

Lesson 6: Moses –and the Ten Commandments – 3rd

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 3rd commandment God gave the Israelites and how it relates to Jesus
- 3) Make a Basketball game to help recite and remember the first three commandments.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance

Basketball Game

- Ping pongs or small balls – one per child
- Small sturdy box – one per child
- Paper cup – one per child
- Scissors – to share
- Tape – to share
- Construction paper – various colors – one to two pieces per student
- Glue – to share
- Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster – one sheet printed on white cardstock paper per student use the one from previous lesson.
- Find the Commandment Break the Code Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Greatest Commandment Break the Code – one per student (if did not complete last week)
- Song lyrics to Ten Commandment Song –one per student
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Fruit or Veggie Pieces (to represent 3rd Command) 3 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.

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!

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

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. Having no meaning or likelihood of fulfillment. "a vain boast"
In an irreverent or disrespectful manner: took the Lord's name in vain.

Synonyms: futile, useless, pointless, to no purpose, hopeless, in vain

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

Let's read **Exodus 20:7** again

What does that mean – not misusing the name of God? 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. Give an example if able.
2. Trying to use it to advance negative purposes. Give an example.
3. Using it in worship thoughtlessly.
4. Using profanity or blasphemy is obvious violations of the 3rd Commandment. Sometimes people substitute words (euphemisms) for the name of God. For example, "Gee" or "Golly" is sometimes used in exclamations.

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.

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 His name? John 3:18 – says you are condemned (you are guilty)

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.

So when people use Jesus' name today in the world are they 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 contemptuous or profane act, utterance, 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?

Should we respect and honor Jesus and 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 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 need to only use the Lord's name respectfully as well. We should not use the Lord's name in vain! If we do we are blaspheming and disrespecting God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

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

Hand out one **Find the Commandment Break the Code Sheet** to each child. Read the directions aloud and help especially younger students match the coded letter to the right spot on the page to reveal the commandment that is being discussed.

When done, go through the questions as a group and have children raise hands for the answers. When finished clean up and move on to the next activity.

3) Ten Commandments Song

2-5 minutes

Hand out one song lyric to each child from the printed template. Sing the song and practice it to help the children memorize the order and condensed version of the 10 Commandments. You can let them keep the songs if they want to practice over the week, or put them back in your binder to use for the coming weeks to sing at Sunday school.

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!

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, **“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 bound on us to follow today but 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! 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! Any questions? Let's read the verse and then you can begin.

Help students come up with ideas on how to represent this commandment. Go around the room helping students and making sure they only do the third box – the third commandment. They will do the others in the coming weeks.

5) Basketball Game to learn the Commandments

10-15 minutes

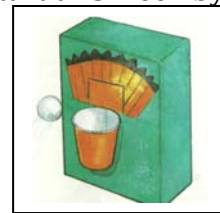
Hand out one paper cup to each child and tell them to cut out the bottom of the cup to make a tube for a ball to go through. Next tape the cup (see picture) to the side of a study small box. (Hand out boxes) Next, hand out construction paper and have students cover the box with the paper (see picture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



Cut out a “backboard” from construction paper and glue it above the basket. Decorate the backboard. 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 say: **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 and can name all commandments from memory. This may take a few weeks to do so take the game home and 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 Matthew 22:37-40 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 for the next while to help practice.

6) Optional: Love the Lord Break the Code Sheet

10-15 minutes

If students did not have a chance to work on this last week, they can do it this week if time.

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

Turn to

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.

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 Matthew? 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.**

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

7) Optional - Snack: 3 Fruit or Veggie Pieces**5 minutes**

Hand out 3 pieces of fruit or veggies to each child along with a glass of water 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 3 pieces to represent the third commandment: Exodus 20:7 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God
Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

8) Optional - Songs**5 minutes**

Have children practice the 10 Commandments Song or practice singing the songs of the Old Testament using the Alphabet tune.

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.

Thank God that He teaches us how to make Him happy and in turn make our lives happy as well by following Jesus and God's good commandments. We pray that we will not misuse God's name and be respectful and thoughtful whenever we say Jesus, God or the Holy Spirit's names. In Jesus precious and holy name, Amen.