

Lesson 1

The Wonderful Name of God

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Exodus 3:7-17

MEMORY VERSE: “I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.”
Isaiah 43:11

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
Psalm 90:2b

CATECHISM: I am the LORD thy God.

Reference: Part I: The Ten Commandments, The introduction, page 3. This shows the connection to God’s Name being “I AM.”

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- know God’s name is “I AM.”
- know Jesus’ name is “I AM.”
- believe Jesus is God.

MATERIALS: A Catechism, Bibles, name tags, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: When God meets Moses at the burning bush, He introduces Himself as if Moses already knows Him. Moses realizes he is in God’s presence and is, understandably, afraid. God tells Moses he is to lead the children of Israel out of slavery. Moses said, “What if the people ask me your name? What do I tell them?” God told Moses His name is “I AM.” “I am” means “GOD is” and “I will be what I will be.” Written down, it would be “Yahweh,” the name of the covenant God. God said “This is my name forever.”

God always is. God redeems and saves. He does not change.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What do you know about God? What does our lesson tell us about God? Is Jesus God? What did Jesus, who is also God do when He was here on earth. Why is what he did for us important?

ACTIVITY 1: Fill in the blank activity. The first section focuses on descriptors of who God is, the second section tell us who Jesus is and the last section is fill in from the Memory Verse.

ACTIVITY 2: A drawing activity about God’s saving work, four frames Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus saves, Jesus gives me eternal life

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Rejoice in the opportunity to serve the Lord by teaching the Ten Commandments.
Pray that each child may gain important insights about God through the lesson.
Remember specific prayers for each child throughout the week.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless these children.
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

The revelation of God to Moses at the burning bush is one of the most striking events in the Bible, and it is fundamental to an understanding of God by Moses, Israel, or any other people. Here we meet the God who is “I AM.”

After the opening words (3:1-5), God introduces Himself as though He is already known. He says, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (3-6). Moses knows this God and he hides his face in fear.

After being given instructions to deliver the people from Egypt, Moses inquires more into the nature of God. His concern in verse 13 is typical of how we relate to people. Moses says, “If they ask me about Your name, what shall I say?” The people would know God as Moses did, as the “God of their fathers.” When Moses asks “What is His name? What shall I say to them?”, he is inquiring into the meaning of the name and character of God. He wants to know more of the nature of God: What is God like? And God simply replies (3:14), “I AM.” The words might sound simple, but that “name” is the most absolute, all-encompassing expression of existence, of “being” that is beyond our understanding. When speaking in Athens Paul introduces the people to their “unknown god” as the One “in Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28).

The name “I AM” technically is not a name, or a noun. It is a verb form which simply says, “God is.” It would be written out as “Yahweh,” the name of the covenant God. When God explains to Moses who He is, He is merely saying, “I will be as I will be.” Or, “I exist, I am.” It is a statement of God’s almighty presence and power with His people in their deliverance, as well as in their life. He also says, “This is My name forever... to all generations” (3:15). What God is, He always will be, because He does not change.

In Hebrew, a person’s name is descriptive of his character. To know God’s name is to know who God is, to know His nature and character. The name is the person and that’s why God’s name is so important to Him and His people (Second Commandment).

God is “Yahweh,” the covenant God. In most Bible texts the name is written as “LORD,” with small capitals. But as God is, so shall His people be, and that is the basis for the moral law and the call to holiness of the covenant people. God introduces His Commandments with that statement, “I am the LORD thy God” (Exodus 20:2).

From this time on the name “Yahweh” would mean all that the name “Jesus” means for the New Testament people of God. God “saved” or delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus delivers or redeems us from sin and eternal death and judgment. The fulfillment of God’s act of redemption of His people through Moses now includes all people (Jn 3:16). Jesus, who is also eternal God, was “begotten [brought forth] of the Father” by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary. His name will be “IMMANUEL,” which means “GOD WITH US” (Mt 1:23).

Jesus Himself was clear on who He was when He said, “before Abraham was born, I AM.” (Jn 8:58), and “I and the Father are one” (Jn 10:30). For this the Jewish leaders tried to stone Him and later crucified Him because of His blasphemy of claiming to be God.

For the Hebrews to say “Yahweh” was to be reminded of the exodus out of Egypt, their redemption and salvation. For the Christian to say “Jesus” is to be reminded of the cross and deliverance from sin and death.

Learn the New Words

Promised Land: the land promised to Abraham by God; Canaan

reveal: to show

real: true, not make-believe or imaginary

eternal: never ending, goes on and on and never stops, forever

power: mighty strength, control

Savior: one who saves, rescues, or delivers

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet and welcome the children as they arrive.

Suggested prayer: Thank you, God, for your very special name that teaches us who you are. Thank you for your power and love. Help us to learn how you want us to live. Help us to love you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SHARING: Ask the students if they know if their name has a meaning.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me” (Isaiah 43:11).

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask: Do you remember the name tags I gave you? Wouldn't we have been surprised if someone's name tag read, "I AM"? We might think, "What a different name? I wonder what it means. God's name means something very wonderful. Let's listen and read very carefully to find out what God's name means. Read from the Bible Exodus 3:13, 14 and John 8:58. God called Himself "I AM!" (Write "I AM" on the blackboard).

Read the Lesson

As you pass out the lesson sheets draw the students attention to the top of the lesson, we will be studying the Ten Commandments. Show the Students the Luther's Small Catechism, pointing out the section on the Ten Commandments. We will be learning about each Commandment this year but today our lesson will focus on who God is.

Teacher read the opening paragraph. **Ask:** **Why is it important to know someone's name?** (*so people can be friends*).

Move on to the next paragraph. Encourage students to read if they are comfortable reading out loud. Refer the students back to Exodus 3:1-7. Read these verses aloud. This sets the scene for God's conversation with Moses. Talk about this event; God appears as a fire but does not burn up the bush. God speaks from the fire. God instructs Moses to stand back, the ground was holy because God was there. God tells Moses He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Move on to the next paragraph reading it aloud. What can we learn about God? Possibly have the student underline the words that tell us about God; real, alive, eternal, power, Savior.

Move on to the next paragraph reading it aloud. **Ask: Who called Himself "I AM?"** (*Jesus*) **Ask: Does this mean Jesus is great and powerful too?** (*yes*) **How did Jesus show us his power?** *He died for our sins and rose again.* He saves us from our sins. He forgives

us of our sin so we can live forever with Him in heaven.

Because Jesus is God he could pay for our sins. When we confess our sins, He forgives the sins and gives us peace that we have eternal life, a life forever with Jesus

Repeat the Memory Verse

"I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me." Isaiah 43:11

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What Does God's Name Teach About God?

Activity 1

Fill in the blank activity. The first section focuses on descriptors of who God is, the second section tell us who Jesus is and the last section is fill in from the Memory Verse.

WHAT DOES GOD'S NAME TEACH ABOUT GOD?

Activity 1

1. Find words in the lesson that describe God and Jesus the Son of God.
Hint: Counting the blanks and letters may help you.

I _ A _ M _
R _ E _ A _ L _
A _ L _ I _ V _ E _
E _ T _ E _ R _ N _ A _ L _
P _ O _ W _ E _ R _ over all things.
S _ A _ V _ I _ O _ R _
L _ O _ R _ D _

Can you explain what each word means?

2. Complete these sentences:
J _ E _ S _ U _ S _ IS G _ O _ D _.
J _ E _ S _ U _ S _ IS L _ O _ R _ D _.

3. Fill in the missing words from your memory verse:
"I, even I, am the _____ LORD _____, and there is no
_____ SAVIOR _____ besides _____ ME _____." Isaiah 43:11

LORD

Jesus Is Savior! Jesus Is Lord!

Activity 2

A drawing activity about God's saving work, four frames Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus saves, Jesus gives me eternal life. It may be harder for the students to decide what to draw, and may require some suggestions from the teacher or student discussion.

Activity 2
JESUS IS SAVIOR! JESUS IS LORD!
Draw a picture in each box, telling about Jesus the Savior.

Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world.

Jesus rose again from the grave.

Jesus saves me from my sin.

Jesus gives me eternal life.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I believe in You. Thank you, Lord, for being my Savior!

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

50 Ambassador Hymnal “O God Our Help In Ages Past” verse 1 and 4
“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

A matching activity to expand on the attributes of God, Creator: Genesis 1:1, Shepherd Psalm 23: 1, Holy, Loving, Merciful, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Faithful

Lesson 2

Good News

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 2:15-17 and Genesis 3:1-24

MEMORY VERSE: “I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.”
Isaiah 43:11

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments: I am the LORD thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- know God loves us.
- understand we are all born sinners.
- believe when we tell God we are sorry for our sins, He forgives us through His Son, Jesus.

MATERIALS: Bible, Student lessons, Activity Pages, AFLC Luther’s Small Catechism and Explanation

LESSON OVERVIEW: God loves us and, because He loves us, He gave us laws to live by. The Bible passage focuses on Adam and Eve, the first law given to them and their disobedience. Because of their disobedience we are all born Sinners. God still loved Adam and Eve and He loves us as well. God had a plan. He promised to send Jesus, His Son to die on the cross to take our punishment for our sins. God forgives us when we confess our sins.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Do you know any of God’s laws? God had laws from the time he created the world and Adam and Eve. What law did God give Adam and Eve? 2) If you break the rules in your family or at school are you punished? How did God deal with Adam and Eve? 3) Can we be forgiven if we do our best? 4) T: What was God’s plan?

ACTIVITY 1: Matching activity centered on vocabulary words in the lesson; tempted, promise, blame, disobey, Gospel, instead, forgiveness, punished, sin, baptized, inherit, law.

ACTIVITY 2: Identifying statements as disobeying God’s Law or Gospel, Good News. Statements are given and the student must put a DL for disobeying God’s Law and GN for Good news in front of each statement.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read Psalm 119 in which David tells about his wonder at the beauty of the Law.

Ask God to help you see wonderful things in His Law and to share them with your class.

Read what the Catechism has to say about the Law and the Gospel.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray and trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you as you prepare the lesson.
- Pray to be able to share Christ's love with each child in your class this year.
- Remember each child in prayer during the week as you prepare.

Bible Background

Genesis 2:15-17 (Gen 3)

When God had finished the work of creation, He pronounced it "very good" (Gen 1:31). Then God planted a garden in the east, in Eden (2:8) and placed the man in the garden to care for it (2:15). The "placing" here (2:15) indicates that God gave the man a place of peace and rest in what was meant to be a permanent dwelling place. The man was to be a caretaker in the garden, and that "work" was meant to be a pleasure, not a punishment. Work became a hardship only after the fall into sin (3:17-19).

God told the man that "from any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die" (2:16,17). These words revealed to the man the limits of God's will and the result of disobedience. This statement was the first of God's laws to man. By transgressing this law man would forfeit God's favor and lose the image of God. Man would now begin to create, serve and worship gods of his own making (Rom 1:25).

All this came to pass when Eve was tempted by the devil to eat of the forbidden fruit, and then she gave it to Adam, who also ate it (Gen 3:6). Their disobedience to God's law separated them from God. Now no longer in fellowship with God, they were ashamed and tried to cover themselves and hide from Him (3:7,8). Their sin brought a curse on all creation, and labor now became a burden for man (3:17-19).

But even in the midst of the curse was a promise of redemption, a promise of grace greater than our sin. There would be conflict between the descendant of the woman and descendant of the devil but the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head (3:15). This verse is seen as the first mention of the Gospel and clearly points to Christ and his defeat of Satan on the cross.

As a further testimony of God's grace, He clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins (3:21). This verse is never mentioned as messianic or redemptive anywhere in the Bible, but the skins would remind them that only God can cover our sin and shame (3:7). These words remind us that God's "covering" our sin would require death and the shedding of blood. The seed of the woman would be the One to die and shed His blood on the cross to redeem us from sin, death and the devil.

Peter wants us to know that "you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18,19). Therefore, "put on the Lord Jesus

Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Rom 13:14). Because “all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Gal 3:27).

Learn the New Words

Satan: the chief evil spirit, the great enemy of God

tempted: leading someone to do wrong

sin: when we think, say or do something wrong (also discuss somewhere in TM “sinned” and “sinners” and talk about original sin—we all inherit sin and are born with sin)

punished: what happens to us when we disobey

inherit: to born like a parent or an older person in your family

instead: in the place of something or someone else

blame: guilt or responsibility

gospel: good news that Jesus died to save us from our sins

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children warmly as they arrive. Pray God’s blessing on each student. Pray that everyone will understand the lesson.

Give the students an opportunity to share something about themselves.

Review

Review God’s name that we learned last week. Ask what they remember from the lesson--real, alive, eternal, powerful, loving. Connect God the Father and God the Son as both “I AM.”

Memory

Review the Memory verse with the students together. Remember the appendix of tools to help with Memory work.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Engage the students to talk about rules in their family or in their school. There are no right or wrong answers in this question but this allows children to engage with you.

Read the Lesson

Read yourself or have a student volunteer to read the first paragraph of the lesson. Our parents have rules for their children because they love them and want them to be safe and successful in life. God had laws from the time he created the world.

Help the children find Genesis 2:15-17. Have one of the children read these verses.

Make the connection that God really said this, this is His Word. God said they would die if they ate of this tree. Satan came to Eve and persuaded her through a lie to disobey God's law and Adam also disobeyed God's one law. Because they disobeyed they were punished, they would not live forever, they would die. Sin has consequences.

If you break the rules in your family or at school, are you punished? *Allow them to give examples.* Children will probably give examples, have to stay home from an event, have to clean their room, have to do more chores. **A follow-up question might be do your parents still love you even though they have to punish you?** God still loved Adam and Eve and gave them a promise, a way to be forgiven and obtain eternal life.

Read the next paragraph. I would explain the idea of inheriting sin from Adam like inheriting blue eyes or curly hair from parents, maybe this is too simple but it is not something we can choose, it just is, just as we inherited sin from Adam. That means we are all sinners, we sin daily and need forgiveness daily.

God is totally different from humans. **Ask How God is different?** *Students may not know God is holy. He is without sin.* He cannot sin and does not sin. God hates sin. Disobeying His laws is sin. God's Law shows us our sin and how much we need Jesus to be our Savior. Even if we try our hardest, we cannot be forgiven by trying to follow God's Law. **What if we do our very best?** *The answer is no.* But God had a plan so we could be forgiven. **Does anyone know what God's plan was? What did He promise Adam and Eve?** Draw attention to paragraph 2.

Read the next paragraph. This is God's plan. Emphasize that we ALL can be forgiven when we confess our sins to God. Wonderful good news we can be forgiven and know that we can have eternal life in heaven with God forever, **can you remember what we can't do by ourselves?** *We can't keep God's laws perfectly.* **What should we do when we do something wrong?** *We can confess our sin and ask God to forgive us. He will.*

Some children in your class may not have been baptized. If a child asks about baptism

refer them to an elder or pastor in the church and to talk to their parents about baptism. You could speak with the pastor about this child as well.

Study the Catechism

Have the students look at the top of the first page of the lesson.

This year we will be studying the Ten Commandments. Make sure each student has a catechism, and help them locate page 33 of the catechism and the questions of the day,

#11 What is the Law?

The law is the divine word telling us what to do.

and on the next page:

#12 What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news of the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Review Memory Work

"I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me." Isaiah 43:11

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What Does This Mean?

Activity 1

Matching words from the lesson with their meanings. Complete the activity by having the student write what they learned from the lesson.

Activity 1
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Draw a line matching each word with the correct phrase.

Words in circles: tempted, promise, blame, disobey, instead, sin, punished, baptized, inherit, forgiveness, law, Gospel.

Phrases:

1. good news
2. become a child of God by water and the Word of God
3. act of forgiving, letting go of anger
4. receive from a parent or ancestor
5. led to sin
6. in place of, as a substitute
7. to find fault with someone
8. to not do what we are told to do
9. rule to live by
10. a pledge that something will happen
11. made to suffer or pay for doing wrong
12. disobey God

Using one or more words above and some of your own words, write a sentence telling what you learned in the Bible lesson.

God's Law and Gospel?

Activity 2

Identifying statements as disobeying God's Law or Gospel, Good News. Statements are given, and the student must put a DL for disobeying God's Law and GN for Good News in front of each statement.

Activity 2
GOD'S LAW AND GOSPEL

LAW
Something we must do

GOSPEL
Good news of what God has done

Write DL in front of the statements that show disobeying God's Law.
Write GN in front of the statements that are Good News or Gospel.

DL 1. I do not always do what I know I should do.
DL 2. I sometimes do what I know I should not do.
GN 3. Jesus loves me.
DL 4. I said things about my friend that were not true.
GN 5. Jesus died on the cross for us.
GN 6. Jesus took the blame for my sin.
DL 7. I do not always obey my parents.
DL 8. I took candy from a store, and I did not pay for it.
GN 9. God hears our prayers.
GN 10. When we are baptized, we receive God's gift of forgiveness of sins.
DL 11. Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
GN 12. God gave the promise that Jesus the Savior would come.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for all the laws that keep us safe. Thank you for your commandments in the Bible that show me my sin. Thank you for loving me and dying on the cross to take away my sins. Help me to remember you this week, In your holy Name, Amen.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 3

The Lord Saves His People

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Exodus 2:23-25, 14:5-31

MEMORY VERSE: “I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.”
Isaiah 43:11

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: But Moses said to the People, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today.” Exodus 14:13a

CATECHISM: I am the LORD thy God.

Reference: Part I: The Ten Commandments, The introduction, page 3.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- Know there is no other god like the LORD
- Trust that God hears the cries of His people
- Understand God delivers His people

MATERIALS: A Catechism, Bibles, name tags, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson focus is on the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Life had become hard, the people were treated like slaves and Pharaoh had issued an order that all the Israelites’ baby boys were to be killed. The Israelites began to cry out to God for deliverance. God heard their cries. He called Moses and his brother Aaron to plead with Pharaoh to let the Israelites go but he would not listen. God sent 10 plagues on the land of Egypt before Pharaoh let the Israelites go. They left and journeyed towards the Red Sea. But as they journeyed, Pharaoh changed his mind and came after them. They found themselves trapped between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea. God again provided for them through a great miracle.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How did the Israelites come to live in Egypt? (This is not in the lesson but is important for that activity in the lesson.) What was life like for the Israelites in Egypt? Because of their troubles, what did they do? What did God do to free the Israelites? How did God demonstrate His power to the Israelites and the Egyptians?

ACTIVITY 1: The activity is a drawing activity or sentence completion to depict how God provided and protected His people, the Israelites. The activity starts with history that is not included in the text of the lesson. As the teacher you can review this history about Joseph, about Jacob coming to Egypt, and about settling in Goshen in Genesis 37-50.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Review the history contained in Genesis 37-50. Remember that God caused the famine that took Jacob's family to Egypt and provided for them through Joseph's relationship with God and his trust in God even in difficult circumstances.

Be encouraged that God is still in control of our world, He knows our daily needs and He hears us when we call upon Him

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for His care for you and each student in your class
- Pray for the needs of each student in your class
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

Bible text: Exodus 2:23-25; 14:5-31

Like Abraham, Moses was also a “stranger” in this world. He spent the first 40 years of his life “at home” in Egypt, raised as a son of the Pharaoh. After murdering an Egyptian while defending a fellow Jew, Moses fled for his life and spent the next 40 years in Midian (Saudi Arabia). During these years God prepared Moses to be the servant-shepherd who would lead God's people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in Canaan.

Egypt prepared Moses as a scholar, a gentleman, a statesman, and a soldier, all of which would be of use to him later. But he lacked the one thing which the court of Egypt could not provide for him. In Midian, Moses learned to be alone with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — a God who was compassionate, gracious and forgiving. In Midian, he grew in the grace of God and learned to reject the “pleasures of sin” (Heb. 11:25) which Egypt provided so abundantly. In Midian, Moses kept the flock of his father-in-law, and his life as a shepherd prepared him for the years of hardship in leading a quarrelsome and stubborn people. Moses needed to know that God would be with him and that he must trust God to make him an effective leader.

Moses' leadership was evident as he confronted the Pharaoh, asking him to “Let my people go.” His leadership was evident during the plagues as God demonstrated His power against the gods of Egypt. And Moses was able to lead three million people to prepare and assemble and move out of Egypt and cross the Sinai Peninsula to the Red Sea.

Pharaoh and his people had endured the plagues. The last plague had taken Pharaoh's son (12:30), and in despair he let the people to go (12:32). Then God hardened Pharaoh's heart again (14:4) and Pharaoh realized his “mistake.” He said to his servants “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him” (14:5,6). He pursued the Israelites and reached them when they were by the Red Sea (14:6-9).

God led the people across the Sinai Peninsula to the Red Sea. For about the last twenty miles on the eastern side of the Peninsula, the people traveled through an area of low hills and mountains and valleys. The hills end abruptly and the people came out on a large open “beach” area stretching about five miles along the shore of the Red Sea. The Egyptian army followed the same route and the people saw the army about to come out of the hills and onto the beach. Then “The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of Egypt

and the camp of Israel” (14:19,20). Even today, the stones and rocks and sand in that spot are melted and fused together from the heat of a great fire.

Moses had learned to trust God; he was a man of faith who knew that Pharaoh’s army was no threat to God. The people, of course, were terrified when they saw the enemy so near. They doubted Moses, they questioned God, they grumbled and panicked. “But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent” (14:13,14).

Then Moses stretched out his hand and God parted the waters (14:21-22). When the Egyptian army tried to follow, Moses stretched out his hand again and the waters returned, destroying Pharaoh’s entire army (14:23-29). “When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses” (14:31).

Across the floor of the Red Sea today are remains of Egyptian chariots, mostly axels and wheels encrusted with coral. Some of the wheels have four spokes overlaid with gold. It is believed that these are some of the “six hundred select chariots” (14:3).

About 400 years later King Solomon erected two plain granite columns, one on each side of the Red Sea, to commemorate the crossing. Solomon's sea port was at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba at Eloth (I Kings 9:26), and he was very familiar with the Red Sea crossing site, as it was in his neighborhood. Each column was inscribed with the Hebrew words Mizram (Egypt), death, water, pharaoh, Edom, Yahweh, and Solomon. One column still stands on the western shore of the Red Sea.

Why did God provide these miracles for the Jewish people? Mainly because He was keeping His promise that He would deliver Israel from Egypt and bring them to the Promised Land (Ex 3:7-8). In years to come pious Jews would measure everything by the demonstration of God’s power at the Exodus. These miracles also demonstrated to Israel and the world the awesome power and saving grace of the one true God. Perhaps an even greater miracle is the evidence that is still there for the world to see. And seeing, to believe.

Learn the New Words

pharaoh: the title of the ruler in Egypt

deliver: to free someone from a bad situation, to rescue someone

swarms: a great number of things that move together in a tight knit group, bees or gnats can move like this.

livestock: farm animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats.

salvation: the act of saving, rescuing, or delivering from harm or death.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet and welcome the children as they arrive. Suggested prayer: Thank you God that we know you care for us, you are with us in good times and bad times. God we know you are in control of everything in our world. You are always available to listen to us.

SHARING: Ask the students about a time they were afraid. Think about an event where you

were afraid that you could share with the students.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse together,

“I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.” Isaiah 43:11.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Remind the students that we are going to study the Ten Commandments but before we learn about each of them, we need to know how the story of the Ten Commandments begins.

The people of Israel were called God’s chosen people. This family began with Abraham. When this family was about 70 people they moved to Egypt. They moved to Egypt to find food because there was a famine in their land. The Pharaoh was kind to them. After living there for 400 hundred years the family had grown to about 2 million people. Now there was a new Pharaoh and he was afraid they would try to take over his country.

Read the Lesson

Read the first two paragraphs of the lesson. Encourage students to read if they volunteer. **Because their life was so hard what did the people do?** (*cry out to God*)

How did God respond? *He sent Moses and Aaron. God had plans to deliver them.* Pharaoh did not listen to Moses and Aaron. Read the next paragraph to see what God did next. (Note: beginning with the fourth plague of gnats God protected the Israelites who all lived in Goshen so the last plagues did not affect them only the Egyptians.

Read the next paragraph. **What did God do that caused Pharaoh to let the people of**

Israel go? *He killed their oldest child.* The Israelites set out on the journey to return to the land that God had promised Abraham. Not long after Pharaoh changed his mind, he wanted his slaves back. **What did he do?** *He sent the army after them.*

How did the Israelites respond? *They were afraid, they were trapped between the Red Sea and the army.*

If time permits read the account from the scripture beginning at Exodus 14:13 to 31.

Read the last paragraph. Have the students underline this paragraph.

God saved them; God demonstrated that there is no one like our God.

The people sang this song to God after he saved them. (Exodus 15:2a) This story was told and retold for generations of God’s salvation to the Israelites at the Red Sea. In our first lesson we learned that Jesus is God and He is our Savior, saving us from our sins just like God saved the Israelites.

Review the Catechism section

I am the LORD thy God.

Repeat the Memory Verse

“I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.” Isaiah 43:11

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Out of Egypt

Activity 1

There is only one activity for this lesson. It requires drawing pictures in some boxes and sentence completion in two sections. The

activity will allow the students to retell the story. The activity starts with history that is not included in the text of the lesson. As the teacher you can review this history about Joseph, about Jacob coming to Egypt, and about settling in Goshen in Genesis 37-50.

Activity 1
OUT OF EGYPT
Draw pictures or write words to match the story lines.

1. God's people lived in Egypt more than 400 years. At first they were a family of about 70 people. They came to Egypt to find food because there was a famine in the land. What food do you think they found?

2. The pharaoh was kind to them. But those 70 people had children and grand-children and great-grandchildren. Now there were more than 2 million of them. Draw the growing family of God's people.

3. Pharaoh became afraid. He made them work long, hard days at jobs they did not like. Then Pharaoh tried to kill all their baby boys. Draw the people working hard.

4. God sent Moses and Aaron to talk to Pharaoh. What did they say? Write it here.

5. Pharaoh did not listen. God sent frogs and insects and hail and fire. Draw one of these things.

6. Finally, Pharaoh let them go. When the people got to the sea, Moses said, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord." What did God do?

7. Pharaoh and his army started chasing the people. But Moses and God's people walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. What do you think that looked like?

8. When Pharaoh's army followed, God let go of the water. Pharaoh's army drowned. The Lord saved His people. Write the missing words. God showed the people there is no one like

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Close with prayer, allowing students to share concerns and thanksgivings. Allow students to pray if they would like.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW7PH8Csg0U>

Song to go with Miriam's Song in Exodus 15.

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Create a simple family tree of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's children. If the teacher creates this, it could also be used in the Lesson 9. Students could also create their own family tree.

Lesson 4

God Gives Us the Ten Commandments

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Exodus 20:1-17

MEMORY VERSE: “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You.”
I Chronicles 17:20a

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might.” Jeremiah 10:6

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments: I am the Lord thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- know there is no god like the Lord our God.
- believe God gave us the Ten Commandments because He loves us.
- understand God’s people are His treasured possession.

MATERIALS: Bible, Catechism, lessons, activity sheets picture of Moses with stone tablets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson is vivid and visual. As you teach, you can help the students imagine seeing, hearing, and feeling what the people experienced as God Himself descended to the mountain. There was fire, smoke and a loud trumpet blast. The people trembled, even the mountain trembled. God had come to give His Law. His people were to be respectful and reverent as they waited at the foot of Mount Sinai. Only Moses and Aaron went up the mountain.

Exodus 20:1-17 records God’s words – words we call the Ten Commandments. God gave them these commandments so they would know how to live as His “treasured possession”. As the people lived in obedience to God’s commandments, they would be an example to the nations around them. Their lives would be a testimony to the greatness of the Lord God.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What did God do at Mt Sinai.? How did the people react? What did God call Moses to do? Who wrote the Ten Commandments? Why did God give the people the Ten Commandments? 4) Do you know why we need the Ten Commandments?

ACTIVITY 1: Sentence completion from information in the lesson. This might be time consuming as there is no word box for the children to choose from.

ACTIVITY 2: Catechism Maze, follow the path and then fill the letters into the lines below.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read Exodus 19 and 20 Pray that each child will gain insight about God who loves us and gave us/His people the Ten Commandments as a gift.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for God's guidance as you study the lesson.
- Pray that the students will understand that the commandments were given so we might live to bring glory to God.

Bible Background

Exodus 19 and 20 - God Gives the Ten Commandments

The people of Israel had already experienced God's mercies (sparing or rescuing from greater harm). The plagues on Egypt usually included Israel, but the land of Goshen and Israel were specifically spared from some of the plagues (flies, 8:22; pestilence, 9:4; hail, 9:26, and darkness, 10:23). During the last plague, God would "strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt" (12:12). But God promised that the blood of the Passover lamb would be a sign on the houses, "and when I see the blood I will Passover you, and no plague shall befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt" (12:13). God's grace (giving what isn't deserve) preserved life to those under the blood—including the Egyptians (12:29). These people, as we would say today, were delivered by grace alone through faith alone in God's Word alone. From the Red Sea to Sinai God also graciously supplied them with water (15:27), bread and meat (16:12).

Exodus 19 emphasizes the sanctity of the nation as a holy people of God. Washing their garments marked a new beginning, from dirty to clean (19:10). Staying away from the mountain was a matter of life or death, for they needed to know that they were on "holy ground" in the presence of God (19:12,13). The storm was a sign of the awesome power of God and the people trembled (19:16). This God was to be feared above all gods.

But the people needed something more. How were they to now live a life of holiness in all their thoughts, words and deeds? For that they needed the Law, a moral compass or structure which would show them how to live; it would reveal their sin and keep them a humble and repentant people.

Freedom without moral order leads to anarchy, and moral authority must come from a moral "Law Giver" outside ourselves. The Law (Ten Commandments) defines how the people were live as a holy nation under God. It caused the nations around them to see how God protected and cared for His people. The Law would demonstrate to the other nations how the people loved and cared for one another. The people would be a light to the nations around them to point to the truth that there is no other God like the God of the Israelites'

When asked about the great commandment in the Law (Matt 22:37-40), Jesus said, "'You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

The foundation for this moral law, and of first importance, was to honor the Law Giver and have no other gods or idols before Him (Ex 20:3). In the same way they must respect and honor God's name

(I AM) and not profane it (20:7). And they were to keep the Sabbath day holy as a time to receive God's word as holy and "gladly hear and learn it."

Learning to love God they would then love their neighbor, and this began by honoring their parents as God's representatives in the home (20:12). They were to respect life as sacred and not murder or sacrifice human life to false gods (20:13). Marriage was to be sacred bond between a man and woman (20:14). There was to be no stealing, lying or coveting (20:15-17).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

commandments: laws or rules that help people know how to act

tablets: flat slabs of stone for writing on; God wrote the Ten Commandments on two pieces of stone.

treasured: Someone or something greatly loved and valued

possession: something that belongs to you

protected: watched over, kept safe

serve: live or act for the good of another

nations: countries, large groups of people who live together

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Post the visual aids of Moses with the Ten Commandments and the Stone Tablets written by God. Greet the children warmly as they arrive.

Take time to pray as you begin. Thank God for your Sunday school class. Thank Him for giving us the Bible to teach us about Jesus. Thank Him for each student, mentioning them by name. Pray that God would prepare our hearts to hear His Word.

SHARING: Allow the children to share something personal, maybe could be topical or a rule they have at home.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

““O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You. *I Chronicles 17:20a*”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Possible questions might be: What happened to God's people in Egypt? Who did God send? What did God do? What happened at the Red Sea?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

The Israelites have been walking and camping in the desert for about three months. God had been leading them, providing manna to feed them, water as they needed and they have arrived at Mt Sinai. This is the same mountain where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. Something big is about to happen.

Read the Lesson

Help the students visualize this event. The number of people that left Egypt was 622,000 men plus their families and all their animals. God said He was coming to the people in a thick cloud. God also set limits for how close the people could come to the mountain. Read the first paragraph of the lesson. God displayed His power in a mighty way, thunder, lightning, a thick cloud and a loud trumpet. God spoke to Moses and called him and Aaron to come up the mountain. Read the second paragraph. The people waited below while Moses was on the mountain for 40 days and nights. **What did God do while Moses was with him on the mountain?** We still have these 10 Commandments today and they are still important for us just like they were for the Israelites. *Stress what God did, creating stone tablets and writing on them Himself.*

Before Moses went up the mountain the people promised they would follow and obey God's commandments. Note Exodus 19:8 and again in Exodus 24:7. Help the students find Exodus 20 and read the first 17 verses. These were the Commandments God wrote for Moses to bring to the people.

Move on to the third paragraph. God loved His people. They were like a treasure to Him. Discuss the idea of treasured possession. The Ten Commandments were a wonderful gift to

the people to help them know what was right and wrong. The people promised they would follow and obey God's commandments.

The Ten Commandments would help the people know how to serve the LORD and how to treat each other.

Read Paragraph four. Other nations would see how God loved and took care of His people. When other nations saw all these things, they would say, "How great is the Lord their God! There is no god like their God." So the purpose of the Ten Commandments was not only for the people to live holy lives that would honor God but also an outward example to the nations around them, that there is no other God. Have the children underline the memory verse below. By their lives the people would be a light to other nations.

God's people because they were born sinful could not keep these Commandments perfectly even though they had promised to do so. God gave instructions for sacrifices for sin so they could be forgiven.

We are born sinful but because Jesus died for our sins our sins we can be forgiven as we confess our sins to Him. We become His treasured possession.

Catechism review

The Catechism section in this lesson is found on Page 3 of the AFLC Luther's Small Catechism. Draw the students' attention to Exodus 20:1-2. Note the Bible words in relation to the Catechism section. If time permits read through the Ten Commandments as found on pages 3-6 in the Catechism.

Repeat the Memory Verse

Remember the memory verse helps appendix. The second student activity might be used to teach the memory verse.

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 5

God Shows What Is Right and Good

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 119: 9-16

MEMORY VERSE: “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I
Chronicles 17: 20a

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were
realized through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments:

I am the Lord thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- know God gave us the Ten Commandments because He loves us.
- believe God gave us the Ten Commandments to lead us to Christ Jesus the Savior
- understand the Ten Commandments teach us how to live as God’s people

MATERIALS: Bibles, Catechism, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson uses the analogy of a puzzle or a rule book for a game. The Ten Commandments were given as a gift to God’s people like a rule book for a game or a picture to help one complete a puzzle so they could complete the puzzle accurately or play the game correctly. The scripture passage focuses on the importance of living lives that honor God. The lesson also makes clear that just like the Israelites, God’s people, did not keep God’s laws God never stopped loving them or forgiving them. The same is true for us today, the Ten Commandments are a gift to us as well and teach us how to love God and love others.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Why did God give the Ten Commandments to His people? God’s people failed to keep God’s laws, how did God respond to their failure? Are God’s laws important for us? What do they help us do?

ACTIVITY 1: Sentence completion with words displayed as puzzle pieces, 1 piece is used twice.

ACTIVITY 2: Identify statements as honoring God by drawing a heart around them or sinning against God by drawing a cross over the statement.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to accurately teach the balance between God's law, a wonderful gift to the Christian and God's grace and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ as we fail daily to walk in His ways.

Prayer Preparation

- Ask God to help you understand clearly the purpose for God's laws
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class
- Thank God for this great gift God gave us, help us to pray like that Psalmist

Bible Background

Psalm 119: 9-16

"The book of psalms has been and still is the irreplaceable devotional guide, prayer book and hymnal of God" (W. W. Wiersbe). The psalms make up a book of poetry with some designed to be sung by the temple choirs (Psalm 40 "For the choir director".) Some psalms are still sung as part of a worship service, and they are always a great source for devotional reading.

Psalm 119 is truly a monumental expression of David's "delight...in the law of the Lord." This is not limited to what we might call "the Law" as seen in the Ten Commandments. His theme is love of God's Word, but he uses eight different terms for that Word, each offering a different perspective, and it is useful to keep that in mind to have a richer understanding of the psalm.

Law: This is the primary word which means "teach" and includes the whole revelation of God's Law which is meant to be obeyed.

Testimonies: Israel was to place the book of the Law inside the ark of the covenant as a testimony to them of God's Word which is dependable and faithful and true. (Dt 31:26).

Precepts: This word is part of the language of an officer or overseer, a man who is responsible to look closely at a situation and take action.

Statutes: This word speaks of the binding force and permanent nature of Scripture, as laws "engraved" or inscribed forever.

Commandments: This word emphasizes the authority of what is said to give orders.

Ordinances: These are better known in the Old Testament as "judgments" the decisions of an all-wise judge.

Word: This is the most general term of all, embracing God's truth in any form stated, promised or commanded.

Promise: This is similar to "word" and often translated as such.

The Bible is not merely one long story or narrative, but is made up of different literary forms, such as poetry. Hebrew poetry does not rhyme, nor rely on rhyme. The lines the poem (2,3,4, or more) are intended to express some particular thought by matching or echoing one thought with another. This type of poetry actually works best in the process of translations (it's hard to translate rhymes).

Another feature of Psalm 119 is that it is an acrostic based on the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Most Bibles give that letter at the head of each section such as *Aleph, Beth, Gimel*, etc, and the first word in each couplet of the section begins with that letter. The psalm is noted for its high praise of God's Word, but that respect for the Word is enhanced even more by the time given to this thoughtful literary structure.

In Psalm 119:1 David states what should be obvious: "How blessed are those whose way is blameless." And in spite of his many faults and failures, he wanted to keep his way pure before the Lord (v.9).

But how is that even possible? His answer is "By keeping it according to your word" (v.9). The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and teaches us according to God's Word and so enables us to walk in it. One Bible teacher warned against being "man taught" instead of "God taught." This is a crucial point as we teach in our homes and churches. There are many materials that can be used when teaching God's Word, but we must carefully discern by which of them we are "God taught."

There are so many thoughts and ideas that want to claim our hearts today and we must be careful about what we "store up in our hearts." What we delight in, however, tends to stick. Storing up the Word in our hearts means regular attention to it in reading, studying and of course, memorizing. Much of what we memorize as children will be recalled late in life (when it is more difficult to memorize).

Whatever delights us will capture our attention and we will think about it and meditate on it. Loving the Word and meditating on it are bound together. Then we will delight in God's Word and will not forget it (v.16).

Learn the New Words

instructions: words explaining how to do something; directions

manual: a small book, which usually gives instructions

bless: show favor and goodness towards someone

honors: thinks highly of someone; treats with great respect

respects: shows proper behavior and manners towards someone

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let's begin with prayer to thank the Lord for this special day!

SHARING: Encourage the students to share a favorite game they enjoy playing. Do they enjoy putting together puzzles?

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

"O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you." I Chronicles 17: 20a

Since the lesson talks about puzzles possibly you might print the verse on a sheet of paper and make it into a puzzle the student can put together.

Review the Recent Lessons

Where did God lead the Israelites? How did God make the people know He was there? What

did God call Moses and Aaron to do? What did God give to them to take to the people?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Today we are going to continue to talk about the Ten Commandments that God wrote on the tablets of Stone. Let's read again Exodus 20:1-17 aloud.

Read the Lesson

Read the first paragraph, allowing students to read if they volunteer. Talk about some things that come with instructions, rules or pictures.

Read the second paragraph. Emphasize that the Ten Commandments were only given to God's people, not to any other nation or people around them.

Read the next paragraph. Again draw attention to the word gift, gifts are good. Most times people give gifts to people they love, people they care about. Underline the words "treasured possession" and make clear to students how special God thought the people were. The writer of our scripture text for this lesson clearly understood the value of the gift God gave His people, the gift of the Ten Commandments. Assist the students to find the scripture in their Bible and read the text aloud. For us God desires us to value this gift the same way today, each and every day of our lives.

Read the next paragraph. **How did God's people treat God's laws? Did God stop loving them? How did God show that He loved them when they did not keep His laws?**

Read the next paragraph. God's commandments are a gift for us too. **Do you think we can keep these commandments all the time?** *Sometimes we disobey God's commandments too. This is because we are born in sin in our hearts and we cannot perfectly keep the Ten Commandments. When we break God's laws we sin against God. But Jesus died on the cross for our sins so we can be forgiven. Jesus is our Savior. When you*

disobey God's commandments, confess your sin to God. He will be glad to forgive you. He will help you follow and obey His Commandments. Pray that God would help you love His Word and seek to keep His Laws to bring honor to God, that others may see that we love Jesus.

Read the Catechism: Introduction to the Ten Commandments

I am the Lord thy God. AFLC Luther's Small Catechism page 3

Repeat the Memory Verse

"O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Are You Puzzled?


Activity 1

Sentence completion with words displayed as puzzle pieces, 1 piece is used twice.




Activity 1

ARE YOU PUZZLED?

Find the correct words in the puzzle pieces to write in the boxes. One word will be used two times.



1. The Ten Commandments were a G I F T to God's people.
2. They showed God's people
 - they were His treasured possession.
 - how to H O N O R the LORD.
3. God promised to B L E S S His people if they obeyed His commandments.
4. God's people D I S O B E Y E D and did not keep God's commandments.
5. But God loved and F O R G A V E them.
6. The Ten Commandments show us
 - what is good and right.
 - how to H O N O R the LORD.
 - how to R E S P E C T our neighbors.
7. God gave the Ten Commandments because He loves and C A R E S for us.

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God's Commandments Show Us Our Sin

Activity 2


Identify statements as honoring God by drawing a heart around them or sinning against God by drawing a cross over the statement.

Activity 2


GOD'S COMMANDMENTS SHOW US OUR SIN

Do you always obey God's commandments? No, none of us do. Because we are born with sin in our hearts, we cannot perfectly keep them. When we break God's commandments, we sin against God. But Jesus died on the cross for our sin so that we can be forgiven.


Draw a heart around the ways we can honor God or serve our neighbor.
Draw a cross on the sins we need to confess to God.




1. Be kind.




2. Cheat on a test.




3. Read my Bible.




4. Share my toys.




5. Disobey my parents.




6. Pray to God.




7. Hit my classmate.



8. Tell a lie.



9. Help with chores.



10. Sing praises to God.

Do you believe Jesus is your Savior? When you disobey God's commandments, confess your sin to God. He will be happy to forgive you. God will help you follow and obey His commandments.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

One song that came to my mind as I was working on this lesson is “Thy Word is a lamp unto my Feet”

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 6

Loving God and Loving Others

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 22:36-40

MEMORY VERSE: “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “We love because He first loved us”
I John 4:19

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments:

I am the Lord thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know the Ten Commandments can be divided into two tables
- learn the First Table is about showing Love to God
- learn the Second Table is about showing love to our neighbors

MATERIALS: Bibles, Catechism, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson focusses on understanding the Ten Commandments as they are divided into two tables, one focusing on our love for God and the second in love for our neighbor.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What are some lists that we use in our life? What are the two divisions of the Ten Commandments? What are some ways we can show love to God? What are some ways we can show love to our neighbor?

ACTIVITY 1: A drawing activity or word list to illustrate the Two tables of the Law. If the students want to use words, they may need help with spelling. This may involve discussion about the discussion on ways to show love to God and love to our neighbor.

ACTIVITY 2: A code puzzle using our memory verse. Consider using this activity when working on the memory verse.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to accurately teach that the Ten Commandments teach how to love God and also love our neighbor which together covers every aspect of our lives.

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for the Law that shows us how to love God first and then our neighbor
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class
- Pray that the children will understand ways to show our love for God and then ways to show love for our neighbor

Bible Background

Matthew 22: 36-40

Following the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus began speaking about the Law (Mt 5:17-38). He is restoring what had been lost over the years in the oral teachings of the rabbis. The Jews gave preference to the Law delivered by word of mouth, and they preferred the traditions of the elders over the written Law of Moses.

Throughout those years of oral teaching they had gradually eased the true meaning of the Law as originally intended by God when He gave the Law at Mt Sinai. Jesus addresses each of the commandments by saying, ‘You have heard...’ (5:21,27,31,33,38,43). He is referring to what the people had heard from the rabbis over the centuries. The Jews of His day had in many ways become separated from the written scriptures, and relied on the oral teaching of the rabbis. During those many years the teachers had “relaxed” the true meaning of the Law so it would be easier for them to appear righteous. They could say “I have never literally murdered anyone or committed adultery, therefore I am righteous under the Law.” So Jesus says, “But I say to you...” (5:22,28,34,44) and goes on to explain the intent of the law, and that it really begins in the heart, in the thoughts. So if they even had thoughts of hatred or lust as he says, they—and all people—are guilty under the Law.

The Jews had also compiled a list of 613 commandments of Moses, including the first ten, and had organized them by category (such as Love and Brotherhood, The Poor and Unfortunate, Treatment of Gentiles, Marriage, Divorce and Family, Dietary Laws, Business Practices, etc.)

In trying to observe all 613 laws, it was natural to think of some as “greater” than others. Even when we look at the commandments today, we sometimes wonder “which one is greater than another?” This man was a lawyer (22:35), an expert in the laws of Moses. From this “legal” standpoint, he asks Jesus which of these was the “great commandment in the Law” (22:36).

There is no “greater” or “lesser” commandment. James says “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all” (James 2:10). Breaking the Law is ultimately a matter of disobedience and disrespect for God and his Word.

And that is what Jesus points out when He says “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment” (Mt 22:37-38).

Jesus said He came to fulfill the Law (Mt 5:17). He loved the Father with a perfect love and did everything in obedience to Him. And being without sin, He was able to keep the law perfectly for us. In union with Christ, we have died to the law of sin and death and have been raised up with Him. The law no longer has power over us. Now the Law “the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. (Gal 3:24). The Law continues to show the believer what the fruit of the Christian life should look like. When we fail to “live righteously,” as we always do, the Law points out our sin and drives us back to Christ. Then for the lawyer’s sake, Jesus added that “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Mt 22:39-40).

Paul says “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Rom 10:13). John explains this further in his epistle when he says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love....In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation(payment) for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 Jn 4:7-11). To “love one another” is a proof of God’s presence in His people.

Learn the New Words

table: a list of words to help us remember or understand them better

First Table of the Law: Commandments 1-3, which explain how we can show love to God

Second Table of the Law: Commandments 4-10, which show us how to love our neighbor

neighbor: a person who lives near us, but also all the people we know, and even all the people in the whole world

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let’s begin with prayer to thank the Lord for this special day!

SHARING: Ask students to share an example of someone showing love to another person this past week.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. The second activity in this lesson may work well for working on the memory verse.

Review the Recent Lessons

What was God’s gift to His chosen people?
Why did He give them this gift? *He loved them, called them His treasured possession. These rules would help them live their lives to honor God. Their lives would show the nations around them that there is no other God like the I AM God*

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Today we are going to talk about loving God and loving people.

Read the Lesson

Read the first two paragraphs. The Bible also has lists. Open a Bible to the very beginning pages. Do you see a list there? The List may be called "The Table of Contents" or "The Books of the Bible". This is a list of all the books of the Bible. It helps you know where each book is. The Bible also has other lists including a list of the disciples (Matthew 10:2-4). Galatians 5:22 has a list of "fruits of the Spirit" gifts from God to the believer.

Read the next paragraph. Help the students find the text in their Bible Read Matthew 22: 35-40 Note that Jesus was responding to a lawyer who asked Him which commandment was the greatest. The First table of the Law shows us how to love God. Have the students look at the Catechism, The first Three Commandments are about loving God.

What are some ways you can show love to God? If you have a white board in your class you could make a list of the students' answers. This may be helpful for the first student activity.

Read the next paragraph. **Who is our neighbor?** *Have students underline the last sentence of the paragraph.*

Read the next paragraph. Read Luke 6:31. **Ask students if they have heard of the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."** Discuss how this verse is the same as the Golden Rule. What are ways you can help people in your life. Again making a list on the white board may help with the first student activity.

Read the last paragraph.

Read the Catechism: Introduction to the Ten Commandments

I am the Lord thy God. AFLC Luther's Small Catechism page 3

Repeat the Memory Verse

"O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Make a List

Activity 1

A drawing activity or word list to illustrate the Two tables of the Law. If the students want to use words, they may need help with spelling. This may involve discussion about the discussion on ways to show love to God and love to our neighbor.

Activity 1
MAKE A LIST

Look at the two lists or tables. On the first table, write words or draw pictures that show love for God. On the second table, write words or draw pictures that show love for your neighbors.

1 Love God

2 Love others

Share your ideas with your classmates.

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Secret Code

Activity 2

A code puzzle using our memory verse. Consider using this activity when working on the memory verse.

Activity 2
SECRET CODE

A = ●	G = ◆	L = ☉	S = ☼
B = ★	H = ♥	N = ☒	T = ♠
D = ▲	I = ☼	O = ♪	U = ↑
F = ☞	K = ✕	R = ⚓	Y = ✨

O Lord, there is
none like you,
nor is there any
god besides you.

Where is this found in the Bible? _____

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 7

Fear God

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Acts 4:1-22

MEMORY VERSE: And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the earth stand in awe of Him. Psalm 33:8

CATECHISM: The First Commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know God loves us.
- trust that God will help us have childlike fear.
- understand God wants us to obey Him out of love for Him.

MATERIALS: Bibles, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The meaning of the First Commandment says, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” But every meaning of every Commandment begins with “we should fear and love God...” The Fear of the Lord is reverence and respect. This lesson is about the first of the three words: fear. The Bible story focuses on Peter and John as they were brought before the religious leaders and instructed not to teach about Jesus. The lesson helps to understand the difference between slavish fear and childlike fear.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Who were Peter and John teaching the people about? 2) How were Peter and John able to heal a man who could not walk? 3) Why did the leaders have Peter and John put into jail? 4) Why did Peter and John choose to obey God? What is slavish fear? What is childlike fear?

ACTIVITY 1: Sentence completion giving two options to choose from.

ACTIVITY 2: Two-part activity. First identify examples of childlike or slavish fear, secondly fill in the words that are found in the meaning of the First Commandment.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will help you be a person who fears God.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you and your students to fear, respect, and honor God, who is holy and just.

Prayer Preparation

- Ask God to help you meet the children's needs with His insights and grace.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to help you fear Him as a Father.
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

Acts 4:1-22 The Fear of the Lord

We think of the fear of the Lord as reverential trust, a reverence and trust that lead us to obey Him. Even more, the fear of the Lord is an awareness that God, just, holy and almighty, sees us and knows everything we think, say, and do. We will stand before God one day to give account of our lives and be judged. This should not make us afraid, but cause us to fear him like a child fears their father who loves them very much, but has a standard of behavior for them.

Just like children who know how their father expects them to behave, the fear of our Father is a restraining force. Without the fear of God, evil is not restrained. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 9:10 NIV). The fear of God restrains us as Christians too (Hebrews 10:26-29, 10:31, 12:28-29).

God's Law tells us how we should live. The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God toward sin. The Law drives us to Christ, who atoned for our sin. The fear of the Lord keeps us from evil (Proverbs 16:6).

The ungodly can fear God, but their fear is different from the fear of a child of God. Unbelievers can only fear God's wrath and judgment. This fear is slavish fear, fear of punishment. Children of God, living in the covenant of grace, will obey and fear God because they love Him. They don't want to hurt their Father, or sin against His love. They have child-like fear.

Peter and John demonstrate in this passage childlike fear of God. The disciples had been commanded to preach Christ, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). Jesus had also promised that He would be with them as they went out preaching Christ.

The authorities demanded that Peter and John not speak or teach in the name of Jesus contrary to what Jesus had commanded them. God also has commanded that we are to obey the government, for all authority is from God (Romans 13:1), but all human authority must yield to divine authority. The disciples were not being disrespectful. There are times that we must fear God rather than men. This was one of those times. Their answer (Acts 4:19,20) is designed to focus on this issue, that they knew they had to fear God first. Their fear of God led them to remain faithful to God's command to preach Christ.

The result of their obedience is recorded in Acts 4:23-35. “And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all” (v. 33). God provided for them and blessed them.

A child of God understands what it means to fear God. It is to trust Him, respect Him and therefore live in obedience to Him. Fear of God means living in daily repentance and enjoying the love of God. When we are aware of sin we flee for refuge to the infinite mercy of God in Christ. We know that the love of God in Jesus which has taken away sin and we find grace and forgiveness there. We also see God at work renewing and conforming us to Christ. As children of God, we fear and love Him as a Father.

Learn the New Words

childlike fear: showing love like for their father by honoring and obeying him.

slavish fear: fear of being punished or getting in trouble, like a slave fears a harsh master

master: a person who has authority and control over another person

slaves: unpaid workers, controlled by a master

commanded: ordered to do something

disciples: followers

released: let go, set free

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let’s begin with prayer to thank the Lord for this special day!

SHARING: Encourage the students to share an example of how they know their parents love them.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all

your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

How did the Ten Commandments come to be written? Who wrote them? Who were they given to? How are they divided? (love to God and love to our neighbor. Remind students that they are still valuable for us today as we love and serve God

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Today we are learning about the First Commandment, "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." We'll talk about the First Commandment for the next two weeks as well.

Read the Lesson

Read the first paragraph, allowing students to read if they volunteer. **Ask the students how they show love and respect for their parents.**

Read the second paragraph. Some of the students may have questions about slaves. Possible explanation: In the history of the world there have been times and places where people were bought by another person, this person owned them like land or livestock but they did not as Peter and John stood before the rulers who did not want them to talk about Jesus. Peter and John said to them love the slave. The slave did what their master ordered because they feared being punished, sometimes the punishments were very bad or they were even killed. If you have older children in a class human trafficking could come up, think about how you might respond to this.

Say: Today our lesson will help us understand childlike fear in our relationship with God which is more important than anything, remember the words we read, we should fear, love and trust in God above all things. We will meet Peter and John who were two of Jesus' disciples. This story comes after Jesus was crucified and risen from the dead, Help the students open their Bibles to Acts 4. Use the storytelling method to tell the story of Peter and John teaching about Jesus. The story is an exciting one and, if possible, would be better told than read from the book. After telling or reading the story talk about the story Discussion questions: **Who were Peter and John teaching the people about? They were teaching about Jesus and the message of salvation. How were they able to heal a man**

who couldn't walk? They could heal by the power of Jesus' Name. Why did the leaders have Peter and John put in jail? They did not want people to hear the message of salvation.

NOTE: The children may share other ideas. Accept those that correspond with the lesson.

Have one of the students read verses 19-20. Peter and John showed everyone that heard them that they feared, loved and trusted in God above everyone else. They would even risk punishment to share about Jesus. NOTE: Children may not be consistent in the reasons they obey their parents. At times, they want to please their parents, while at other times they will obey because they are afraid of being punished.

Even though the leaders threatened to punish the disciples, they obeyed God because they knew it was better to please God than to please people.

God can help us have childlike fear. When we have childlike fear, we love God so much that we want to do what is right. But because we are sinners, we sometimes disobey Him. We can tell God when we have done something wrong. We can pray to Him and ask for forgiveness. God our heavenly Father loves us and will forgive us. He will help us to fear and love Him.

Read the Catechism: The First Commandment

This can be found in Luther's Small catechism on pg 36. Questions 28, 29 and 30 on page 38 may be helpful as well.

Repeat the Memory Verse

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Take Time to Think

Activity 1

Sentence completion, giving two options to choose from.

Activity 1
TAKE TIME TO THINK

Read the first part of each sentence. Draw a line to the correct way to finish each sentence.

1. Peter and John were _____
 - followers of Jesus.
 - following the crowd.
2. Peter and John _____
 - went to the store.
 - were teaching about Jesus.
3. Peter and John healed a man _____
 - who could not see.
 - who could not walk.
4. Leaders were angry and _____
 - put Peter and John in jail.
 - put Peter and John in a boat.
5. The leaders commanded Peter and John _____
 - not to go to the temple to pray.
 - not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.
6. Peter and John _____
 - kept on speaking and teaching about Jesus.
 - quit speaking and teaching about Jesus.
7. Peter and John knew Jesus wanted them _____
 - to quit speaking and teaching.
 - to tell others about Him.
8. Peter and John had _____
 - slavish fear of God.
 - childlike fear of God.

R Read the story with the correct answers. Then retell the story in your own words.

Slavish Fear or Childlike Fear?

Activity 2

Two-part activity. First, identify examples of childlike or slavish fear. Secondly, fill in the words that are found in the meaning of the First Commandment.

Activity 2
SLAVISH FEAR OR CHILDLIKE FEAR

What kind of fear fits with each sentence? Label each one correctly.

1. Afraid of getting into trouble. slavish fear
2. Respecting my parents. childlike fear
3. Afraid of being punished. slavish fear
4. Wanting to honor someone I love. childlike fear
5. Wanting to obey leaders. childlike fear

God can help us have childlike fear. When we have childlike fear, we love God so much that we want to do what is right. But because we are sinners, we sometimes disobey Him. We can tell God when we have done something wrong. We can pray to Him and ask forgiveness. God our heavenly Father loves us and will forgive us. He will help us to fear and love Him.

What three words are found in the meaning of the First Commandment? Fill in the blanks below.

Obey Fear Disobey Trust
Respect Honor Love

We should fear _____, love _____, and trust _____ in God above all things.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 8

Love God with All Your Heart

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 19:16-22

MEMORY VERSE: And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: We love because He first loved us. I John 4:19

CATECHISM: The First Commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- believe God’s love is forever.
- understand that loving God is of greatest importance.
- trust God will forgive when I ask.

MATERIALS: Bibles, Catechism, Activity Sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The First Commandment is the most important of the Ten Commandments. The other nine commandments flow from the First Commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.” In this commandment, God is telling us to love Him more than we love anyone or anything else. The main character is a rich, young ruler who asked Jesus, “What good thing shall I do to obtain eternal life?” Jesus’ conversation with the young man begins with keeping the commandments. The young man believes he had done that. Jesus, who knows his heart, knows that the young man had another “god” in his life—his money. Jesus tells him to go and sell all he has but, sadly, the young man leaves because he is unwilling to love God first and best. It is important that students understand that it was not his wealth that was the sin but his love of his money which had become his god.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Who came to see Jesus? What question did he ask Jesus? How did Jesus answer? The young man asks a second question, how did Jesus answer? What had the young man made an idol in his life? What did the young man now want to do? Do you sometimes love other people or things more than God? (We all do that sometimes.) Loving something more than we love God makes that thing an idol to us.

ACTIVITY 1: Crossword puzzle with a given word box.

ACTIVITY 2: Memory verse word insertion activity. Each heart contains part of the memory verse. In the additional options is link to a music video for learning this verse.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to accurately teach the lesson that loving God first in each of our lives is the key to godly living. Pray that the students will understand that it was not the money the young man had, but his heart attitude toward the money that was the sin.

Prayer Preparation

- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless them.
- Pray that God will help you understand that the First Commandment is key to all the rest. Putting God first will lead you to obey and treasure the remaining commandments.

Bible Background

Matthew 19:16-22

When Jesus was asked, “Which is the greatest commandment of the Law?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37, Deuteronomy 6:5)

In the text for the lesson a rich young ruler comes to Jesus with some questions:

“What good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” (v 16) One thing we notice is that Jesus did not have “stock” answers that He used for everyone. Jesus was able to assess each person’s unique need because Jesus looked at the heart. For this man, Jesus zeroes in on the commandments. The man was a good man, a godly man, well instructed in the commandments and the Word of God. But he had missed the whole point of the law by using his keeping of it to try to justify himself in the sight of God. He still feels that there is something more he must do.

He believed he was faithful in keeping the commandments in a way that satisfied him and pleased God. But he knew something was missing because he did not have assurance of eternal life. The law cannot give that. It can only show us how far short we fall of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). At this point he is not even sure what he needs, but he knows that Jesus must have the answer.

His second question is “Which ones?” (vs 18-19). Does Jesus actually teach that people receive eternal life by keeping commandments? Yes, in the sense that if we could keep them perfectly, we would certainly have eternal life. But we can’t. We are by nature sinful and the law keeps showing us that truth.

The man was dividing up the law, looking for the parts he could handle. He was looking for a loophole. James 2:10 reminds us that “whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all”.

The man makes another common mistake, thinking that obedience is a matter of action only but, in reality, it is first an attitude of the heart. Jesus looked at this man’s heart. Jesus saw the trouble spot. Jesus quotes some of the commandments but he left out the one the man needed, ‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me’. The man replied that he had kept all those commandments but he was avoiding the issue of the heart, his problem of loving his possessions. God was not first in his life.

The man then asks another question, “What am I still lacking?” (v20-22) It is easy to say we obey the commandments until we are forced to face the truth inside us. What does Jesus do to this honest and pious man? He thrusts the sword of the Word into the man’s soul. Go sell...

Now his heart is bared before Jesus. The real object of his love is revealed and it is not God. It is possible to want eternal life without knowing God. It is even possible to *say* you love God without knowing God. But it is not possible to *not* love God and have eternal life, according to Jesus in John 17:3. It is one thing to *say*, “I really don’t love these things more than God.” It is quite another thing to be willing to part with them all to prove our love for God.

The law has exposed the man’s sin—he had other gods in his life. Jesus preached the truth to the young man. The young man could not accept it and he went away. We do not see confession of his sin at this time. But we know that God has promised when “we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (John 1:9).

God always loves. God is love (1 John 4:8b). God wants us to obey the First Commandment, to love Him best of all.

Like the rich, young ruler, we don’t always do that. The law, though, will show us our sin and the Holy Spirit will convict our hearts whenever we are loving something else more. When we are convicted of sin, we can ask God to forgive us and trust that God does just that (because He keeps His word). God works in our heart to help us want to love Him best.

Learn the New Words

young: not old

gods: things that we worship or value more than anything else

everlasting: forever, never ending, eternal

property: land or things that a person owns

idol: something we love and trust more than God, a false god

idolatry: worshipping or trusting in an idol of the one true God

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

Praise God for His wonderful love and pray that we would learn to love God best of all.

SHARING: Encourage students to share about a favorite toy or activity.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27. Be sure to read it together aloud. You can use the video and song to learn the memory verse. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end. The second student activity in the lesson will help with the memory work.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the First Commandment. Who were the men in our story last week? What was their decision when told not to tell about Jesus? What is childlike fear?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

You all shared favorite toys or activities. It's okay to enjoy toys and activities. But those things can't love us and take care of us. God does.

Read the Lesson

Teacher reads the first two paragraphs. In this commandment, God is telling us to love Him more than we love anyone or anything else. The first commandment is the greatest commandment. Luther said of it, "We have had to explain it at great length, for it is the most important. As I said before, if the heart is right with God and we keep this commandment, all the rest will follow on their own." (Luther's Large Catechism, Conclusion to First Commandment) As we commit to putting God first in our life, the ability to follow the other commandments will flow from our love for God and He will help us live in simple obedience to Him.

Read the next three paragraphs. **Who came to see Jesus? What did he ask Jesus?** The word eternal may need to be explained. **What did Jesus tell him? Is this possible for anyone to do?**

Jesus understood the young ruler's heart. Read the next two paragraphs. **What did the young ruler do? What was his idol?** *God did not have first place in his life.*

Read the remaining paragraphs. We aren't any different than the young ruler. We don't always love God first and best but we have hope. We can pray to Jesus. Jesus died for our sins so when we tell Jesus that we are having a

hard time loving God first He will forgive us and help us love God as He wants us to. **How will others around us know that our love for God is the most important thing in our life?** This may be a hard question but may be worth asking. Possibly the students could take this question home to their parents for conversation.

Read the Catechism: The First Commandment

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

What does this mean? We Should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

Repeat the Memory Verse

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Crossword Fun

Activity 1

Do the crossword puzzle using words from the word box.

Activity 1
CROSSWORD FUN

Do the crossword puzzle using words from the word bank.

SELL
LOVE
GODS
JESUS
RULER
CROSS
IDOL
BEST
PRAY

ACROSS

- The rich young _____ did not love God above all else.
- _____ said, "Come and follow Me."
- Jesus told the rich, young ruler to _____ all that he owned.
- God wants us to love Him _____.

DOWN

- Thou shalt have no other _____ before Me.
- Jesus died on the _____ for our sins.
- An _____ is something we love and trust more than God.
- When we disobey God, we can _____ and ask Him to forgive us.
- Ask God to help you _____ Him more than anything else.

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Love, Love, Love

Activity 2

Write the missing word in each heart to help you review the memory verse. Can you write the answers without looking back in your lesson?

Activity 2
LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

Write the missing word in each heart to help you review the memory verse. Can you write the answers without looking back in your lesson?

Now recite the verse without looking at your paper!

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

- #1 music video to teach the memory verse
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdMIxCdIY-c>
- #2 “All I Once Held Dear” chorus

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 9

Trust in God Above All Things

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 12:1-5 and Genesis 15:1-6

MEMORY VERSE: And he answered, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Trust in the LORD with all your Heart and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5-6

CATECHISM:

The First Commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will know:

- God can be trusted at all times.
- God will always keep His promises.

MATERIALS: Map of Abraham’s journey, activity sheets, have memory verse written on the board, consider the family tree suggestion from Lesson 3

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson focuses on God’s call to Abraham to leave his country, his family and his culture. Abraham probably had many questions, but Abraham was to trust God without knowing where he was going. Abraham trusted and followed God. The main point here is that Abraham believed (15:6). Abraham’s trust made him right before God. The blessing came when Abraham trusted. God promised to bless Abraham, making his family into a great nation. You’ll explain about families having children and grandchildren (descendants) that over time become a great number of people. Many years later, Jesus would be born into Abraham’s family. And through Him all the world would be blessed.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What did God ask Abraham to do? 2) What did He promise Abraham? 3) What did God not tell Abraham? After the 2nd paragraph ask, 4) What did Abraham do? 5) What did God do for them as they traveled?

ACTIVITY 1: A letter with fill in the blanks to be completed telling the story of Abram.

ACTIVITY 2: A numbering activity to order the words of the First Commandment and its meaning. Would work well with Catechism review.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to be an example of one who trusts God only. Pray that you will wait upon the Lord as He guides you through this Sunday School year.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless these children.
- Pray that God always keeps His promises and can be trusted to be with us every moment of our lives.

Bible Background

Genesis 12:1-5 God Calls Abraham

The history of redemption, like that of creation, begins with God speaking. “The Lord said...” The Lord comes to Abraham and speaks. The covenant with Abraham is initiated by the Word of God. That word is both a command and a promise. Abraham is to forsake the way of sin and commit himself to the Lordship of Yahweh, the covenant God. This call to forsake everything and follow the Lord finds its nearest parallel in the Gospel call of Christ.

God promises to make Abraham a great nation (12:2) which includes territory as well as people. Abraham couldn’t understand this, but he “saw” the result (Hebrews 11:8ff). By faith he went and without knowing where he was going. He saw in the promise the city of God, a better, heavenly country (Heb. 11:10-16). Yes, the promise included the heavenly Jerusalem promised to all who receive the blessing through Abraham’s seed, Jesus Christ Himself.

“And so you shall be a blessing” (12:2) is both a benediction and a command. Through Abraham’s obedience the blessing would come and it would be realized through the process of redemption. All families of the earth would receive this blessing through Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). Abraham’s act of trust and obedience gave him the title “friend of God” or one who demonstrates loyalty to God.

Genesis 15:1-6 Abraham’s Faith

The promise becomes more specific and Abraham’s faith is refined and tested even more. After the call (12:1-5), he was a homeless man who traveled to a new country and encountered various problems (Gen. 12-14). But these tests are nothing compared to the one he would face.

The pressure builds around the promise of a son. To fulfill the kingdom promised of a nation, Abraham needs a son and heir. However, he and his wife Sarah are old and without children.

God promises a son shall come from Abraham’s own body (15:4), a hope that would be deferred through six more chapters and about 25 years. Sadly, Abraham leans on his own understanding, and tries to work things out with tragic results (Gen. 16:1-2). The birth of Ishmael creates a special series of problems, not only for Abraham, but for all the world. (The Arabs, descendants of Ishmael, or Edom, remain enemies of Israel even today.)

The main point here is that Abraham believes (15:6). He trusts the word and promise of God, against all odds. As he stood there looking up into the stars of heaven, it likely didn’t make much sense to him, but he believed. Verse six is an immortal expression of that trust. From Abraham’s time on, that faith

is the example and definition of saving faith for countless generations of believers and is essential in understanding the covenant of the New Testament. In the first place, when God made the declaration that “it was counted to him for righteousness,” He meant that Abraham, being yet sinful, was through faith looked upon by God as being perfectly righteous. That phrase is at the heart of the Gospel in Romans 4:3 and Galatians 3:6. Secondly the New Testament covenant is one of grace, not law (Gal. 3:17-22). This covenant of grace was made with Abraham before the Law was given at Mt. Sinai. It was in honor of this covenant of grace that God would one day bring His people out of Egypt (Exodus 2:24) and His Son into the world (Luke 1:72-73; Galatians 4:4).

Genesis 15:6 expresses trust in God and therefore confident assent to His revelation of supernatural saving grace. It is as though Abraham is saying “Amen”, meaning “Yes it shall be so.” That kind of faith that pleases God and because of it, God counted Abraham righteous.

Gospel Parallels

Abraham’s trust and obedience to the call and Word of God resulted in his salvation, a standing of righteousness before God. This righteousness was imputed to Abraham, credited to him from the merits of Jesus, Abraham's promised seed. At the center of this story, and at the center of history, stands the cross. When we trust Jesus, God sees us as perfect, for Christ is the object of our faith. Since Jesus is perfect righteousness, God sees us in Him as though we had never sinned – justification. God reckons it to us as righteousness. Abraham was hearing the Gospel too. Though far ahead of him in time, it was already complete in the mind of God in eternity. Whatever Abraham did or did not know about the promise according to the revelation given him, his knowledge alone did not save him. The blessing came when he trusted. This is true for us also.

Learn the New Words

bless: to bestow good or favor upon someone else

believed: accepted as true, trusted

possessions: things that belong to a person

vision: seeing things like in a dream, but which happens when the person is awake

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Ask them to think about any trip they may have taken.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students to tell one thing they remember from a trip they have gone on.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

And he answered, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”
Luke 10:27

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the First Commandment, the previous 2 lessons have focused on the 2 words from the explanation, fear and love, see if the students can remember something from the stories in the

last 2 lessons as this will wrap up the focus on the First Commandment. Peter and John displayed childlike fear of God and the rich young ruler heard that he was to love God first, nothing else must be more important than our love for God.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Show the students a map of Abraham's journey.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about trips the students have made, then this may not be needed here. Possibly expand to talk about why they went on their trip, did someone tell them to go? Was it for fun, to visit family?

Move on to the next paragraph. Questions to ask? **What did God ask Abraham to do? What did He promise Abraham? What did God not tell Abraham?**

Help the students find Gen 12:1-3. Read these verses.

What did Abraham do? Be sure the students note the words-believed and trusted. **What did God do for them as they traveled?** Discuss with students the issue of trust, to pick up and move everything and not even know where you are going. Possibly share a personal experience where you had to trust someone without knowing the outcome. Also, to consider that the students understand this was not just down the street, this was a long journey, probably they never returned to the place they left from. **Stress that even though God did not give them all the details of the trip, He kept His promise. God led them, He protected them, and He provided all that they needed.** He led them to the Promised land, where Israel is today. This helps the students connect the dots.

Move to the next 2 paragraphs. **What did God promise Abraham?** Note Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. **What did God add to this promise?** Family more than the stars in the sky. Read Genesis 15:5-6. (Genesis 17:15-19) may be helpful. God kept his promise to Abraham. God gave them a son who was named Isaac. The Israelites that Moses was leading to the Promised Land were descendants of Abraham, **do you remember how many people left Egypt? 600,000 men plus women and children.** The Israelites today are called Jews and they live in Israel, the land God promised Abraham. God does keep His promises. We are blessed too in this promise God made to Abraham, we are included in all the nations as God sent Jesus to die and pay for our sins. We can know that we have eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Read the last paragraph together. Have the students underline "trust" and "always keep His promises" in the first sentence.

Repeat the Memory Verses

And he answered, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Letter Learning

Activity 1

Fill in the blanks in the letter to complete the telling of the story of Abram.

Activity 1
LETTER LEARNING

Write a letter to a friend or family member by filling in the blanks.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Date Today

Dear Friend,

Have you heard of Abraham? God told Abram and his wife Sarah, to go on a long trip. God made promises to Abram. God promised Abram land and a son. God promised Abram that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him. Have you ever counted the stars? It would take a long time to count them! God told Abram the people in his family would be as many as the stars. God kept all His promises. God always keeps His promises. Jesus the Savior was born through Abram's family. God blessed all the families of the earth by sending Jesus the Savior. Do you know Jesus the Savior?

Love, Your Friend

Order the Stars

Activity 2

Number the stars in the correct order for the First Commandment and its meaning.

Activity 2
ORDER THE STARS

Abram trusted the one true God. The stars remind us that all people who trust in the LORD are part of Abram's big family. The LORD wants us to trust in Him above all things.

Number the stars in the correct order for the First Commandment and meaning.

The First Commandment

have 3 no 4 me 8 Gods 6
before 7 Thou 1 other 5 shalt 2

What does this mean?

above 17 things 19 fear 11 should 10
We 9
God 16 all 18 trust 14 in 15 and 13 love 12

Read all the words in the correct order.
How can you show that you trust in the LORD?

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 10

Honor God's Name

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 105:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples. Psalm 105:1

CATECHISM: The Second Commandment: Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand the beauty and power of God's Name.
- use God's name with love and respect.

MATERIALS: Bibles, lessons, activity sheets, have memory verse(s) written on the board

LESSON OVERVIEW: The first commandment says we should fear, love, and trust God above all things. When the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus by asking which was the greatest commandment, Jesus summed up the law for them, saying, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37,38). In the Second Commandment, God tells us how to use His Name. To love God is to love His name. Jesus teaches us to honor God's name when He teaches us how to pray.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What does God's name tell us about Him? 2) What happens to us and in us when we say God's Name? 3) How can we honor God's Name? 4) Are there ways we could dishonor God's name? How? 5) Is God's name more than just a word? Why?

ACTIVITY 1: A word fill in of the Second Commandment and then take letters from this to make a statement at the bottom.

ACTIVITY 2: A word find puzzle, the words to find are listed on the side of the page, words that are used in the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Thank God for the privilege of being a Sunday School teacher. Pray that you will set a good example for children. Pray that you will share the love of God's name with the children.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Pray for the children in your class individually by name. Pray for others who may attend. God knows their names.
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

Exodus 20:7, Psalm 105:1-3, Matthew 22:37, 38.

The first commandment says that we should fear, love, and trust God above all things. Jesus said that this is the first and greatest commandment: "Thou shalt love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Mt. 22:37,38 (KJV).

In the second commandment, God instructs us in the use of His name. To love God is to love His name. Jesus teaches us to honor God's name when He teaches us to pray.

A person's name describes the person's character. The name IS the person. We see that in the way people use our names. You don't like it when people say your name wrong, forget it, or make fun of it. If they do, you take it personally. Why? Because your name is you and you don't like to be abused or forgotten.

God's name means something to Him too. The word "name" as Jesus used it in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9) is not just a title. The name of God in scripture or "Thy name," implies the title, person, power, authority, character and reputation of God.

The Hebrew people at that time didn't even dare to speak it. God's name, "I AM", was written YHWH (also Yahweh or Jehovah. In our Bibles now it is represented by the word, "LORD", with the letters O, R, and D in smaller capital letters. Yahweh, "I AM" is deserving of all respect and adoration.

In the New Testament the power of the name of God, of the name of Jesus, is at the heart of the early church. Everything they do is "in the name of Jesus". In that name rests all power, authority, prestige of the character of the living God.

Through our relationship to God through Jesus Christ, by faith in Him, we become children of God. As children of God, we ought to love and honor God's name. God is holy, as is His name. God's name is to be honored in all the life and activity of the Christian and in the church. His name is important in prayer and prayer always includes adoration. Remember the prayer acronym ACTS- adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. But God's name is also to be honored in music, in worship and in the life we live before others. True prayer and praise come from within, from the soul that is blessed with the presence of God. "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless His holy name" (Psalm 103:1) When the heart is right with in, then our witness (our lives lived before others) will convey the inner presence of God and will honor Him. When we treat it as the holy name it is, we honor God.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

Dependable: trustworthy, reliable.

hallowed: made holy, set aside for a special purpose

misuse: use incorrectly or in a wrong way, mistreat

deceive: lead someone to believe something that is not true, trick someone

purposely: intentionally, not by accident

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer. Thank God that we can pray to Him and that He hears us. Praise God for His Holy name. Pray that we will use God's name with love and respect.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Psalm 103:1”

Read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the First Commandment. Review the words fear, love and trust. Abraham, Peter and John and the rich young ruler were in the First Commandment lessons. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 3 lessons.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask the question, have you heard anyone talk about God or say His name at home, at school or anywhere you have been in this past week. Read the Second Commandment and its meaning. Our lesson today will help us understand how to honor God's name.

Read the Lesson

Read the first two paragraphs. Names are very important. God's name tells us about Him. God is powerful. He lives forever—He always has been and always will be God. When we say God's name, we are reminded of who God is. God is powerful. God is beautiful. God can always be trusted. God gives us good things. God is always with us.

God's Name includes everything that makes God who He is.

Keep in mind, "Name" does not only mean the literal words/name "LORD" or "I AM" but all of what makes God who He is. Note Luther's Catechism & Explanation Q #38 - "What is meant by the name of God?"

1. *The usual names given to Him in the Bible*
2. *His nature and attributes and all by which He is especially known, such as His Word, sacraments, and works.*

Read the third paragraph. The second phrase of the Lord's Prayer says that we should hallow God's name. Hallow is a word we don't hear very much today. It means to treat something as holy, right and perfect. God's name is holy and we should always treat it like it is. This is honoring God's name.

Ask: **How do we honor God's name?** Help the students find the lesson text, Psalm 105: 1-3. Read the verses together.

We honor God's name when we praise Him, by saying good things about Him, and by singing songs to and about Him, like David did. We honor God when we thank him for our food and for His many blessings.

Ask: **How would we dishonor God's name?** Listen to the children's answers. Write them on the blackboard if they have many ideas.

We misuse God's name when we swear by it falsely. Some people say, "I swear to God" and then tell a lie. If a person does this in a court of law, they could go to jail. When we use God's name, we should only say what is true.

We can also misuse God's name if we use it carelessly. You may not know this, but the letters, "OMG" stand for "Oh, my God." Saying or texting "OMG" is a way of dishonoring God's name.

If we have misused God's name, we can tell Him we are sorry and ask him to forgive us. God loves us and wants to forgive when we ask.

Read (or invite a volunteer to read) the last two paragraphs. God will help us to love and

honor His wonderful name. God didn't keep His Name a secret. He gave it to us as a precious gift. He will hear us when we call on His Name.

Read the Catechism:

Consider as noted in teaching the lesson that you read this Commandment at the beginning

The Second Commandment: Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

At this point using the first activity will reinforce this Commandment

Repeat the Memory Verses

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Possible Song: “Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”

There is an Andrae Crouch song with these words from Ps. 103 1... They continue with “He has done great things, bless His holy name.

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 11

Respect God's Name

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 26:69-75

MEMORY VERSE: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17

CATECHISM:

The Second Commandment:

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand how we misuse or dishonor God's Name.
- be encouraged to speak the truth.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets, have memory verse(s) written on the board

LESSON OVERVIEW: The 2nd Commandment tells us not to take God's name in vain or use God's name in wrong ways. Cursing, swearing, lying, deceiving, or conjuring are some ways to dishonor His name. The disciple Peter did this when he cursed and swore, lying when he said he didn't know Jesus. When he realized he had sinned, Peter was very sorry. He cried. He was sorry for what he had done. He needed to ask Jesus to forgive him. Jesus came to Peter a few days later. Jesus forgave Peter.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What is a person asking for when they curse? 2) What does it mean to use God's name in wrong ways? 3) Peter was a disciple of Jesus yet he did not honor God's name, how did he do this? 4) What happened when he realized what he had done? 3) When you have lied or used God's name carelessly, what can you do?

ACTIVITY 1: Label each phrase with M for ways we misuse God's name. Use R for ways we respect it.

ACTIVITY 2: Number the sentences to retell the story in the correct order, answer a personal thought question and then fill in the blanks on the memory verse.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that the students will understand the importance of respect and honor of God's name. That even in our world where disrespect for God's name is blatant and part of many conversations and honesty is not valued we can still honor God's name.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that each child will grow to understand the 2nd Commandment.
- Pray for each child's home, and that each child will receive a Godly influence outside of the church.
- Pray that God will use you in teaching these little children.

Bible Background

Bible Study Matthew 26:69-75

People are often unaware of the relationship between God and His Name. A person can claim to love and respect God, but think nothing of cursing, swearing, or using God's name carelessly or in vain. It's common today for God's name to be disrespected or ridiculed.

Why? For many, it is because they do not know God. Or maybe the beauty, holiness, and purity of God make people uncomfortable and they are unwilling to face the truth.

Our culture has lost reverence for God. It may have begun with a low view of scripture and a corresponding high view of ourselves.

Cursing and swearing are problems of the tongue or speech. Read James 3:1-10. Even Christians can struggle with this sin.

Matthew 26:69-75 Peter's Words

The decline and fall of man with regards to the mouth is seen in the case of Peter in the courtyard at the trial of Jesus. Peter had sneaked in to watch, even though Jesus had already told the disciple what to expect.

Peter may have thought no one would notice him, but he was in a dangerous place, the wrong place. Three times Peter was given an opportunity to confess or deny Jesus.

1. A maid saw Peter and said, "You were with Jesus." Peter denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about!" Peter was exposed and withdrew to the gateway to get away from the crowd. He was afraid and panicked. Peter was unable to confess his Lord.
2. Another maidservant saw him and accused him of being with Jesus. He denied it again and, maybe feeling like this denial needed to be stronger than the first, he swears it by an oath as if he were in court. Peter swore he didn't even know Jesus.
3. Peter is still not believed. The crowd is accusing him and he was even more afraid. Peter is now in big trouble. He begins to swear, calling evil down on himself if he isn't telling the truth (and he knows very well he isn't telling the truth). He is desperate to protect himself. Peter is acting like a pitiful coward, doing whatever he can to protect himself.

At this point, Jesus looks on Peter with pity (Luke 22:61). A rooster crows and Peter remembers that Jesus had said he would deny him. Peter was convicted of his sin of denying Jesus with a curse. That conviction led to repentance, forgiveness and maybe a deep sense of humility that was new to Peter. Peter was very sorry and wept bitterly. When this kind of contrition is present, God is faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness (see 1 John 1:9).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

curse: speak offensive words in anger or disgust; or a wish that a spoken asking for something bad to happen to something or someone

swear: to use words that dishonor God; such as curse words; or to make a promise or oath using God's name

courtroom: a place where legal cases are tried and lawyers defend people accused of breaking the law

honest: sincere, real, truthful

truthful: telling the truth

lied: said something that was not true

denied to refuse to admit or confess something

carelessly: not carefully; without thought of others

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let them know you're glad to see them today..

Open the class with prayer. Thank God for His special name. Ask Him to help us use it to love and respect Him. Give the children an opportunity to pray if they want to.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalm 103:1*”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Second Commandment, which teaches us to use God's name with love and respect. Remind them that Jesus said we could call God “Our Father and that there are many names for God. How can we honor God's name? Praise Him, pray to Him, thank Him for what He does for us, when we talk about God say only things that are true about Him.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

We have learned that God wants us to honor His name by praying, singing, and telling others about Jesus. The 2nd Commandment also tells us some things we should not do.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the first three paragraphs. This is a good time to ask some of the suggested questions. 1) **What is a person asking for when they curse?** *They are asking for something bad to happen to someone* 2) **What does it mean to use God's name in wrong ways?** *To call upon God to support lies or wrongdoing/wickedness.*

SAY: When people go to court, they promise to tell the truth. They say words that ask God to help them tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. This is called swearing and this kind of swearing is not wrong as long as the person is telling the truth. Sometimes people swear using God's name when they are not in court. That is different and does not please God. (Do not give examples of swearing or do anything to encourage the children to do so.)

Let's look back at the meaning of the Second Commandment, notice we haven't talked about the words conjure and deceive. *Questions #47 and #48 in Luther's Small Catechism in the Explanation section talk about the words: conjure and deceive. Conjuring is another way to take God's name in vain. Ouija boards, witches, casting spells and watching people do that in entertainment should be avoided. Turn off the TV. Don't read the book. Don't play around with séances.*

Swearing to tell the truth, but lying anyway is taking the Lord's name in vain. Pretending to be better or nicer than you are, or pretending to believe or agree with something when you don't—this is deceiving and God says not to do that either.

Tell the story about Peter denying Jesus or read it from Matthew 26:69-75. Or, you can ask

for the children to volunteer to read the next two paragraphs.

Remind the students that cursing or swearing when telling a lie is sin. Emphasize that Jesus will forgive us when we ask Him to (refer to the Bible Study as needed).

SAY: In the Second Commandment and its meaning, we learn not to use the Lord's name in vain, or without meaning it. Let's say the Second Commandment together. SAY: Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Discussion

Ask the children to imagine one of the children at the playground swears by using God's Name in a bad way. Ask how they would respond. Listen to their answers and guide the discussion to these ideas:

- The Bible says it is wrong to swear.
- God doesn't want us to say bad words.
- We should pray for that child.
- We should ask God to help us tell them about Jesus.
- God wants us to love that person because God loves him.

Repeat the Memory Verse

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalm 103:1*"

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Respect or Misuse?

Activity 1

Label each phrase with M for ways we misuse God's name. Use R for ways we respect it.

Activity 1
RESPECT OR MISUSE?

Read the Second Commandment and its meaning.
Then label each phrase below. Use M for ways we misuse God's name. Use R for ways we respect God's name.

1. Hide the truth (M)
2. Keep a promise (R)
3. Lie to my friend (M)
4. Tell the truth (R)
5. Use God's name carelessly (M)
6. Be honest and truthful (R)
7. Deceive my parents (M)

CATECHISM

The Second Commandment:
Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

What Happened?

Activity 2

Number the sentences to retell the story in the correct order, answer a personal thought question and then fill in the blanks on the memory verse.

Activity 2
WHAT HAPPENED?

Number the sentences in the correct order from 1 to 9. Then retell the story by reading the sentences in order.

8. Jesus came to Peter and talked with him.
4. Peter heard a rooster crow and remembered what Jesus had told him.
9. Peter learned Jesus had forgiven him.
3. Peter was afraid and lied three times.
5. Peter realized he had sinned.
1. Peter lied and said he did not know Jesus.
6. Peter went away and cried and was sorry for his sin.
2. Peter cursed and swore when someone asked him if he had been with Jesus.
7. Peter knew he needed to ask Jesus to forgive him.

When you have lied or used God's name carelessly, what can you do?
ask for forgiveness

Talk about some of the good and holy ways we can use God's name. Then write the missing words from the memory verse to discover one more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 12

Call Upon God's Name

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Acts 3:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me. Psalm 50:15

CATECHISM:

The Second Commandment:

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- learn to call upon God in every time of need.
- understand that we worship God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Second Commandment means we should love God's name but use it in good and holy ways. We obey this commandment when we use God's name in worship, prayer, or praise. The Bible tells about Peter and John meeting a beggar when they went to the temple to pray. The man had never been able to walk. Peter and John had no money to give him, but the Holy Spirit led Peter to say, "In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk!" He not only walked, but he ran and jumped, praising God. Praising and thanking God are more good ways to use God's name. There is power in the name of Jesus!

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What are some good and holy ways to use God's name? 2) What was the beggar asking from Peter and John? 3) What did Peter and John give to the beggar? 4) Whose name did Peter use when he spoke healing to the crippled man? 5) What did the beggar do? 6) What happened as a result of this event? 7) Do you remember what the message of salvation is? 8) Whose name has power?

ACTIVITY 1 A word choice activity that will complete the sentences correctly.

ACTIVITY 2 A thought box completion activity about the story in the lesson. The students may need some help with the center box.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that you will set an example to teach the children to pray “in Jesus’ name.”. Pray that God’s name will be glorified throughout this lesson.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless these children.
- Pray that the students will understand that we can bring all our concerns to God in prayer, His name is powerful and worthy of all our praise
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

Acts 3:1-26 Call Upon God’s Name

God’s name is to be honored in all things, especially prayer. Prayer can take many forms, but it is often asking the Father for something according to His will. When the request is in the Father’s will, we can expect the right results.

In today’s lesson, the disciples, Peter and John, honored the name of Jesus. In His name, they asked God to heal a lame man. It was God’s will, the man was healed, and Jesus was lifted up.

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. As they go to prayer, they meet a beggar at the temple. This man is over 40 years old (Acts 4:22) and has been lame from infancy.

The disciples were sent out with power to be witnesses and in the name of Jesus, they did the works of God. When they did such works, it was because they were moved by the Spirit of God. The miracles were always signs attesting to His deity and were intended to produce faith in him leading to spiritual life (John 20:31). To pray “in the name of Jesus” is not just to invoke his authority or to act in His place. It is faith in Jesus and who He is, all He is, the power, grace and truth of God revealed in Him. The catechism asks(Q#269), “What is meant by praying in the name of Jesus?” The answer is “to pray in the name of Jesus is to ask on the strength of what He has already done for us, and His intercession with the Father.” We have access to God the Father through our faith in Jesus, His Son.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit Peter says to the man, “In the name of Jesus the Nazarene-walk!” God sends healing and the miracle becomes a seal of the gospel message. The man immediately began to leap up and praise God. This was noted by many people who were in the temple. This was a big deal and the people were drawn to Peter. Peter was ready to speak, to share the truth of Jesus and salvation (Acts 3:11-4:12).

True prayer is communication between our hearts and the Father’s heart. Praying is letting Jesus into your heart. We can say that prayer is knowing the heart of God so that we know how to pray and what to ask for. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us, and the Holy Spirit enables us to ask in Jesus’ name so that Jesus can answer. In this relationship, we can have confidence that God is prompting us to ask according to His will so He can answer and be glorified (John 14:13-14).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

vain: foolish, silly, empty of value or meaning

inappropriate: not proper or right

holy: pure, godly, sacred

appropriate: proper or right, fitting

temple: a building where God is worshipped

begging: asking or pleading for money to be given, usually because one is unable to work

healed: made well, made whole

praising: worshipping, saying good things about

faith: belief, trust

Amen: let it be so; spoken at the end of a prayer to express agreement

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive..

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like. Thank God that we can pray “in Jesus’ name.”

SHARING: What kinds of things do you talk to God about when you pray?

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalms 103:1*”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Second Commandment, the previous 2 lessons have focused on God’s name. How can we honor God’s name? How did Peter dishonor God’s name? Did Jesus forgive Peter? See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 2 lessons as this will wrap up the focus on the Second Commandment.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask the students what kind of things they talk to God about when they pray. **Do you think God wants to answer your prayers? Does He want to give you what you pray for?** God hears us when we pray when we pray believing in Jesus. Another way to say the same thing is to pray in Jesus' name.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the first two paragraphs. Sometimes we want something or some situation very much, so we pray and ask God for that. We finish our prayer with, "in Jesus' Name," just like we have learned. But, we don't get what we hoped for and asked for. This is hard and we may wonder whether prayer works or whether God is listening. God is listening, He has promised to hear our prayers but God may not answer right away and sometimes he does not answer as we asked him to. This is because God sees everything about us and our lives and He always sends what is best for us. God asks us to trust him when this happens. Remember how Abram had to trust God.

Help the students find Acts 3:1-16. Read the first three verses. **Who do we meet again in this story?** There is another man at the temple as well. **What do we learn about him?**

Move on and read verses 4-7. **How did Peter help him? Was it what the man asked for?** No it was much greater, He was healed, he could walk through the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is powerful.

Continue to read verses 8-11. **What happened as everyone around recognized what had happened to this man?** This man was praising and thanking God for the healing. This powerful miracle gave Peter an opportunity to tell all the people that gathered about Jesus.

Read verses 12-16. It is important to note that this had nothing to do with Peter and John but everything to do with the power of the name of Jesus.

Peter was able to tell the people about Jesus. **What did Jesus do for us?** He came to earth to die for us so that we could be forgiven. He tells all the people to pray to Jesus for forgiveness. He has promised to forgive us. He also gives us a home in heaven.

Read the last paragraph.

When we praise God and when we pray to God we are using God's name in the right way.

ASK: Whose name did Peter use when he spoke healing to the man who couldn't walk?

The name of Jesus.

ASK: Whose name has power?

Again and always, Jesus

Read the Catechism: As this is the last lesson on the Second Commandment see if the students can recite this from memory.

Repeat the Memory Verse

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalms 103:1*"

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Word Choices

Activity 1

A word choice activity that will complete the sentences correctly.

Activity 1

WORD CHOICES

Read the sentences and circle the best word choices. Some of the words are opposites.

- The Second Commandment teaches that we should use God's name in good / bad and holy ways.
- We should not use God's name in helpful / careless ways.
- The things we say and the things we do should dishonor / honor the LORD.
- Calling upon God's name is an appropriate / inappropriate way to use His name.
- When we worship God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, we are using His name in a meaningless / holy way.
- God wants us to ask for help and is sad / happy to help us.
- As God's children, we can end our prayers with the powerful name of me / Jesus.
- We should fear and love God so that we do not curse / bless, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive by His Name, but avoid / call upon Him in every time of need / want, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and complaining / thanksgiving.

ACTIVITY CENTER

CATECHISM

The Second Commandment:
Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Story Thoughts

Activity 2

A thought box completion activity about the story in the lesson. The students may need some help with the center box.

Activity 2

STORY THOUGHTS

Complete each thought about the story from the Bible lesson.

The characters in the story are
Peter
John
beggar

The story happened at the
temple

THE MAIN IDEA

we can call on
the name of Jesus
for help

A big moment in the story is when
the beggar is
healed and can
walk

When people saw what happened they
believed in
Jesus

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Silver and Gold Have I None (Wee Sing Bible Songs; Price, Stern, Sloan; 1988 p. 16)

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

#1 This may work well for students to act out.