

**LESSON AIM:**

To teach the students about the Ten Commandments (sometimes referred to as "the law"), what they say, and how each commandment applies to their lives. This lesson will help the students understand that they have broken God's law and are thus under the penalty of the law.

This lesson gives Biblical, historical background of the law and then briefly goes over each commandment. It is recommended that you teach the first four commandments one week and the following six the second week. (You might want to offer a small incentive for doing this, like 10 Hershey kisses, etc.)

Also, for students that have mastered the Ten Commandments, we have forms or you can download the forms from [www.TheTenCommandmentsProject.com](http://www.TheTenCommandmentsProject.com) and students can receive a check for \$10.00 to their home, you being the authorized witness.)

**KEY SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20: 1-17****REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1) Where was Jesus born?
- 2) Who was Jesus' Mother and Father?
- 3) Who were the first people to hear about the birth of Jesus?
- 4) Review last week's verse; have students explain it in their own words.

**INTRODUCTION:**

- The Apostle Paul says that the law is a school master that brings us to repentance. If someone comes to Christ without true repentance, the result is a false conversion.
- God uses the law to convict us of our sin. The Ten Commandments are also the foundation of our legal system and our own laws today (although this foundation is under serious attack!)

**LESSON:**

God's people have been delivered from the hand of Pharaoh and have safely escaped the Egyptian army after God's miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea. But soon the children of Israel were grumbling and complaining. Even though God had promised to lead them to a beautiful land He had first promised to Abraham centuries before, it was becoming very apparent that the people had not forgotten the wicked ways of Egypt. They stilled sometimes even hungered after the Egyptian food and were very unthankful for the special food called manna that God provided for them each day. As they journeyed through the wilderness to Canaan land, they needed to be taught God's law for living.

One day, as the children of Israel were traveling through the wilderness, God summoned Moses to the top of Mount Sinai and there gave him the Ten Commandments. They were commandments (not suggestions) that God Himself wrote on stone tablets that would become the foundation of all of the laws that the children of Israel were to live by. It is important to understand that these were not laws that man wrote, they were laws that came directly from God. People who did not obey these commands were severely punished, sometimes paying for their disobedience with their own life. Whenever a man or woman broke one of these laws, he was guilty of breaking all of God's laws. (See James 2:10)

Failure to obey God's law is called sin. The ultimate penalty for sin is death. Do you know that what the Ten Commandments are? They can be found in Exodus 20. Let's look at them and see if there is anyone here who has kept all of the commandments. We are going to look at the first four commandments today which concern our relationship with God. The next six have to do with our relationship with each other.

**(For each of the following commandments, make it interactive and ask what the students think they mean, then clarify with the following explanations)**

**1. Commandment No. 1 says: "You shall have no other gods before Me."**

This means that there will be nothing more important in your life than God. Nothing, whatsoever! Not Nintendo or Xbox 360 or sports or friends or even family - - God is most important. Now, God doesn't say that you *can't* have these things and God certainly requires you to love and honor your parents, but if we make any of these things more important than God, we have broken the first commandment.

**2. Commandment No. 2 says: (vs. 4) "You shall not make for yourself a carved image."**

This commandment is speaking of idols. In Bible times idols were like small statues that were made out of stone or wood that people bowed down and worshipped. In different parts of the world today you can still find idols like the ones they worshipped in Bible times. But did you know it is possible to have an idol, even though it isn't made out of wood or stone? An idol can be anything you worship more than you worship God. What does worship mean? To worship means "*to revere and adore; to show great respect and honor toward*". This means that anything can become an idol: a toy, a car, a TV show, etc. If you watch or listen to a certain actor or musician over and over again, for instance, your behavior and mannerisms could start to look a lot like theirs. We need to be very careful and keep ourselves from idols lest we break this commandment.

**3. Commandment No. 3 says: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain."**

To take God's name in vain is to use the name "God", "Lord", "Jesus" in a disrespectful, careless way. Some people will even use His name in connection with a curse word. It could also mean using God's name in a prayer in an insincere, unbelieving way. Maybe you use His name in a way that sounds right but deep down you really don't care about God and you really don't believe in Him. That kind of usage of God's name would be breaking the third commandment.

**4. Commandment No. 4 says: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."**

In this commandment God is asking that we set aside one day of the week and honor God throughout that day as we rest and think about Him. Have you ever dedicated an entire day to God where you simply thought about the Lord and studied His Word?

**5. Commandment No. 5 says: "Honor your father and mother."**

Whenever we talk to our mother or father in a disrespectful way, we are breaking this commandment. We break this commandment when we disobey our parents and when we have a resentful, unthankful attitude towards them. What are ways that we can "honor" our parents?

**6. Commandment No. 6 says: "You shall not murder."**

Maybe you are thinking, "now there's one I have never broken", but Jesus says that if you have hatred in your heart toward someone you have broken this commandment. Have you ever told someone that you hate them? Have you even thought it in your heart? Watch out, because the Bible says you are guilty of murder.

**7. Commandment No. 7 says: "You shall not commit adultery."**

Adultery is a sexual relationship outside of being married. God forbids this kind of relationship outside of marriage. God created marriage to be a wonderful blessing for a man a woman. Jesus says that when we have wrongful desires in your heart toward a man or a woman and we don't do anything to stop it, we have broken this law.

**8. Commandment No. 8 says, "You shall not steal."**

This commandment isn't just speaking of robbing banks or breaking into someone's house to steal from it—it means taking anything that doesn't belong to you, even if it's just a penny or a piece of gum or someone's pencil. Even if you find something that is not yours, it doesn't mean that you can automatically keep it. Remember God sees everything that we do and if we have ever taken anything that is not ours, no matter how small, we have broken the eighth commandment.

**9. Commandment No. 9 says, "You shall not bear false witness."**

This commandment simply means we are never to lie. Often one lie will lead to many lies. In God's eyes there is no such thing as a white lie and a black lie—a lie is a lie, and anytime we tell a lie we have broken the ninth commandment.

**10. Commandment No. 10 says: "You shall not covet."**

To covet is to want something that someone else has. Breaking this commandment has caused people to kill for something as trivial as a coat or tennis shoes. Coveting has actually started wars that have killed millions of people. God wants us to be thankful for all He has given us. It's not wrong to want something, but if we want something someone else has and we scheme and plot to get it, we have broken the tenth commandment.

Now you have all the commandments and what they really mean, is there anyone here who has never broken any of the commandments? The Bible says "all have sinned". Jesus knew that we were all condemned under the law. That is why He was obedient to His Father and came to earth to die for us. For every commandment we have broken, Jesus has already paid the penalty with His life. Jesus died for us because He loves us and doesn't want us to pay the penalty when He has already paid it. Ask Him to forgive you and come into your heart and to help you to do those things which make Him happy. He promises that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

**MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 20:1-17 (*worth 2 verses!*)**

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image.

You shall not take the Name of the Lord Your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

Honor your Father and Mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet.