Hand out two slices of cheese or fruit to each child along with a glass of water or juice. State that each week as we go through the Ten Commandments we are going to have a snack that the number matches the number we are studying. Today is 2 for the Second Commandment:

Exodus 20:4 You shall not make for yourself and idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

7) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing the 10 Commandments song to help them memorize all 10 commandments. Sing it a few times with you singing the first few words, and then them repeating as you go through so they learn all the words and order of the commands.

8) 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. Remember to also ask God for help in studying the Old Testament. Thank God that He teaches us how to make Him happy and in turn make our lives happy as well by following Jesus good commandments.