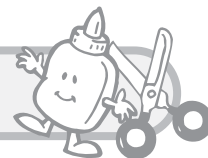




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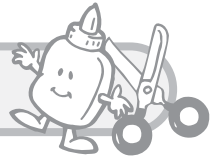
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The Ten Commandments



Bible Story: Exodus 19-20

Gather the following items and put them in a box so students will not be able to see them, but you can easily draw them out one by one to illustrate the ten commandments: a button with number 1 on it or a number 1 birthday candle; a small figurine that looks like an idol, such as a bird or animal figurine; GOD printed on an index card in big letters; a small calendar with Sundays circled; a photo of someone's parents; a picture of a gun; a wedding ring; coins in a coin purse; a picture of a mouth; a picture of an expensive house and car. Follow the directions in the story.

It had been three months since the Israelites had escaped from the land of Egypt. When they reached Mount Sinai in their travels across the desert, they set up camp and prepared to stay awhile. God spoke to Moses from the mountain. "Remind the people how I rescued them from slavery in Egypt," God said. "Tell them that if they obey Me, they will be My treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Moses went back and told the Israelite leaders what God had said. When the people were told, they all promised to do everything the Lord said.

Then God told Moses that He was going to speak to them directly out of a cloud. The people needed to get ready for this event by washing themselves and their clothes to be clean before the Lord. They were to gather around the mountain, but Moses warned them not to touch the mountain or try to climb up it. Three days later, the Israelites heard thunder and lightning and a loud trumpet blast. A thick cloud appeared over Mount Sinai. Moses led the people to the mountain. They stood around as the mountain was covered with smoke and it shook. The trumpet sounded again, even louder. God called Moses to the top of the mountain. He gave Moses ten commandments for the people to follow.

God said, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." The first commandment was that the people must make God number one in their lives. *(Hold up the number 1 button or candle. Then set it down where everyone can see it.)*

"You shall not make or worship any idols or images," God said. *(Hold up the small figure that looks like an idol.)* That was the second commandment. Most of the people who lived in the land where God was leading His people worshiped idols made of wood or clay. The people in Egypt had worshiped idols they made to look like birds and other animals. God wanted to make sure that His people did not copy the practices of those idol-worshipping people.

The third commandment was about the way people spoke. "Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God," He told them. *(Hold up the GOD name card.)* God's name was to be spoken with reverence and respect, not used as a swear word or slang, and not joked about.

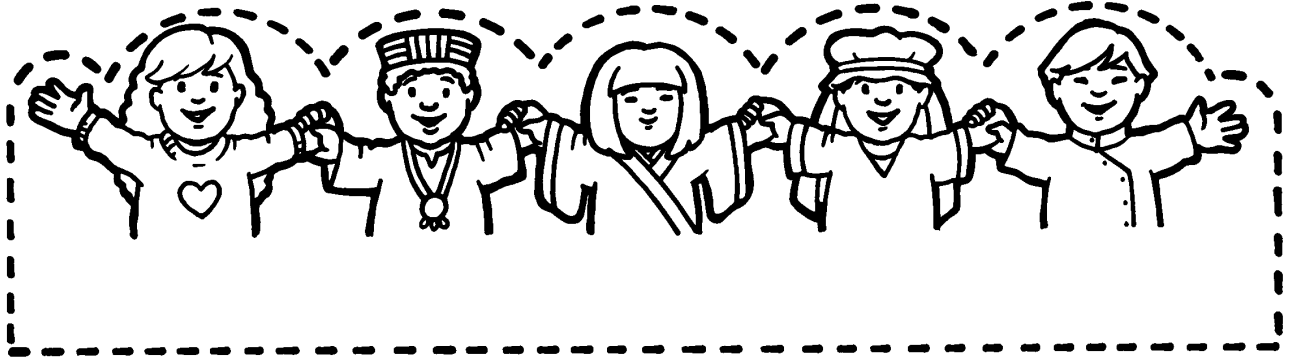
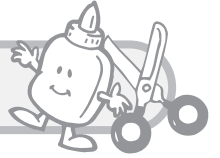
God said, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." *(Hold up the small calendar with Sundays circled.)* God had created the whole world in six days, then He rested on the seventh day. That was an example for the people He created. He wanted them to set aside one day a week to rest from their work and spend time thinking about God and worshiping Him. The seventh day was to be a holy day. That was the fourth commandment.

"Honor your father and your mother," God said. *(Hold up the photo of someone's parents.)* The fifth commandment meant that children should obey their parents, and even when they became adults, they were to listen to their parents' advice and treat them with respect.

Then God spoke the sixth commandment: "You shall not murder." *(Hold up the picture of a gun.)* Taking the life of a person God has created is very wrong. Only God should control life and death.

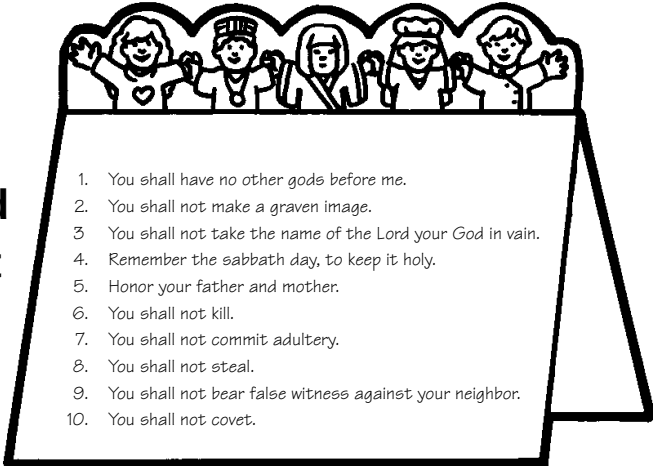


The Ten Commandments



1. You shall have no other *gods* before me.
2. You shall not make a *graven* image.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your *God* in vain.
4. Remember the *sabbath* day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Finished Product

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