

Lesson 1

God's Day is Holy

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 2:1-3 and Hebrews 4:9

MEMORY VERSE: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

CATECHISM: The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- learn that we honor God by hearing His Word, especially as we gather to worship on Sundays.
- understand that rest is a gift from God.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Third Commandment prescribes a special day God has set aside for us to honor him every week. That day is a gift of great benefit to us. God created the world in six days and when His work was finished, God rested. Reviewing the creation story briefly from Chapter 1 may be helpful. The finished work of God and His rest make the Sabbath day unique. The word "sabbath" means rest or cease. God blessed the Sabbath day. The pattern of working six days followed by a day of rest is a God-given cycle. We are to remember it and keep it holy.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Why did God make the seventh day special? 2) What does the Bible call God's day? 3) What does the Third Commandment say about how we treat God's special day? 4) How do we keep God's day special? 5) Can you think of good things to do on God's Day?

ACTIVITY 1: Write in and drawing activity. Write three verbs to tell ways that we can keep the Third Commandment (worship, hear, rest). Then draw a picture of how you keep God's day holy.

ACTIVITY 2: Coloring and fill in the blank activity. Color all the boxes with an X blue. Color all the other boxes yellow. Write the Message (Hear God's Word) and talk about ways to follow it.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will help you express the joy of worship and keeping God's Day holy.
Pray for wisdom and guidance as you teach the children sacred truths about God who has given us this special day of rest to honor and worship Him.

Prayer Preparation

- 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. Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons
- Read through the Word of God's account of Creation in preparation for your class. This is not told in detail in the student's lesson. You will be able to tell/read the creation story in an activity at the beginning of your class using paper plates as visual aids for what God made on each day. First day - Light; second day - sky/heaven and water; third day - seas, land, plants; fourth day - sun, moon, stars; fifth day - fish (sea creatures) and birds; sixth day - animals and human beings.
- On each of the six days of creation, God carried out a specific task of creation. The accomplishment of each of the first six days is set apart by an "evening and morning" formula. After the different works of the first six days was finished, the work was completed (Genesis 2:1-3).

Bible Background

Genesis 1:1-31 & Genesis 2:1-3

When God created the world and all that is in it, he performed a specific task of creation on each day (Gen 1:1-31). Each of the six days is set apart by an "evening and morning" (Gen 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 25, 31), and at the end of those six days the work of creation is complete (Gen 2:1-3). On the seventh day, the "evening and morning" phrase is not repeated because the day and night cycle will continue as God promised Noah: "While the earth remains...day and night shall not cease" (Gen 8:22).

The seventh day is called the Sabbath, which means "rest" or "to cease" from labor. But the Sabbath day is not just an "empty space" for us to fill as we please. The Sabbath is, in a sense, another aspect of creation because God blessed that day and made it holy, which means the Sabbath day is sanctified or "set apart" for sacred use by man. When Jesus' disciples were eating grain on the Sabbath, they were accused of breaking a Sabbath law (made by man). Jesus said "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath" (Mk 2:27-28). Jesus also healed on the Sabbath. Of course we eat on Sundays, and there

are reasons why some people have to work on Sunday, but even that should be done only for the greater good of man.

The pattern of six days of work followed by a day of rest is the God-given cycle for life. Throughout history, people have tried to eliminate references to God and Christianity by changing the calendar. For example, during the French revolution the Gregorian calendar was replaced with a more scientific and rational system that was meant to avoid Christian references. It was based on 10-day week with a rest every ten days. It had been tried before, but it never lasted for long. The seven-day week (unlike the day, month, and year) has no astronomical basis. We keep time in weeks simply because our biological rhythms are constructed that way by God.

This Sabbath rest day was so important that God included it in the Law as a day that is to be kept “holy.” How do we do that? Notice Luther’s explanation of the third commandment. He does not focus on the day itself exactly, but on how to keep the day holy. That is done by not despising God’s word or the preaching and teaching of it, but gladly hear and learn it. Ignoring God’s word results in ignoring the Sabbath Day and keeping holy. Unfortunately, the Sabbath as well (as well as God and His name) have been shamefully defiled in ways that only man’s sinful nature can conceive.

The seventh day was not meant to be merely a break from work here on earth. It is a foreshadowing of our eternal Sabbath rest in Jesus, so we are warned: “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...Consequently, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God” (Heb 4:7, 9).

After Jesus “finished” His work of redemption on the cross, He was buried and then rose again on the third day, the “first day of the week.” In recognition of Jesus’ resurrection, the church began meeting for worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. It was a Sunday when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church. This day still reminds us to rest after our labors of the week are done, but it also reminds us to rest in Jesus and be strengthened for our service to Him in the week ahead.

The Sabbath was meant to be a delight. Keeping the Sabbath holy is not merely an opportunity to recover from the past week. It is a time to rest from our normal activities and be reminded of God’s grace in all our days, especially as we assemble for worship and the hearing of God’s word.

Learn the New Words

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

create: to make something from nothing. God spoke things into being.

rest: to stop work.

Sabbath: the name God gave for the seventh day, a day of rest.

worship: to love, respect, and treasure God both inwardly and in our actions.

blessing: a good thing given to us, a benefit.

despise: To hate. We despise God’s Word when we forget it or don’t hear and learn it (not in the lesson but in the catechism meaning of the Third Commandment).

deem: to have an opinion, to believe

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 for giving us a special day of rest and worship. Praise God for churches where we can go to worship. Ask God to help us keep Sunday holy to honor Him.

Read the Memory Verse

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

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”” Psalm 122:1.

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

Review the Recent Lessons

Say: We are going to study the Third Commandment now. Before we do, can you remember the Second Commandment?

Recite the Second Commandment together.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

God asks us to love Him best, and to honor and respect His name. The first two commandments talk about our relationship to God. In the Third Commandment God tells us that He has set aside a special day that we should use to honor Him. That special day every week is a great benefit (a very good thing and great help) to us.

Ask: Who can read the title of today’s lesson? (Call on someone). **SAY:** Let’s read that together. (Read). **SAY:** Yes, there is one day in the week that we call God’s Day. Yes, it is Sunday. In the Bible God’s Day is called something else: the Sabbath. Today’s lesson is about God’s Day. It begins at the very beginning...

Read the Lesson

SAY: A long, long time ago the beautiful world we live in was not here. There were no flowers or trees; no animals or birds; no sky, no sun, no stars.

But God was here. God was always here. And He created everything. He made it out of nothing. God just spoke, and it happened.

Everything happened just the way He said it. If you are using the paper plate activity, introduce it to the children. After you read each verse about each day of creation, pause and have the children look for the paper plate that has a matching simple picture or symbol that matches what you have read:

At first, it was dark. But God said, “Let there be light” and it was light (*Genesis 1:3*). He made day and night. That was the first day.

On the second day, God made the sky (*vss. 7,8*).

The third day, God said, Let the water come together into seas and let the land appear. Just like that sea and land came to be (*vs. 9*). Plants and trees began to grow.

In the same way God created the sun to shine in the daytime and the moon and stars to shine at night on the fourth day (*vss. 14-19*).

On the fifth day God said, “Let there be fish in the sea and birds to fly in the sky.” And there were (*vss. 20-23*).

On the sixth day, God made every kind of animal that lives on land (*vss. 24,25*). And then He created the first two people (*vss. 26-27*).

When God was finished with all of His creating, He rested on the seventh day. Listen while I read that part of the lesson from the Bible (Read *Genesis 2:1-3*).

Read the second paragraph. **ASK: What did God tell the Israelites to do on this special day?**

Read the next paragraph. **ASK: What did Jesus do on the Sabbath day when He lived here?** *Jesus kept the Sabbath by worshipping in the temple. He healed people and did other good things on that day, showing us that helping others is okay on the Sabbath.*

Read the last two paragraphs. **What can we do to honor the Sabbath day? What can your family do to keep Sunday holy? Why do you think God made the seventh day special?** (*Because He rested on that day*). Just like God finished His work of creation and rested, so Jesus finished His work of salvation when He died on the cross.

After Jesus rose from the dead, the church started to meet on the first day of the week, which was Sunday, for worship. It was on a Sunday when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church.

Sunday still reminds us to rest. We can rest in Jesus and be strong to serve Him in the week

ahead. We can also rest from worrying about sin because Jesus has saved us from our sins.

Repeat the Memory Verse

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

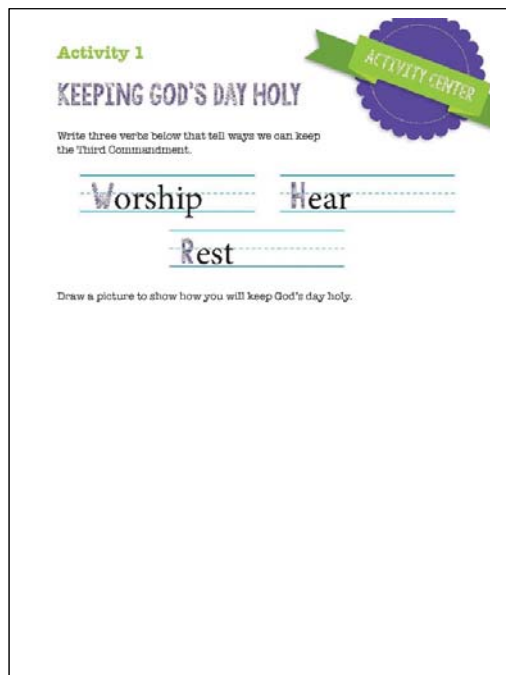
APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Keeping God's Day Holy

Activity 1

Write three verbs, and then draw a picture



Activity 1

KEEPING GOD'S DAY HOLY

Write three verbs below that tell ways we can keep the Third Commandment.

Worship Hear

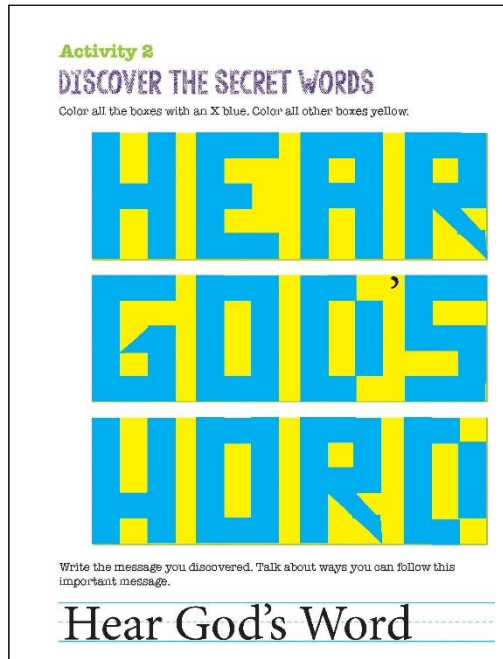
Rest

Draw a picture to show how you will keep God's day holy.

Discover the Secret Words

Activity 2

Color all the X boxes, and color the rest yellow. Write the message: Hear God's Word.



Activity 2

DISCOVER THE SECRET WORDS

Color all the boxes with an X blue. Color all other boxes yellow.

HEAR
GOD'S
WORD

Write the message you discovered. Talk about ways you can follow this important message.

Hear God's Word

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:

This is the Day (Ps. 118:24)

Also suggested: This is the Day from Barry McGuire's Bullfrogs and Butterflies

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 2

God's Word is Holy

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: II Kings 22:1 – 23:3

MEMORY VERSE: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17

CATECHISM: The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- know that God's Word, the Holy Bible, is a very special book given to us by God.
- understand that hearing God's Word teaches us to love and obey God.
- be thankful for God's Holy Word.

MATERIALS: Lesson sheets, activity sheets, a handmade scroll

LESSON OVERVIEW: Though only eight years old when he became king, Josiah was a good king. The Bible says Josiah "did right in the sight of the Lord and walked in all the ways of his father" (2 Kings 22:2). He got rid of idol worship and restored God's Temple. During the repairs, God's Law was found. When Josiah heard what it said, he tore his clothes in repentance. Josiah humbly asked what they should do to turn away God's anger and judgement. Because Josiah was humble and sorry that they lost God's word and had not obeyed it, God was merciful. Josiah made sure the people heard God's Word. Then Josiah led them into a covenant to obey God and receive His blessings.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What does our lesson tell us about King Josiah? What do we learn about God's people who lived in King Josiah's country? What had happened to the temple where the people were to worship God? What did Josiah do when God's Word was found? How should we treat God's Word? Where can we learn about God and His word, the Bible?

ACTIVITY 1: Crossword Activity. Across: 1. Priest 2. Destroy 3. Forgotten 4. Realized 5. Important 6. Agreed. Down: 1. Kingdom 2. Repair 3. Discovered 4. Order

ACTIVITY 2: Word arranging activity. Number the books in the correct order. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it."

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- Bible Study
- One of the main purposes of the Lord's Day is for the church to assemble to hear God's Word. Where His Word is preached in truth and purity, God meets His people, and they worship Him. The Word refreshes and encourages a repentant people and equips them to serve God. The Bible lesson today tells about a time when the Word of God was literally lost right in the Temple and tells what can happen when the Word is restored to the hearing of the people.

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for His Holy Word and for places where His Word is preached in truth.
- Thank God for all people who love Jesus as their Savior.
- Pray that you and your students would gladly hear and learn more of God's Word.

Prepare Materials

- If you made a scroll, hide it where the children are unlikely to find it and mess up the classroom--throw some papers on the floor, turn over some chairs.
- Lesson sheets
- Activity sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

II Kings 22:1 – 23:3

Josiah was one of only eight “good” kings of Judah. The name Josiah means “Healed of the Lord” or “The Lord will Support,” and in his day the Lord did bring healing to the people of Judah.

Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old. His father Amon had been a wicked king like so many kings before him, but his mother apparently had some godly influence on Josiah. At age 16, “In the eighth year of his reign” (2 Chr 34:3), Josiah began to seek the Lord. At age 26, in the eighteenth year of his reign (22:3), he ordered that the temple be cleaned and restored to its rightful state (22:8-20; 34:14-28). It seems remarkable that the book of the Law should be lost in the temple, but there had been several years of wicked kings and idolatry. The book that was found was probably a scroll of the five books of Moses. Finding this book in the temple is like losing the altar Bible in a church today and not finding it for several years. Even worse, it describes many modern churches that have “lost” the Bible by ignoring it or re-interpreting it according to the latest theological or societal fad.

When Josiah heard the words of God's Law and realized the extent of Israel's disobedience, he was struck with grief and fear and tore his clothes in repentance. Seeking advice on what to do, he sent some men to ask Huldah, the prophetess. She let Josiah know that God would indeed send His wrath upon the nation because of their repeated disobedience (2 Kgs 23:25), but Josiah would

be spared from seeing the great destruction (2 Kgs 22:20) because of his humility, sorrow and repentance before the Lord.

Josiah called all the people to assemble and the Law was read to them (22:1-2). The people had broken the old covenant with God so Josiah proposed a “new” covenant, or recommitment before the Lord (22:3). Making a “new covenant” or “renewing the covenant” was a familiar event in Jewish history, essentially a time of repentance and returning to the Lord. This was a covenant “to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant” (2 Kings 23:3). Even today when churches have failed to keep God’s Word, then it is time for corporate repentance and renewal.

After the call for national repentance, Josiah went on to make great and necessary changes in the kingdom as noted in chapter 23. He removed the utensils from the temple that had been made for Baal and burned them in the Kidron Valley (23:4). He removed the high places of pagan worship where they had burned incense to Baal, the sun, moon and constellations (23:5). He tore down the altar that *was* at Bethel *and* the high place built by Jeroboam, who led Israel into sin (23:15). These actions taken by Josiah were the fruit of repentance.

He is remembered for his efforts. “Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart, all his soul, and all his might, in conformity to all the Law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him” (2 Kgs 23:25). Josiah ruled for 31 years (640-609 BC) and walked in the ways of the Lord.

But Josiah did one thing that was of greatest importance: he reinstated the Passover which kept the people in fellowship with their redeemer God who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Passover had not been celebrated since the days of the judges, and now Josiah celebrated the Lord’s Passover in Jerusalem (23:21-23).

Repentance for sin requires restitution, if possible, but forgiveness and reconciliation with God is found only in the Passover Lamb who has now been sacrificed (1 Cor 5:7). The Church today needs this reminder of Jesus delivering us from slavery to sin. We hear His word and receive His body and blood for the remission of sins as we do in the Lord’s Supper, which should be celebrated regularly according to God’s command. There we are taken to the cross to see God’s love and faithfulness to us in Christ, and to renew our love and faithfulness to Him for so great a salvation.

Learn the New Words

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

kingdom: a nation or group of people ruled by a king or queen

faith: belief and trust

Josiah: a young king in Israel

priest: a leader in the church whose work is to help people know about, love, and worship God

Word of God: the message of salvation. The Word of Christ. The Bible. Commandments and rules for living given by God.

Christ: the Messiah (the Anointed One), Jesus, the Son of God

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Mess up the classroom ahead of time and hide the scroll (see above in Prepare Materials).

Then, greet the children as they arrive.

Say: It looks like we need to do some cleaning today before we can start our lesson. After things are straightened up, **SAY:** Look what I found as we were cleaning up. Show them the scroll and let them handle it. **SAY:** In today's lesson we will learn about a boy king who found a scroll something like this one.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like. Ask God to help you love His Word and honor it.

Read the Memory Verse

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

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1.

Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Review main ideas from the previous lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask: What do you think it would be like in our Sunday School and Church if nobody had a Bible? How could we learn about Jesus? How could we sing "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so"?

Imagine if we only had one copy of the Bible and that Bible got lost under papers and things? If somebody found that Bible, how would we all feel? What would you do with that Bible?

Let's read the title of the lesson today. **Ask** for a volunteer to read the first paragraph

Read the Lesson

Read or tell the story of Josiah making sure you include details (If you read the story live, you could use the scroll to hold the teachers' manual as you read or tell). **Say:** When Josiah was king, the Bible was written on a long piece of paper rolled up. This was called a scroll. When we cleaned up our room, we were like the workers cleaning the temple. One of the workers or priests found God's Word that was lost. How old was Josiah when the Word of God

was found? How did God's Word get lost? (We don't really know, but there was only one copy left and the people had become careless and neglected it.) What did King Josiah do after he heard what the Word of God said? (He got sad, tore his clothes, repented, and had the Bible read to the people.) What did King Josiah promise to do? (Follow God and obey His Word.) What orders did he give? (for the priests to destroy the idols and the idol temples.) The words on the scroll that was lost and then found became part of the Old Testament in the Bible we read today.

Ask: Why is it important to not forget God's Word? (It's God's message of salvation; Every word is true and given by God; we must hear it so we can obey and love God.) When can we hear God's Word? (In Sunday school and church, in daily devotions at home, at Vacation Bible School).

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Crossword Story

Activity 1

Do the crossword puzzles using new words from the lesson.

Activity 1

CROSSWORD STORY

Do the crossword puzzle using new words from your lesson.

ACROSS

1. Hilkiah was a _____.
2. God's enemies had tried to _____ the book of the law.
3. God's people had almost _____ about God.
4. King Josiah _____ his people had sinned.
5. Hilkiah found an _____ book that had been lost.
6. The people _____ to worship the true God.

DOWN

1. King Josiah called the leaders from his _____ to come to the temple.
2. King Josiah wanted to _____ God's temple in Jerusalem.
3. Hilkiah _____ the book of the law in the house of the Lord.
4. King Josiah was eighteen when he gave an _____ to repair the temple.

Honoring God's Word

Activity 2

Number the books in the correct order for the Third Commandment and meaning

Activity 2

HONORING GOD'S WORD

The Third Commandment teaches us to honor God's Word. Number the books in the correct order for the Third Commandment and meaning.

The Third Commandment

What does this mean?

Read all the words in the correct order.
Talk about ways you can honor God's Word.

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:

“Thy Word” -Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant. Lyrics are words of Psalm 119:105.

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 3

God's House is Holy

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 19:45 [and as a reference for the teacher: John 2:12-17]

MEMORY VERSE: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."
Luke 11:28b

CATECHISM: The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know that God's house is for worship, prayer, and listening to God's Word, the Bible
- honor the altar as a special place in God's house
- be glad to go to God's house

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets, picture or diagram of the temple

LESSON OVERVIEW: The temple in Jerusalem was a special place where God met with His people. One day Jesus went to the temple to worship and hear God's Word. Jesus found the courtyard was like a busy marketplace. Priests exchanged money and sold animals to people who came a long way to make sacrifices since they could not bring their animals with them. But in Jesus day it had become much more than this, it was a busy noisy place. It was a place to make money in ways beyond selling animals for sacrifice. It was as noisy as a stockyard.

Jesus was angry that the people didn't respect God's House. He made a whip and drove the people and cattle out. He knocked over tables and dumped money on the ground. Jesus said, "Stop making my Father's house a house of merchandise" (John 2:16). Jesus cleansed the temple.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What did Jesus see when He came to the temple? What did Jesus do when He saw what was going on in the temple? What happens when you come to your church to worship God? What does God promise us when we come to worship? What happens during worship at the altar of the church? How do we respect (honor) God's house?

ACTIVITY 1: Connect the dots activity. Fill in the blank activity: I was GLAD when they said to ME, "Let us GO to the HOUSE of the LORD." PSALM 122:1

ACTIVITY 2: Fill in the blank activity: 1- temple, 2- cheating, 3- greedy, 4- prayer, 5- respected.
Line match activity: church – worship, pray..., altar – a place at the front..., communion – receive the Lord's Supper, baptism font – receive God's promise..., offering – give our money to God.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Thank God for the privilege of coming to His house every Sunday to worship Him.

Pray for God to enable you to teach this lesson in such a way that the children will understand how to respect God's House.

Pray that you may help each child know there is forgiveness for sin in Jesus.

Prayer Preparation

- 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.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

John 2:12-17

"The God who made the world and everything that is in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by hands" (Act 17:24). But God said to Moses: "Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (Ex 25:8). This was the tabernacle (tent) which was a precursor to Solomon's temple in Jerusalem.

The design of the tabernacle and its furnishings—and later the temple—were a shadow of God's redeeming work in Christ (see Ex 25-27). In that place a sinful people were shown how to worship a holy God through the priests who represented the people before God. First was the altar of sacrifice where the priests offered the blood of bulls and goats to atone for themselves and the people. The first room of the tent was called the "holy place." In this room were the lampstand (Jesus the Light), the table of showbread (Jesus the bread of life), and the table with incense (prayer rising to God).

Behind this first room and separated by a heavy woven veil was the "holy of holies" or holiest place. Here stood the Ark of the Covenant containing the two tablets of stone on which God wrote His Law on Mt Sinai. The cover of the ark was called the mercy seat (or atonement cover), and was made with two golden cherubim facing each other with wings outspread. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the most holy place once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle the sacrificial blood on the mercy seat (Lev 16:14).

Solomon's temple in Jerusalem was a magnificent creation with stunning gold, silver, bronze, jewels, marble, engraving and woodwork adorning its every feature. At its dedication the glory of the Lord "filled the house of the Lord" (1 Kings 8:11). "As a cloud had covered the tabernacle and God's glory had filled it when it was inaugurated (Exodus 40:34), so now a cloud filled the temple. This visible presence of God's dwelling with His people—sometimes called the 'shekinah

[indwelling] glory'—gave the people assurance and incentive for obedient and holy living" (*Nelson Study Bible*, note on 1 Kings 8:10-11).

The temple showed the way of Jesus on the cross as the lamb of God who shed His own blood as a sacrifice to make full atonement for all sin. After that “work” was finished He ascended to the Father, to the “mercy seat” in the most Holy Place at the right hand of God, where He continues to be an advocate for sinners. Knowing what the temple represented, is it any wonder that Jesus was so greatly offended at seeing His house defiled?

All of the temple area was to be honored and treated with respect, but the outer court had become a place of business to exchange money for Jewish currency and to sell animals for sacrifices. This was done for people who used different kinds of money or who had to travel a great distance to worship and couldn't bring animals with them. But now that temple court had become a marketplace filled with animal noises and people making deals. It was also the place the Jews paid their yearly temple tax. These practices were being abused.

Our church buildings today, from the vaulted cathedrals to the humble country church are not temples. They are called “churches” but they are really only structures in which the Holy Christian Church assembles as a congregation to worship the triune God. The building and all it contains is still respected as a house of God. As children we were strictly warned to “not run around the altar,”

God no longer dwells in buildings. After Pentecost each Christian is now a “temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and Christ dwells in our hearts by faith (Eph 3:17, Col 2:9).

Gentiles entering the outer court of the temple (Court of the Gentiles) seeking some spiritual truth, would have been confused and misled by what they saw. So, too, congregations today must evaluate every activity that goes on in their churches, so it does not turn people away from worship and ministry of the Word.

As temples of God (Holy Spirit) cleansing needs to begin in our own hearts which are deceitful and desperately sick (Jer 17:9). We should (must) approach God with a sincere confession of sin and seek refuge in His mercies. A merciful God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake for He has made full atonement for sin, and his blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn 1:9). He welcomes us to the mercy seat, the throne of grace where we find mercy and grace to help in time of need.

Learn the New Words

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

oxen: more than one ox, a cowlike (bovine) working animal

communion: Also called the Lord's Supper. After confessing their sins, people receive the bread and wine. When they do this, they receive assurance that Jesus has forgiven them.

altar: The part of the church in front of where the people sit. There is usually a cross there. People pray and take communion there.

Robber's den: A place, like a hideout, where thieves and crooks live.

doves: a kind of bird

psalmist: a person who writes and/or sings songs to God

fear: having great respect and awe toward God

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children. Tell them how glad you are that they came to God's house today.

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

Read the Memory Verse

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

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1.

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 Third Commandment. See if the students can recall and briefly retell the story of Josiah. Review the truths about God's word and how you should treat it. We should go to church each week, hear and learn God's word. We should remember it, love it, believe it and obey it. Recite the Third Commandment and its meaning as a class.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: Do you like to have a clean house? Sometimes it's fun to make your room and the whole house clean to get ready for company. Today's lesson is about a time when Jesus had to clean out God's house, the temple. We'll find out what was wrong in God's house and how Jesus made it right. **ASK:** When you think of God's special day and God's holy word, what place do you think of? **ANSWER:** (Yes, the place we go on Sunday to hear and learn God's word, God's house, the church).

Read the Lesson

Read the title again, then **ASK:** What is this lesson about? (respecting God's house because it is holy)

What does it mean to respect someone or something? We have learned that God's name is holy and we should honor it. Remember how King Josiah had the people clean and fix up the temple? They had not taken good care of the temple, so it was very dirty and needed repairs. Today we will learn about the time when Jesus cleanses the temple. This time it wasn't only dirty. Something else was wrong!

Read the first paragraph. Remind the children that the temple was like a church. It was wrong to have buying and selling in the temple itself. The temple was for prayer and worship. Jesus was right to be angry that people were not treating the temple with honor and respect. Jesus also said the people were like robbers and thieves and were cheating the people.

Read the second and third paragraphs.

If you are visiting the sanctuary, this is a good time. **SAY:** When we go into the sanctuary, we must show respect for this special place in God's house. How can we do this?

Back in the classroom, finish reading the lesson. Discuss ways they could disrespect God by the way they act in the sanctuary. If they ever disrespect God's house, they can ask Jesus to forgive them and He will forgive them.

Discuss the catechism meaning of the Third Commandment. Discuss the unfamiliar words.

Summarize

Even though God doesn't dwell in temples made with hands, our churches are buildings set apart and sanctified for the special work of worship.

The lesson shows Jesus in the temple, which was still used for sacrifices and worship. It was the house of God—He dwelt there. God now dwells in the hearts of His people who are temples of His Holy Spirit. What Jesus did in the temple in Jerusalem gives us insight into how to show respect for God’s house today.

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What is this place?

Activity 1

Connect the dots, and fill in the blanks.

Activity 1

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

Connect the dots starting with number 1 to discover an important place. What do you think it might be? Finish the picture by drawing a cross at the top, a door, windows, and anything else you think is missing.

Fill in the missing words from our memory verse.

I was GLAD when they said to ME, "Let us GO to the _____ of the LORD."

PSALM 122:1

Respecting God’s House

Activity 2

Fill in the missing words, and draw lines to match words with their descriptions

Activity 2

RESPECTING GOD'S HOUSE

Fill in the blanks with the missing words to complete each sentence.

prayer • respected • greedy • temple • cheating

- Jesus went to Jerusalem to the TEMPLE.
- People in the temple were CHEATING.
- Jesus chased out the GREEDY people.
- Jesus said His house shall be a house of PRAYER.
- Jesus RESPECTED God's house.

When we gather together in God's house, He promises to be there with us as we hear God's Word, worship, pray, and sing praises to Him.

Draw a line to match the phrase that best describes each word.

church	receive the Lord's Supper
altar	worship, pray, hear God's Word, sing praises to God
communion	give our money to God
baptismal font	a place at the front of the church where we receive from God and give to God
offering	receive God's promise of redemption

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 4

Honor and Obey Your Parents

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 2:40-52

MEMORY VERSE: “Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord”. Colossians 3:20

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “I delight to do your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart”. Psalm 40:8

CATECHISM: The Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD the God giveth thee.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and respect them.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand parents are a gift from God
- know that God will help you love and honor your parents

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Bible lesson is about Jesus coming to the temple when he was twelve years old to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. When his parents started back home Jesus stayed behind to listen to the teachers and ask questions. Joseph and Mary had to return to Jerusalem and search for Him for three days before they found Him. Jesus told them He needed to be in His Father’s House (He was the Son of God) but he returned home with them without issue, honoring them by this action. The lesson talks about how we honor and respect our parents. When we don’t keep this commandment we can confess this as sin and God will forgive us.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What days do we celebrate our parents each year? How do we honor and respect our parents? Where had Jesus and His parents gone? What happened when they started to return home? How did Jesus honor His earthly parents? In what ways can we honor our parents? When we mess up and dishonor them what can we do?

ACTIVITY 1: Connect the answer activity: 1- Joseph, Mary, Jesus, 2- Jesus, 3- Joseph, Mary, 4- Mary, 5- teachers, 6- Jesus, 7- me, 8- God, 9- God, 10- Jesus.

ACTIVITY 2: Honor or Dishonor activity: 1- H, 2- D, 3- H, 4- D, 5- D, 6- H, 7- D, 8- D. Fill in the Blank: Children, be OBEDIENT to your PARENTS in all things, for this is well pleasing to the LORD. COLOSSIANS 3:20

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray for the homes and the parents of the children. Pray that each home may be a place where the child learns to know and love Jesus.

Pray that God's Word, learned and carried home each Sunday, may do its work of grace, working a living faith in the hearts of those who live there.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Pray for each of the children He has placed in your class this year by name and ask Him to bless them.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Luke 2:40-52 Jesus as a boy at the temple

Luke's gospel informs us of the events leading up to and surrounding the birth of Jesus, His circumcision on the eighth day (Lk 2:21), and the purification ceremony in the temple where He is met by Simeon and Anna (2:22-38). The family returned to Nazareth in Galilee and Luke summarized the next years of Jesus by simply saying that He "kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people" (2:40). The NASB version words it differently: *"The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."*

Matthew records the visit of the Magi from the East and Herod's massacre of infants (Mt 2:1-13), and that Joseph and Mary and the baby fled to Egypt until the death of Herod. This journey fulfilled the prophecy that "Out of Egypt I called My Son" (Mt 2:14-15).

Aside from the visit to the temple at age 12, what did Jesus do during all those years he was growing up in Nazareth? No one knows. There are "fanciful stories" about what Jesus as a young boy might be prone to do. One example is that Jesus would make a bird out of clay, give it life, and send it flying into the air. He was the Creator of the world, but he would not now foolishly play with the power of God, for that would certainly not honor His heavenly Father. Also, John describes the miracle of the water into wine at Cana as His first miracle (Jn 2:11).

Jesus and His family lived in Nazareth to fulfill what was also spoken through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene" (Mt 2:23). According to one source the name Nazareth is derived from a Hebrew word for "branch" which would refer back to the prophetic messianic words in

Isaiah 11:1, “Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.”

Nazareth was on a major trade route going inland from the coast, so the people were closely in touch with the Gentile world. Jesus was not isolated from Gentile life. The city was also a local gathering place for the priests who met to travel up to Jerusalem together for their twice-yearly duty in the temple.

There is a Jewish saying that “A child sucks in knowledge of the Torah at the mother’s breast.” His education at home began in infancy, which should be true especially in any Godly home. Jesus kept the law perfectly in our place, so even as a child He honored His father and mother, Joseph and Mary, and was subject to them” (Lk 2:51). In His ministry Jesus was always clear about obeying His heavenly Father. When in Jerusalem for the Passover, He was at home in “His Father’s house” (Lk 2:49). He was familiar with Jewish traditions and practices in the home. He and his family were known in the local synagogue and attended worship regularly (Lk 4:16).

A Jewish father was bound to teach his son as soon as the boy could speak. This duty took precedence even over eating a meal. The child learned Psalms and Scripture verses and prayers. Many homes possessed scrolls containing parts of the Scriptures and scrolls with specially selected portions for children. There was a good standard of literacy and commitment to learning in those days, with more formal education to come.

At age five the child reached the age for the study of scripture, at ten the study of the Mishnah. The Mishnah is the first major written collection of the oral Law or Torah. It is also the first major work of rabbinic literature. Secular subjects had no place in the curriculum; moral and religious learning was the only aim.

As God and man, did Jesus already have much of this knowledge and wisdom? We don’t know, but even though He was God, He “emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond servant and being born in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:7). In the likeness of man, He grew up as a normal child, needing the learning and activities like other children. He would have worked with Joseph as a carpenter. The word translated carpenter means an artisan or craftsman who might work in stone or metal as well as wood. Joseph and Jesus likely worked with a variety of materials. His life experiences enabled him to continue to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with both God and man. Even though Jesus was only twelve years old, He possessed great wisdom and understanding, as evidenced by the response of the rabbis to his answers and insights.

Learn the New Words

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

honor: respect, think of them as important people given to us by God. When we honor our parents, we love and obey them. We don’t say bad things to them or about them.

behavior: how we act

Jerusalem: the capital or most important city in Israel

Feast of the Passover: a special Jewish holiday, celebrating when God brought the Israelites out of slavery and the land of Egypt

relatives: people close to you because they have some or many of the same ancestors

pleased: happy or satisfied with

appropriate: acceptable, right for the situation

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Use these pre-class moments to get to know each child and what is important to each of them.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like. Thank God for giving us parents to love and watch over us.

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”
Colossians 3:20

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 Third Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last three lessons. (God’s Day is holy, God’s Word is holy, God’s House is holy).

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

The first three commandments tell us how to relate to God. Starting with the Fourth Commandment, the rest tell us how to relate to other people, beginning with our parents.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. **SAY:** Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are special times when we honor our parents. Your family might give them gifts or do something special for them on those holidays. We want them to know how important they are to us. God wants us to treat our parents nicely every day. We honor our parents when we do that and when we obey them right away and don’t talk back to them.

ASK: Why should we obey our parents?
(response) Yes, because they love and care for

us, but most of all we obey them because God wants us to obey them.

God wants us to honor our parents as well as obey them. Our lesson will teach us how to do that.

ASK: Why has God given a commandment just about parents? **ASK:** What special promise has God given to children who honor their parents? (God promises a long life to those who obey their parents (Exodus 20:12).

SAY: Let’s read the story from our lessons to learn what Jesus said when His parents asked Him why He stayed in the temple. Have volunteers read the second and third paragraphs. **ASK:** Who can read what Jesus said. (“Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”). Jesus wondered that they didn’t know that He was doing what His heavenly Father wanted Him to do. All those who heard Jesus discussing His Father were amazed at His answers and His thoughts. Jesus

was 12 years old, but He still possessed great wisdom and understanding.

Ask the children to listen as you read Luke 2:40-52 from the Bible to learn how Joseph and Mary lost track of Jesus. After finishing, repeat the question, “How did Joseph and Mary lose Jesus?” (He stayed in the temple. His parents thought He was walking with relatives or friends.)

Read the fourth paragraph. **ASK:** Do we always keep the Fourth Commandment

perfectly? No, we don’t, but Jesus did. He kept all the Commandments perfectly.

Read the last paragraph together. When we don’t keep this or any of the commandments, what do we need to do? (Repent and say we are sorry. Ask God to forgive us. Ask God to help us love and honor our parents always.)

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Who Is It?

Activity 1

Draw a line from each question to the correct answer.

Activity 1
WHO IS IT?
Draw a line from each question to the correct answer. Some may have more than one answer.

1. Who went to the Feast of the Passover?
2. Who was missing?
3. Who went to look for Jesus?
4. Who asked Jesus why He was in the temple?
5. Who were amazed at Jesus' understanding?
6. Who went home with His parents and obeyed them?
7. Who does not obey God perfectly?
8. Who wants to forgive our sin?
9. Who will help us to love and honor our parents and others who care for us?
10. Who alone has obeyed perfectly?

Answers: Joseph, Mary, Jesus, teachers, me, God

Honor or Dishonor

Activity 2

Label each statement with an H or D for Honor or Dishonor. Fill in the blanks.

Activity 2
HONOR OR DISHONOR?
Read the following statements that show ways we honor or dishonor our parents and others who care for us. Write the letter H for honor or D for dishonor. Then circle the verbs that show ways we honor them.

H 1. Obey when my parents ask me to clean my room.
D 2. Do not listen when they are talking to me.
H 3. Thank them for giving me food to eat and clothes to wear.
D 4. Disobey when grandparents want me to pick up my toys.
D 5. Talk back to my teacher when I feel mad or hurt.
H 6. Behave when I know the right thing to do.
D 7. Complain about doing chores around the house.
D 8. Start to play a game when I am called to come for dinner.

When we dishonor our parents and others who care for us, we can ask them to forgive us. We can ask God to forgive us too. He promises to forgive our sin.

Fill in the missing words from our memory verse.
Children, be OBEDIENT to your PARENTS in a things, for this is well-pleasing to the LORD.
COLOSSIANS 3

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 5

Listen and Obey

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Proverbs 4:1-9 and I Kings 3:5-9

MEMORY VERSE: Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Colossians 3:20

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Proverbs 1:7-8.

CATECHISM: The Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- learn to listen to and obey parents
- ask God for wisdom

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. Upon David's death Solomon was appointed King of Israel. Although not in the lesson read I Kings 2: 1-4. This is David's instruction to Solomon. King David had been faithful in teaching Solomon God's way, how to love and serve God. In the lesson texts see that Solomon was choosing to follow God's ways, he desired to honor and serve God as his father had done. He prayed to God and asked for wisdom as he began his work as King of Israel. God has given us parents in our lives to help us know how to honor God but also to honor and serve our parents.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Who was King Solomon? Who was his father? What do we know about King David? What had he taught his son Solomon? When Solomon became king what did he do? What did Solomon know about the value of following God's way? (Look at Proverbs 4:1) What are things you can do to honor God and your parents?

ACTIVITY 1: Word Search Activity

ACTIVITY 2: Fill in the blank Activity: HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER – Honor, Serve, Obey, Love, Respect – HEAR GOD'S WORD

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 about what's going on in your life.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and pray for them by name.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

1 Kings 3:5-9, Proverbs 4:1-9

Solomon was born when David was old, the last of his sons (1 Chronicles 3:5) and his second child with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24). David, whose name means "beloved" was a man of war and bloodshed (1 Chron. 28:3), but named his son Solomon, which means "peaceful." God, however, named him Jedidiah, which means "beloved or darling of the Lord" (2 Sam. 12:25). At this time Solomon was not in the line of succession and was not expected to ever be king.

Absalom was David's favorite son and rightful heir (2 Sam 13:37; 18:33), and the people expected him to succeed David (2 Sam 14:13; 15:1-6). The death of Absalom when Solomon was a young child left the throne vacant, but Bathsheba reminded David of his pledge to her that Solomon should be his heir to the throne (1 Kings 1:13). Solomon reigned for 40 years, around 970–930 BC.

Solomon acknowledges that God had been faithful to David who "walked before You in truth, righteousness, uprightness of heart toward You" (v.6) and that God had given David a son (Solomon) to sit on the throne. Solomon is already wise enough to admit that he is still like "a little boy" (v.7) who doesn't know how to "go out or come in." (a Hebrew expression of going from home and coming back, that is, everywhere; meaning to conduct daily business).

He had not been trained specifically to be a king, and knew he needed a greater wisdom to deal with political and civic matters and to judge the people in a fair and righteous way. God gave Solomon the opportunity to ask for wisdom rather than it just being given. Solomon's choice of wisdom shows that he is already wise and wants to rule in obedience to God's word.

Teaching God's word requires something we don't naturally have as sinful human beings, and that is wisdom. The Jews always placed a high value on wisdom, which is not only a matter of good advice and careful planning, but of applying God's word to practical life. Also, Godly wisdom is found only in those who have a right relationship with God so that they understand the human condition of being dead in sin and of God's saving grace that leads to a true knowledge of Him (Prov4 :1-3).

Solomon begins this section with words that he (and other children) very likely heard from their own fathers: “pay attention so that you may gain understanding” (Prov. 4:1). He also shows honor and obedience to his father by repeating what David had said to him: “Let your heart take hold of my words; keep my commandments and live” (4:3-4). Godly wisdom enables one to live a godly life and benefit from God’s goodness, mercy, and grace in all matters of life.

Solomon stresses the need to gain wisdom by writing “Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!” (Proverbs 4:5). Wisdom in Proverbs is personified as a beautiful woman, and if we keep her and love her, she will provide security (4:6), honor (4:8) and beauty (4:9).

This wisdom is given only to those who first have a right relationship with God as David and Solomon did, and know what to ask for. Our relationship with God is found in Christ who reconciled us to God on the cross (Rom 5:10). And being thus reconciled to God Jesus “became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption” (1Cor 1:30).

In receiving this wisdom from God, then “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor 2:16). Jesus was always obedient to Joseph (Lk 2:51) and to his heavenly Father (Jn 14:31), obedient even unto death on the cross (Phil 2:8).

Fathers are still commanded to teach their children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord” to gain the wisdom to honor and obey their parents and enjoy a rich and fruitful life on earth (Eph 6:1-4).

Learn the New Words

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

wisdom: the right use of knowledge. God is the source of wisdom (Pr. 9:10, Col. 2:2-3), wisdom is hearing and obeying God (Deut. 4:5-6).

anointed: oil poured on the head of a person to signify they had been chosen by God, to make sacred by pouring on oil or ointment.

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.

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”
Colossians 3:20

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 Fourth Commandment, see if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

SAY: God tells us in the fourth Commandment to honor our parents. **ASK:** Have you ever gotten in trouble for not listening to your parents? (response). Even a prince needs to listen to his parents and obey them. Today, we will learn about a prince who listened to his father.

Read the Lesson

READ the opening paragraph. Ask for a volunteer to read the next paragraph.

ASK: What did King David teach Solomon? (His parents taught him to listen to and obey God.) King David taught Solomon to trust God and talk to God.

Either read the third paragraph or have a volunteer read it. **ASK:** Do your parents ever tell you stories about when they were young? **SAY:** I imagine King David told Solomon about protecting his sheep by killing a lion and a bear. He must have told his children about the time God helped him kill Goliath with his slingshot and a stone. David stepped up to do that because the giant defied the army of the living God (1 Samuel 23:26).

David loved God. Even though King David was not a perfect parent, he loved God and he loved his family. He loved his son, Solomon, who was going to be Israel's next king.

God had told King David that it would be Solomon's job to build the temple that David had hoped to build. King David stored up many of the supplies Solomon would need to do this and told Solomon about those supplies. King David also gathered advisers for the new, young king and commanded them to help Solomon with his huge task. David even wrote a Psalm for Solomon, that we can still read in our Bibles today (Psalm 72 can be read here, perhaps in a modern or simple translation if time allows). King David prayed for Solomon to be wise, love God, and treasure God's Word.

When Solomon was king, God told him to ask for whatever he wanted, and He would give

it to him. Solomon humbly asked God for wisdom to lead the people well. Solomon had listened to his father.

God's Word tells us that if anyone needs wisdom, they can ask God and He will give it to them (James 1:5, paraphrased).

God says to hear the instruction of a father to gain understanding and wisdom (Proverbs 4:1). Tell the students they can talk to the adults in their lives when they need help and understanding.

Then listen.

Repeat the Memory Verse

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

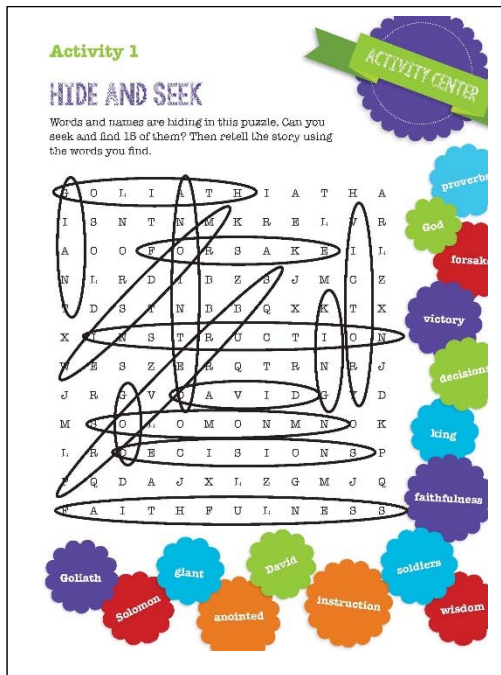
APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Hide and Seek

Activity 1

Find all the words in the wordsearch.



Letter Code

Activity 2

Write the first five words of the Fourth Commandment, and then choose words from the list for the next set, using the numbered letters for the phrase at the bottom.

Activity 2
LETTER CODE

Write the first five words of the Fourth Commandment. Talk about ways we can obey them.

H O N O R T H Y F A T H E R
A N D T H Y M O T H E R

Which words show how God wants us to act towards parents and others who care for us? Write them in the blanks below.

H O N O R
1
S E R V E
2 3
O B E Y
4
L O V E
6
R E S P E C T
7 5

disobey
obey
honor
respect
dishonor
hate
love
talk back
serve

Match the numbers above with the blanks below. Fill in the correct letters to discover another way we can honor God and honor our parents.

H E A R G O D S W O R D
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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 6

Obey God Above All

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Daniel 6

MEMORY VERSE: Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Colossians 3:20

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29b

CATECHISM: The Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know God desires that we honor our leaders
- understand that it is better to obey God rather than man
- believe that God is our Rescuer and wants us to pray to Him

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson teaches us that we also need to honor and obey other authority figures in our lives. Examples would be pastors, teachers, firemen, police, government leaders. The lesson is the story of Daniel when he was put in the lion’s den for disobeying the King’s command which was against God. The King asked all the people to worship him. Daniel did not seek to dispute the King’s order, he just quietly continued to pray to God every day. The student lesson is written as if Daniel is telling the story. God saved Daniel which was such a powerful witness to the King that the king made a new law stating that the people had to serve Daniel’s God. Even in difficulty Daniel put God first and God was honored. If time permits briefly share the story of how Daniel came to be one of the leaders under King Darius.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What other people in our lives do we need to honor and obey? What happened to Daniel when he was a young boy? What did he remember? How did this help him? How did Daniel respond to the law set down by King Darius? What was the King’s response when he found out that Daniel had disobeyed his law? How did God save Daniel? What did God’s actions demonstrate to King Darius and all of the people in the land?

ACTIVITY 1: Fill in the blank letter activity.

ACTIVITY 2: Word maze activity: We should fear and love God

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Thank God for your own parents and your leaders.
Pray for wisdom to teach this lesson well.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about how to honor authorities while always honoring God first.
- Ask God to bless the children and help them understand this aspect of the Fourth Commandment.
- Spend time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Prepare Materials

- Activity sheets and lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Romans 13:1, Daniel 6:1-28

Leaders and authorities are sometimes treated with great disrespect today. This should not be so, regardless of “political” opinions. This attitude of disrespect often begins in the home when children do not honor their parents (even when it is hard to do). Parents must also be consistent in commanding respect from the children. Allowing disobedience or failing to provide consequences for disrespectful words, tone of voice or actions will lead to problems in the children’s future.

God provides order and security in the home through Godly parents. Leaders and authorities are placed by God to provide order in society. Romans 13:1 says, “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

When we serve God and are subject to the governing authorities He has placed over us, God will provide for His people. Therefore God asks to pray for kings and all those in authority (1 Tim 2:1-4). There are two kingdoms in play here: the kingdom of the world, and the kingdom of God. As citizens of the Kingdom of God we need to honor and respect the authority in both, but we are ultimate subject to the authority of God.

Daniel’s behavior under a godless government is a good example of obedience to rulers in the world and to God’s authority (Dan 6:1-28). Daniel (all Judah) had been taken into captivity and lived under a government that didn’t honor God. King Darius didn’t know or fear God, but he was King in Babylon, and God allowed this government to exist and was using it for His purposes. Daniel was obligated to obey King Darius, but Daniel still honored God. Even in captivity, Daniel prayed twice a day to God. He no doubt prayed for King Darius, too. God blessed and honored Daniel and his friends.

After some years, Daniel rose to a high position in the government and was respected by both the king and the people. He had become one of three commissioners overseeing lesser leaders in the kingdom (Dan 6:1-3), and they feared he would rise above them. Being envious of Daniel they tried to find a legitimate charge against him to bring him down. But they could find no ground of accusation

or evidence of corruption, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him” (Dan 6:6).

Ungodly men with deceitful and unclean hearts (Jer 17:9, Mt 15) will always find a way to do what they want. The only thing left for these men to do was to attack Daniel’s faith, a charge that has always been an effective means of exercising control and power over God’s people. To do this they needed another law so they “consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king” (Dan 6:7). The penalty was for that person to be thrown into the lion’s den. Darius signed into law

Daniel responded to the new rule with pious disobedience. He neither hid his faith nor made a show of it. Daniel continued to pray to God every morning and evening in front of his window as was his habit. Daniel was a man of courage and was steadfast in prayer. He hadn’t prayed all those years in vain, and he hadn’t prayed for King Darius in vain either.

When Daniel’s enemies found him praying by his open window, they went to the king and reminded him of the law and its punishment and accused Daniel of continuing to pray (Dan 6:12-13). When the king heard that it was Daniel, he was deeply distressed because he loved and respected Daniel. He tried to fix it but was reminded that the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be changed.

Daniel was thrown to the lions, and that night the king could not sleep. Early the next morning the king went to the lion’s den and called out to Daniel who replied: “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, since I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime” (Dan 6:22). The king made a new law saying “that in all the realm of my kingdom people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel” (Dan 6:26).

If man’s laws require us to disobey God’s higher law, then we “must obey God rather than man” (Act 5:29). But we need clear discernment and understanding of scripture to do that rightly. Another reaction is to simply rebel against man’s authority, which usually leads to greater harm and even death. Opportunities for change, at least for us, are best made at the ballot box. It might take a while, but it will tend to keep things in order while God’s greater will is done.

Learn the New Words

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

Daniel: a man who loved and honored God. Daniel was taken from his own country where he served God and a king who didn’t believe in God

superiors: People who God has put in charge of teaching us, helping us, and protecting us. These leaders are usually adults.

lions’ den: probably a big hole or pit where lions were kept for punishing people

One true living God: God who tells about Himself in the Bible. He is the only real God. Sometimes people make up a god of their own because they don’t want to worship the real God. That kind of god is written with a lowercase “g”.

jealous: wanting what isn’t yours and that someone else has. Can be possessions, positions, or qualities of another person.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they come in.

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

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.” Colossians 3:20.

Read the challenge verse as well:

“We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29b.

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 Fourth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 2 lessons as this will wrap up the focus on the Fourth Commandment.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: Do you know any leaders? Is there a leader in your home? Your classroom? Your church? Have any of these leaders ever told stories about what happened long ago?

Today, someone in our lesson tells us what happened to him. Let’s think about what it would have been like to be Daniel long ago.

Read the Lesson

READ the opening paragraph. **SAY:** Imagine what Daniel would say if he were here today. Who would like to take the part of Daniel and read the next paragraph?

Choose two more volunteers to “be Daniel” for each of the next two paragraphs.

READ the fourth paragraph. Another volunteer can read the last paragraph.

ASK: Did Daniel serve King Darius well? (response). **ASK:** What did Daniel remember to do? He prayed—for himself, his friends, for the King and the country. **SAY:** After a while, King Darius made Daniel a leader. Why do you think the evil men hated Daniel? (response) These

evil men planned to get rid of Daniel. They got the king to make a law they thought Daniel would disobey.

ASK: What law did King Darius make? (response) The king couldn’t change a law even if he wanted to once he made it.

Daniel prayed by his window like he always did. He did not stop praying. Daniel loved and obeyed God even though he knew he would be punished.

King Darius couldn’t sleep that night. In the morning, he ran to the lions’ den, calling out, “Daniel, was your God able to save you from the lions?”

He was!

What important thing did Daniel tell King Darius? (“God was still watching over me.”)

Because Daniel loved God best and told the king that God had taken care of him, King Darius believed in God and wanted the people to worship Daniel’s God: the One, True, Living God.

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Daniel and Darius

Activity 1

Fill in the blanks to write a letter telling what you've learned.

Activity 1

DANIEL AND DARIUS

Write a letter to a friend or family member telling them what you learned.

Date _____ (enter today's date)

Dear _____ (write name of friend or family member)

Did you know God has power to shut the mouths of lions? God is amazing! In the Bible, a man named Daniel had an important job. King Darius made Daniel one of his leaders. Then some evil men tricked the king into making a new law. The new law said people could only pray to King Darius. Daniel did not pray to King Darius. Daniel prayed to the one true God. Daniel was thrown into a den of lions because he did not pray to the King. But God shut the lions' mouths. Daniel was not hurt. King Darius knew God had protected Daniel. Darius made a new law for his kingdom to love and serve the living God. I want to love and serve the living God too. Do you? He rescues, saves, and lives forever!

Love, _____ (student's name)

Word Maze

Activity 2

Follow the words to escape the maze and discover an important message, circle the first letter and draw a box around the last. Finish by writing the message below the maze.

Activity 2

WORD MAZE

Follow the words to discover an important message. Circle the first letter. Draw a box around the last letter.

Write the message from the maze. How did Daniel follow these words?

W E S H O U L D F E A R
A N D L O V E G O D

Daniel remembered the Fourth Commandment. Daniel honored and served king. But Daniel knew it was most important to obey God.

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

Love Your Brother

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 4:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer.

I John 3:15a

CATECHISM: The Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm nor cause him any suffering, but help and befriend him in every need.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- understand that killing is a sin against God.
- understand that hating breaks the fifth commandment
- learn that God wants us to be sorry for our sin and ask Him for forgiveness

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: This is the story of the first murder. Cain killed his brother Abel. The hate in Cain's heart toward Abel came to be because Cain did not trust God and his offering to God was not accepted but Abel's offering was accepted because he had faith in God. God knew what Cain had done and Cain told lies to God in an attempt to cover his sin. Cain never was sorry for his sin. God gave Cain consequences for his sin and he went away from God.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What does our lesson tell us about Cain and Abel? Both men brought sacrifices to God, why did God not accept Cain's offering? What did Cain do because he was so angry with his brother? How did Cain respond to God? What should he have done instead? This commandment talks about killing but what other things are included in breaking this commandment? How can we be forgiven if we have been hateful to our family or our friends? How can we be forgiven?

ACTIVITY 1: Finish the News: (student's name), (student's hometown), Cain, Abel, brother, offering, lied, kill, God, forgive, (student's name).

ACTIVITY 2: What is in your heart?: Be KIND to one another, TENDER-hearted, FORGIVING each other, just as GOD in CHRIST also has forgiven YOU. Ephesians 4:32

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Look through the lesson early in the week and set aside time to revisit it during the week.

Be alert to and gather materials that may add interest to the lesson.

This is a hard lesson, as there are other underlying lessons that are not explicitly laid out in the Biblical text. There might be extra discussion.

Keep the discussions focused on: the wrong committed (we do not always have to know the ‘why,’ Cain’s response (was he sorry?), how Cain should have responded.

If children seem too focused on the death scene, acknowledge that some people do terrible things, redirect them to feeling bad or sorry for doing wrong things and point them to God’s love and forgiveness.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for awareness of each child's spiritual needs.
- Pray for the children’s hearts to be tender and to help them recognize the signs from their hearts, minds, or tummies when they have done something wrong.
- Pray that you will be made able to apply each lesson to your own life.
- Spend time in conversation with the Lord.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

Bible Background

Genesis 4:1-16

This lesson on the Fifth Commandment is about the difficult topic of hatred and murder. The children in your class likely have seen the news. The world is violent. It isn’t too soon to teach about hatred in a way that they can understand. Too many children see it through bullying and peer pressure that can lead them to despair of life itself.

The natural man sees the commandments in terms of outward behavior and believe they can keep them quite well (Mark 10:20). Jesus made it clear that the law is more than “doing”. What we do and say comes from the heart, and the heart is filled with evil (Matthew 5:21-48; 15:18-19).

Most of us have not murdered anyone, yet we break this commandment as much as any other. We may actually say, “Oh, I just hate her!” or “I’m so mad, I could just kill him!” We may say that we don’t really mean it, but what does the Bible say? Read Matthew 5:21 and 22, as well as I John 4:20.

The story of Cain and Abel shows that it didn’t take long after the fall of man for the utter depravity of mankind's sinful nature to express itself.

James describes the growth cycle of sin, and the description fits the series of events in Genesis 1-4. “But each man is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”(James 1:14-15). In Genesis 4:7b, God warned Cain about the enticing and deadly power of sin.

The details emphasize the depth of mankind's fall into sin. The context is worship. The victim is a brother (Genesis 4:3-5, Matthew 5:23-24). Eve had been talked into sin by Satan (Genesis 3:1-6), Cain won't let God talk him out of it (Genesis 4:7b, nor will he confess it (4:9b), nor accept its punishment (4:13-14).

Worship had begun at some point and Cain and Abel each brought an offering to God (4:3-4). God had regard for (accepted) Abel and his offering but not Cain and his offering. The Bible says the acceptance or rejection of an offering depends not on the offering itself, but on the heart of the person bringing it (4:4b-5a). Jesus called Abel righteous (Matthew 23:35).

Abel offered in faith, Cain did not; Abel was penitent, Cain was not; Abel's confidence was in God, Cain's confidence was in himself. God sees the before He sees sacrifices and offerings (Matthew 5:21-25) and only accepts a humble and contrite heart (Psalm 51:16-17), (Isaiah 66:2).

Cain couldn't understand why God didn't accept his offering and became very angry and his face was gloomy (fell)" (4:5b). He wasn't angry at himself for his unfaithfulness and hypocrisy that separated him from God. He didn't examine himself or ask God what he had done wrong. He simply saw God as an enemy. God is gracious and didn't want to lose Cain, or any person (I Timothy 2:4).

God tried to reason with Cain and asked him, "Why are you angry?" God wanted to lead Cain to repent of his anger. Cain's anger (hatred) led him to actually murder his brother (4:8) Cain hated Abel because God loved Abel.

Again, God came to Cain seeking restoration and asked him, "Where is your brother?" (4:9a). The question was intended to lead to conviction of sin and possible repentance. This is an example of the love and patience of God to seek out a lost and straying sinner. Cain's heart was hard. He answered with a lie (another major sin) and a lack of repentance, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain's sin was found out and he was convicted by his brother's blood crying out from the ground (Genesis 4:10). Again, Cain could have repented. For Cain, sin was waiting at the door. If sin is harbored in the heart, the curse waits at the door. Jesus also waits at the door (Revelation 3:20). The Bible tells of the victory over sin that is ours by faith in Christ, "for sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace." (Romans 6:14). Cain rejected grace.

Cain gave in to sin. In killing his brother, Cain was also striking out against God (Psalm 51:4). He hated Abel because God loved Abel.

God came again to Cain, seeking restoration. He asked Cain, "Where is your brother?" There was still the possibility of repentance. This is an example of the love and patience of God to seek out the lost and straying sinner.

Cain's heart was hard. He answered with a lie and a lack of repentance, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain's sin was found out and he was convicted by his brother's blood (Genesis 4:10). God punished him with a curse. The ground that received Abel's blood would become a curse to Cain, no longer yielding its strength to Cain, and he would become a wanderer (drifter) on the earth (4:12). The ground from which Cain had supported himself would no longer grow anything for him, and he would never again have a place of his own to farm.

Cain would be a wanderer on the earth (Genesis 4:12).

Cain complained that the punishment was too hard, as most people do when they are punished. He still doesn't admit fault or express sorrow: "My punishment is too great to endure! Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and I will be hidden from Your face" (4:13-14). Cain was separated from God and so had lost his source of life and contentment. Cain now saw himself as the victim and believed that people would try to kill him (4:15). God is still merciful and offered him protection (4:15), but what protection is there when God is not your refuge?

Cain went on to marry, and later his great-great-grandson, Lamech, boasted to his wives, "I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me!" (4:23).

The devil first appears in Genesis 3 and tempts Eve to sin. From then on, humans have struggled against the devil, the world, and our own flesh. Victory came only when Jesus died on the cross and overcame the devil, the world, and sin in the flesh.

Learn the New Words

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

offering: “Offer” means to give. People gave gifts or offerings to God.

hate: If we hate, we dislike someone or something very much.

Cain: Adam and Eve’s first son

Abel: Adam and Eve’s second son.

kill/murder: Killing is taking someone’s or something’s life. Murder is killing with evil intent.

angry: Anger is an emotion and, by itself, is not always a sin. God is sometimes angry. But God does not sin. We are told to refrain from anger (Psalm 37:8).

be sorry: Be sad about your sin, regretting it, and repenting of it. Asking God to forgive is important.

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.

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

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 Fourth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 2 lessons.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: Does anyone have a brother or sister? Raise your hand if you do. Sometimes people get angry or fight with their siblings or other

people. That doesn't please God. We may have to work at getting along with each other. Sometimes we need to say, “I’m sorry, I was wrong.” Our lesson today is about two brothers who had problems.

SAY: God created people to be friends with Him. He made people so they could think, talk, and love God. In the beginning, He made people so they could live forever. That is why human life is special; and we must never kill someone or even think about killing someone.

ASK: Has anyone here ever killed anyone?

ASK: Does this mean we've never broken the Fifth Commandment? **SAY:** I think we're all about to learn something very important today.

Read the Lesson

Read (or have volunteers read) the first three paragraphs.

ASK: What were the brothers' names? What work did Cain do? What work did Abel do? What did they decide to do for God? (give Him an offering). The Bible doesn't explain the reasons for the offerings at this time, but later in the Bible offerings were given to thank God, others because of sin, and some as an act of obedience.

ASK: How did God feel toward Abel? (pleased). Why? (Abel gave his offering because he wanted out of his love for God). What do we learn here about God? (He knows our heart attitudes and what we are thinking).

God knew that Cain didn't really want to give God an offering. He was not pleased with Cain but he still loved him. God wanted Cain to know he was wrong to be angry that his offering was unaccepted. Cain wouldn't listen to God. He would not ask God to forgive him. Cain became very angry that God was happy with Abel, but not happy with him.

Read the next two paragraphs.

Cain hated Abel. One day when Cain and Abel were out in the field, Cain did something terrible. Cain killed Abel.

God asked Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain thought he could lie to God. Cain answered, "How should I know? Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain should not have lied to God. He should have asked God to forgive him for being jealous and hating Abel in the very beginning. Cain could still have asked God to forgive him after hating and killing Abel. It was not too late to ask for forgiveness. But Cain did not.

God had to punish Cain. God said you must go away from me and your family. You will be a wanderer, alone in the world.

Jesus says that we break the Fifth Commandment even when we are angry with someone and say, "I hate you!" Sometimes we don't say the words out loud, but we think mean things about other people. All of us have broken the Fifth Commandment this way. God even knows when we are thinking mean thoughts.

But God loves us very much. He wants us to know when we are wrong and apologize. He wants us to ask Him to forgive us. He can forgive us because Jesus died for our sins. He will help us to be kind and loving.

Repeat the Memory Verse

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Activity 1

Fill in the blank to finish the news report.

Activity 1
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

You are a reporter. Finish the news report. Then share it with others.

This is _____ (student's name) reporting live from _____ (student's location).

Many of you know _____ Cain _____ and _____ Abel _____, sons of Adam and Eve. Cain grows crops in the area, and Abel raises sheep. Cain has killed his _____ brother _____, Abel! We are trying to understand why. Cain and Abel both brought offerings to the one true God. God received Abel's _____ offering _____. God did not accept Cain's offering. Abel gave his offering in faith, but Cain did not trust God. Cain got mad at his brother and even hated him. Then Cain killed Abel and _____ lied _____ to God about it. Cain was not sorry for what he had done. Cain broke the Fifth Commandment, "Thou shalt not _____ kill _____. " This is very bad and very sad news.

But wait! There is good news too! The best news of the day is God will forgive us! If Cain asked God to forgive him, God would. The fact is that _____ God _____ loves everyone and wants us to admit we are sinful. He wants us to ask Him to _____ forgive _____ us when we think, say, or do mean things against others. Remember to do this every day, folks.

Signing off now, this is your trusted reporter, _____.

What is in Your Heart?

Activity 2

Fill in the hearts with the missing words from the verse.

Activity 2
WHAT IS IN YOUR HEART?

Write the missing words. Carry this message in your heart.

Christ love Kind helping

Be K I N D to one

another: T E N D E R -hearted.

F O R G I V I N G

each other, just as G O D in

C H R I S T also has

mean forgiven Y O U .

Ephesians 4:32

you

me others God unkind

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 Your Neighbor

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 10:25-32

MEMORY VERSE: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 19:19b

CATECHISM: The Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm nor cause him any suffering, but help and befriend him in every need.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand that our neighbor is anyone we meet.
- recognize we do not always love God or our neighbors
- learn to ask God to help us love others

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: A lawyer came to Jesus asking about what he needed to do to get to heaven. Jesus asked him what law said. The lawyer responds by citing Old Testament scripture (Dt. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18) Jesus next question was Who is your neighbor? Jesus then tells the first part of the story of the Good Samaritan. Remember the concept of sins of omission (what we don't do) and commission (what we do) This lesson focuses on the bad examples of the temple worker and the Levite and next week's lesson completes the story with the Good Samaritan.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What question did the lawyer ask Jesus? What question did Jesus ask the lawyer? How are we to love God? Are we able to do this? The lawyer did not want to admit that he could not do this so he asks another question, who is my neighbor? Who were the first 2 men to see the injured man? How did they respond to the injured man? What can we do to help us be a good neighbor?

ACTIVITY 1: What Happened?: 1. A man... 2. Some Thieves... 3. Robbers left... 4. A priest saw... 5. A Levite saw... 6. The Priest and the Levite...; No, No. Fill in the missing letters: Love Your Neighbor

ACTIVITY 2: Draw ways to help/love your neighbor.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will prepare your heart to teach this lesson well.
Ask God for insight to apply the lesson to your own life first.
Pray for the needs of each child.

Prayer Preparation

- Ask God to remind you of a personal example to keep in mind (or maybe share) of when you learned something about loving your neighbors.
- Spend time in prayer with the Lord.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets and lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Luke 10:25-32

Not everyone understood the parables of Jesus, and in some cases, he had to explain them, even to his disciples. When they asked Jesus what the parable of the sower meant, he said: “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *they are told* in parables, so that while seeing they may not see, and while hearing they may not understand. (Lk 8:9-10). So, we ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth.

This week we will look the actions of the thieves, the priest, and the Levite. Next week we will see love in action as the Samaritan demonstrates our responsibility to help and befriend our neighbor in every time of need.

This lawyer was not a civil or criminal lawyer, but an expert in the Old Testament law. The lawyer stood up and put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (10:25). “To the test” tells us his motive was not to seek the truth. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees and scribes, he was trying to trap Jesus so they could condemn Him and find reason to have Him executed. This lawyer was part of the religious establishment that was always harassing Jesus.

Knowing the man was an expert in the Law, Jesus asks him “What is written in the Law?” (10:26). Of course, the man could read the Law (10:26). People can read the law (scripture) well enough, but how do they understand it — “How does it read to you?” It is man’s misunderstanding of scripture based on human reason that leads to false teachings. When the Sadducees asked their hypothetical question about the resurrection Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures nor the power of God?” (Mk 12:24)

This lawyer did know the law and summarized it with the two great commandments, to love God and your neighbor (10:27). Jesus said he was correct and added, “Do this and live,” (see Leviticus 18:5). The lawyer tried to justify himself and asked, “Who is my neighbor?” His self-

righteous answer came from misunderstanding the Law. Jesus had to teach the lawyer what he did not yet know or understand.

The man's question, "Who is my neighbor?" revealed a major flaw in the understanding of scripture and an ungodly view of a neighbor. The Jews at this time really didn't have "neighbors" as stated in the law (or as we know them). Most of their "neighbors" were enemies, and they did not love their enemies. They hated the Gentiles and called them dogs. They hated the Samaritans even more. In many cases, they didn't even love other Jews. Who was left? They loved only the people who were part of their very narrow, elite group (Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes—and lawyers). They justified their "hate" in one sense from Psalm 139:21-22 which says, "Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with the utmost hatred. They have become my enemies." So, they believed that anyone who was not as "righteous" as they were hated God and were therefore to be considered their enemies.

Jesus replies with the story about a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among robbers (10:30-37). Jerusalem is 3,000 feet up; Jericho is 1,000 feet below sea level. It's only 17 miles between them but is a severe, winding road filled with dramatic drops and rocks providing ideal hiding places for robbers. Even in Jesus' time and later it was a dangerous road known for its robbers.

Robbers attack the man, strip him, and beat him (kept on beating him until he was on the verge of death). Will someone come by to help him? Jesus says, "By coincidence (chance), a priest was going down on that road, (10:32). The priest also knew the law and should know how to show kindness strangers (or neighbor).

But this was a typical priest in the Jewish priestly system of the day who also justified himself to be a righteous man but he "passed by on the other side. Unfortunately, the people knew of such priests in the system and would not too shocked at his behavior. The priests hated their "neighbors" for the same reasons given above.

Then comes a Levite who also passes by on the other side of the road (10:32). The Levites assisted the priests in the temple and worked on the liturgy, music, policed the temple, and took care of the facilities. Still a religious man connected to the priesthood, the Levite would also know the law and should have known enough to help the victim on the road

At this point we've met three people who all knew the Law, but in their hearts, they don't love the Lord their God with all their heart, and they don't love their neighbor, at least as they define a neighbor. Jesus has just indicted the Jewish religious establishment. Now He introduces a Samaritan, a person whom the Jews loved to hate. And the lawyer finally has to look at his own sinful and unrighteous heart if he is going to find "the way of eternal life."

Learn the New Words

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

Priest: a man who served God in His temple. Priests helped people give offerings to God and to worship and pray. Priests prayed for the people and taught them about God's Law.

lawyer: A man who had learned all about the laws that God gave to His people. The lawyer's work was to teach the people about God's laws, and how God wanted them to live. He should've known that no one could keep God's laws perfectly, but the lawyer in today's lesson did not know that.

Levite: Levites took care of the temple and got things ready for the priests to use in worship and making offerings. Both priests and Levites were helpers in the temple and should have shown God's love to others.

Jerusalem: the great and beautiful city where the temple was.

Jericho: a city a little way from Jerusalem. The road to Jericho was lonely and dangerous to travel on alone, because robbers waited behind the rocks to rob and hurt people.

neighbor: anyone near you who may need your help.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Get to know the children better. Encourage them to talk about their interests or what's happening this week.

Open the class with prayer. Thank God for His care for us this week.

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32.”

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 Fifth Commandment. The previous lesson focused on the words from the explanation, hate, harm, and befriend. See if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask: What does God say in the Fifth Commandment?

That's right: Thou shalt not kill. The meaning of the commandment says that we must not hurt our neighbor in any way. It is wrong to harm our neighbor, but it is also wrong for anyone to harm themselves. The meaning of the Fifth Commandment also says we should help our neighbors in every need. In Commandments Four through Ten, God tells us how we should treat people.

When Jesus lived on earth, He taught His disciples to treat others as they would want to be treated

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. Explain that “lawyer” in NT meant “student of the Law” or teacher of the Scriptures/Torah]

Move on to the next paragraph. Jesus told the lawyer that he had answered correctly. Then Jesus told him to do this and live. Jesus wanted the lawyer to admit he could not keep all of God's laws perfectly, but the lawyer would not. Instead he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus wanted the lawyer to know that everyone was his neighbor, so Jesus told him this story”

Read the third paragraph or tell the story of the Good Samaritan stopping at the point where the wounded man is left helpless in the road.

Ask: Who sinned in the story? It's likely the class will respond with "the thieves". Say, "Yes, the thieves hurt the man so they could steal his money. That was a bad thing to do." If they don't mention the priest or the Levite, **ASK:** Did anyone else sin? Say: The priest who walked by the hurt man sinned by not helping him. The Levite who crossed to the other side of the road instead of going to the man and helping him also sinned. We usually think of a sin as doing something wrong, but we can also

sin by not doing something right. We can sin by what we do or what we do not do.

Read the last paragraph. **Ask** the class what they think will happen to the man in the story. Tell the class that we'll find out in next week's lesson.

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What Happened?

Activity 1

Number the sentence in the correct order, answer the questions, and use the letters in the heart to fill in the blanks.

Activity 1
WHAT HAPPENED?
Number the sentences in the correct order from 1 to 6. Then read the sentences in order to retell the story.

2 Some thieves robbed, stripped, and beat him.

6 The priest and the Levite caused the man to suffer by not helping him.

5 A Levite saw the hurt man. He walked by on the other side of the road and did not help him.

3 Robbers left him to die on the side of the road.

4 A priest saw the hurt man. He walked by on the other side of the road and did not help him.

1 A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho.

Jesus told this story to a lawyer. Did the lawyer love God best? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Do you always love God and your neighbor? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Fill in the missing letters to learn what God will help you to do.

L O V E Y O U R
N E I G H E O R

Help My Neighbor

Activity 2

Draw ways you can help your neighbor.

Activity 2
HELP MY NEIGHBOR
Draw a picture of you helping your neighbor. What are other ways you can love and help your neighbors?

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Lesson 9

Love Your Enemy

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 10:33-37 Romans 5: 6-10

MEMORY VERSE: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Luke 6:27-28

CATECHISM: The Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm nor cause him any suffering, but help and befriend him in every need.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- understand that we are all helpless and need the love of Jesus
- ask God for help to treat neighbors with kindness and helpfulness
-

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson focuses on the second part of the parable of the Good Samaritan but it begins with a review of the story from last week’s lesson which focused on 2 men, a temple worker and a Levite who were not examples of a good neighbor. Today we finish the story with the Good Samaritan. Point out the issues between the Jews and the Samaritans, they were enemies yet the Samaritan took care of the Jewish man. The Samaritan went above and beyond in his care the injured man. Jesus then asks the lawyer who was a good neighbor. Jesus was a perfect example of loving each and every person.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How are we to love our neighbor? Who in the story loved his neighbor? Who did not? Who is our neighbor? Possibly talk about who are our neighbors in school, at home, the playground for example. How did Jesus show us that he loves every person? When we fail to love our neighbor what can we do? How can God help us love our neighbor better?

ACTIVITY 1: 1. by the side of the road. 2. a Jew. 3. enemies. 4. a Samaritan. 5. cleaned the man’s cuts. 6. took the man to an inn. 7. paid the innkeeper to care for the hurt man. 8. The man who showed mercy. 9. people who need help. 10. not always kind and good. 11. forgiveness for our sin.

ACTIVITY 2: Do our neighbor no harm, but help and befriend him in every need.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read through the lesson early in the week.

Ask God to bring it back to mind during the week.

Ponder the lesson off and on during the week as you prepare to teach the lesson Sunday.

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for His mercy in Christ who died for all people.
- Pray that your life would be an example of faith and kindness.
- Pray for the children to have open receptive hearts.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

Bible Background

Luke 10:33-37, Romans 5:6-10

We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm or cause him any suffering. We follow the first part of the meaning if we don't actively injure our neighbor. But the meaning goes on to say that we are to help and befriend him in every need. Depending on the circumstance, that could require a sacrifice on our part. "To help and befriend" means we really are our brothers' keepers. We are to be actively kind and look for opportunities to help whenever we can.

When the Samaritan saw the helpless man, he felt compassion (Luke 10:33). Compassion is not just pity—it means he was stirred within and was moved to take action. The same word is used to describe how Jesus felt toward sinners (Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 18:27). Compassion describes how God feels toward us. "...God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:4,5).

When we show compassion, we are treating others the way God treated us (I John 4:19). Our memory verse (Eph 4:32) describes it as being kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving. Because of what God has done for us through Christ, we forgive and deal kindly with other people.

Compassion moved the Samaritan and that meant making contact and offering practical help. To this lawyer and his kind, the very existence of Samaritans was seen as an evil, a pariah and a blight on the world. Going way back to the sins of Jeroboam, they were evil because they intermarried with the Gentiles when the Northern Kingdom was occupied. They were half-breed traitors. If you wanted to say the worst about someone, you called him a Samaritan. This is what the Jews said to Jesus (Jn 8:48): "Do we not say rightly that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

The other two men were religious and failed to obey the law. They didn't love their neighbor. They didn't love strangers. They didn't love enemies. Then Jesus brings in a character whom the lawyer considered worst of all men, but who demonstrates the quality of loving your neighbor as yourself.

Their worst enemy felt compassion for the beaten man, and this must have really aggravated the lawyer who has to hear that the Samaritan's help is so extensive.

The Samaritan cleaned and bandaged the man's wounds. Then he took the man to an inn and stayed the night. The next day He told the innkeeper to look after him and he would pay those expenses when he came back this way.

This inn is not like what we might think of as a roadside inn today. This is a rough, tough roadside lodging, brutally sparse. You would only want to be there if it were an emergency and couldn't go any farther.

Then the next day, he takes out two denarii for the man's future care. How much did he really pay? Some literature from about this time describes a board that was found, some kind of a sign board from an inn in a city in the Roman Empire. The nightly cost was 1/32nd of a denarius, which means that for the two denarii the man could stay for two months. Jesus makes the point that the Samaritan's love for this man was lavish. Does God not love us lavishly?

This is amazing generosity for a complete stranger by a person who was so hated. Jesus is saying that this is loving your neighbor as you love yourself. That's what you'd do for you, wouldn't you? Do we do that all the time?

Now Jesus asks the question, verse 36, "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

The lawyer's question in verse 29 was "Who is my neighbor?" But Jesus has just changed the question. This is not about who is my neighbor, but what kind of neighbor am I, and that requires examining the heart. "Am I a neighbor who loves in an unqualified way?" Forget trying to decide who qualifies for you to love them and demonstrate your love without qualifications.

The conviction is laid upon the lawyer and there's a blank space and the next words are, "Now, as they were traveling along." What had Jesus done? Wasn't this an odd way to do evangelism? Actually, it is the right way. The man was not ready yet to hear the "good news" of God's love in Christ.

This story is not meant to make people feel guilty about not taking care of those that are suffering or in some need of help. This story is designed to convict people of not loving God or others perfectly and convicting them of their sin by the Law. That should set one running to the One who alone can provide forgiveness for sin and can give eternal life.

Learn the New Words

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

Samaritan: a person from Samaria. The Jews hated them because they didn't belong to God's people. The Jews would not talk to Samaritans or do anything with them.

Jews: A person from the country where Jesus lived. A Jew was one of the people who worshipped God.

enemies: when people hate each other and do things to hurt each other we say they are enemies. Jews and Samaritans were enemies. They hated each other.

inn: a place like a hotel or motel where people stay when they are on a trip.

innkeeper: the person who takes care of an inn. People who stayed at an inn paid him money.

show mercy: When someone shows mercy to someone, he is sorry for that person, is kind to him, and helps him.

Good Samaritan: the man that helped the man who was robbed and hurt.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying that God will help us listen and allow Him to teach us what He wants us to learn from this lesson.

SHARING: Ask the children if they have been kind to someone this week or if someone has been kind

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32”

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 Fifth Commandment. We stopped in the middle of the story of the Good Samaritan. See if the students can remember what has happened to this point. Review the beginning of the Good Samaritan and briefly catch up anyone who wasn’t present last Sunday.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

SAY: We have learned that we do not keep the Ten Commandments perfectly. We can’t always do what God wants us to do, no matter how hard we try. We need to pray, asking Jesus to forgive our sins. Was there ever anyone who kept the Ten Commandments perfectly? Yes, Jesus did. He did what we cannot do. Then He died on the cross for our sins.

Read the Lesson

Read the opening paragraph.

SAY Jesus was teaching the lawyer a special lesson with the story that He told him. The lawyer didn’t know he needed to hear and learn this lesson, but Jesus did.

ASK: Who is our neighbor? (responses). What did Jesus want to teach the lawyer? (responses). Yes that he should be a good neighbor, even to someone who wasn’t his friend.

ASK: Do you remember how the man was hurt? Robbers beat him and stole his money. They didn’t even care if he died. They disobeyed the Fifth Commandment.

ASK: What did the priest and Levite do? They ignored him and walked on by him like he wasn’t even there. They disobeyed the Fifth Commandment too. The meaning says we should be a friend to anyone who needs help.

Tell the rest of the story or ask volunteers to read the next two paragraphs. Emphasize that the Samaritan helped the Jew even though they were enemies.

ASK: What did Jesus want the lawyer to understand? That he should be a good neighbor even to his enemies. Jesus also wanted the lawyer to understand that he was a sinner and couldn’t keep God’s laws the way he should. All of us are. If we ask God to forgive our sins and trust Him as our savior, God sees us as perfect like Jesus, because He paid for our sins on the cross.

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON


Do the Activities Together

Enemies or Friends?

Activity 1

Finish each sentence by drawing a line to the correct ending.

Activity 1
ENEMIES OR FRIENDS?
Finish each sentence by drawing a line to the correct ending.



- A hurt man was _____ by the side of the road.
by the sea.
- The hurt man was _____ a Samaritan.
a Jew.
- Jews and Samaritans were _____ friends.
enemies.
- The one man who helped _____ a Jew.
the hurt man was _____ a Samaritan.
- The Samaritan _____ cleaned the man's cuts.
passed by on the other side of the road.
- The Samaritan _____ took the man to his house.
took the man to an inn.
- The Samaritan _____ paid the innkeeper to care for the hurt man.
sent the hurt man a bill.
- Who was a neighbor _____ The man who ignored him.
to the hurting man? _____ The man who showed mercy.
- Jesus taught we should _____ people who need help.
be a neighbor to _____ no one.
- We are _____ always kind and good.
_____ not always kind and good.
- We need _____ forgiveness for our sin.
_____ to forget about our neighbors.

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

Word Code

Activity 2

Use the answer key to decode the message.

Activity 2
WORD CODE

A = U	B = ▲	H = ♥	M = ⊗	P = ⚡	U = ↑
B = ⊗	F = ☞	I = ☼	N = ☒	R = ☹	V = ✱
D = ★	G = ◆	L =	O = ∩	T = ♣	Y = ○

Do our neighbor
no harm, but help
and befriend him
in every need.

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

A Gift from God

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: I Corinthians 3:16-17

MEMORY VERSE: Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE Marriage is to be held in honor among all. Hebrews 13:4a

CATECHISM: The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- believe that God designed and established marriage
- understand that God desires to help marriages be strong

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: This is the first lesson on the Sixth Commandment. The focus is to help us understand that God created us and our bodies are an amazing creation. The lesson text tells us that God lives inside of us. In the Old Testament the temple that God dwelt in was a building but in the New Testament we learn that God lives in us, our body is a temple for him so we need to take care of our bodies. God also designed marriage when he created a woman for Adam and the foundation of a family was established by God. Marriage is a precious gift from God and we need to care for our bodies keeping them pure and holy.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What purposes does each part of our body have? Consider how all the parts work together. Who lives inside of us? What was the temple like in the Old Testament? How was the temple taken care of? How can we take care of our bodies? Who created the first family? Why did he create marriage? How can we honor God? How can we become selfish and use our body wrongly?

ACTIVITY 1: Circle: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10. Draw an X: 2, 4, 6, 7.

ACTIVITY 2: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16 circle: a temple of God

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will help you teach this somewhat sensitive material to the children in your class, recognizing they may come from very different places related to the material to be covered. Pray for wisdom to cover this important lesson well, clearly communicating what God's Word says about our bodies and how we can honor Him no matter our age or situation.

Prayer Preparation

- Bring your personal need to the Lord in prayer.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to use you to teach them well.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

Bible Background

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The human body is an amazingly complex organism made up of elements that are commonly found in the soil of the earth because God “formed the man of dust from the ground...” (Gen 2:7a). Genesis 2:19 tells us that “out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky...”

But when God created man, He added something that He did not give to the animals (Gen 2:7b). With the man God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul (or person). The psalmist rightly gives thanks to God “for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well” (Psalm 139:14).

Man's soul is his direct connection with God, in whom we “live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). When man sinned, he lost that “life” and became a “lost and condemned creature.” When God redeemed sinners through the death and resurrection of Christ, we “were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Rom 5:10),

Jesus said of the Holy Spirit that “He abides with you and will be in you” (Jn 14:7). Paul describes that vividly to the Corinthians Christians: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Cor 3:16). The body must be respected and treated as God's unique creation.

When we are redeemed and saved from sin, we are ready “to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8). The body, however, is not yet changed and so cannot enter heaven. The body will be changed in the resurrection on the last day (1 Cor 15:42-57). In the meantime, Paul urges Christians “by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship” (Rom 12:1). The Holy Spirit is present to sanctify us so that we will be “transformed by the renewing of your mind,

so that you may prove (discover) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Even with a transformed mind and a desire to actively do God’s will, it is the “body” that does all the work. We need the arms and hands and legs to serve or practice hospitality and the mouth to speak words of grace. If we act or speak in a sinful way, the body is an instrument of sin or unrighteousness. When led by the Spirit to do the will of God, the body will be an instrument of righteousness.

Like the rest of creation, the body is designed to reproduce after its kind, to “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it” (Gen 1:28). Every single fertilized cell of a newly conceived human life creates a new person created in the image of God and is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” That person inherits the traits of the parents, as well as the sin of Adam. That person is lost until redeemed by the grace of God and made a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Learn the New Words

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

dwells: to live in. The word carries the connotation of contentedness and a long-lasting situation.

impure: unclean

union: one thing made up of things that are joined together

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.

Read the Memory Verse

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

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” I Corinthians 3:16.

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

Review the Recent Lessons

We are learning about the Sixth Commandment today. Ask if anyone remembers the Fifth Commandment and something from last week’s lesson. The focus now shifts a little closer to home, from how we act toward other people to how we conduct and take good care of ourselves.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Do you remember the lesson about young King Josiah who cleaned and rebuilt God’s temple? Many years before that King Solomon

had built a very beautiful temple for the people of Israel to worship the one true God. God made a different sort of temple to dwell in. It is the body of each believer. God lives in those who love Him.

Read the Lesson

READ the opening paragraph. **ASK:** Can your body do amazing things? When you skin your knee or cut yourself, does the scratch or cut stay there forever? No, God made your bodies so they could heal. You can't do this by trying very hard, but some things can help your body heal. Washing the cut and keeping it clean with a bandage can help it get better sooner. God made our bodies heal. He made our eyes to see and our ears to hear.

Even more amazing, God Himself lives or dwells in our bodies. The Bible says our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. This means that God lives (or dwells) in us.

Read the second paragraph.

God lives in those who love Him. Because our bodies are a gift from God and a place where God's Holy Spirit dwells, we should use our bodies in ways that please God.

Read the third paragraph. **SAY:** We take care of our bodies by eating and drinking healthy things. We want to be clean in what we think, say, and do. This includes exercise and rest, avoiding dangers and risky behaviors. We need to be careful about what our ears hear and our eyes see.

Read the Fourth Paragraph. Our bodies also have a healthy purpose in marriage. When Adam was alone, God created the woman, Eve. God created marriage as the lifelong union of a man and woman. In marriage man and woman can love and help each other, as well as have and raise children.

Marriage is another precious gift from God. He created marriage to build families that follow and serve Him. Whether we are married or unmarried, we want to use our bodies in ways that are right and pleasing to God.

Repeat the Memory Verse

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class

each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Honor God With My Body

Activity 1

Circle the ways we honor God with our bodies, draw an X over ways that dishonor God.

God Lives in Me

Activity 2

Add the missing words from the memory verse. Circle the words that tell what you are.

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 11

A Godly Home

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 1:5-80

MEMORY VERSE: Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1

CATECHISM: The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and one wife love and honor each other.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know that Zacharias and Elizabeth loved and honored God and loved and honored each other.
- believe that God cares for families

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: This is the story of Zacharias and Elizabeth which demonstrates a family that loved and honored God. Yet God did not bless them with children even though they had prayed for a child for many years. But God had a wonderful plan, he sent an angel to Zacharias and told him they that would have a son and he was to be named John. But Zacharias could not believe the message and because he did not believe God took his voice away until the baby was born. The child was born and when Zacharias named him John his voice was returned. Zacharias immediately praised and thanked God for keeping His promise. Marriage and a loving family are a gift from God.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What do we learn about Zachariah and Elizabeth? What message did the angel bring to Zachariah? Did Zachariah believe the news? Because Zachariah did not believe what did God do? What happened when the baby was born? How did Zachariah honor God? Who did John become? What gift does God want to give our families? How does God protect our families?

ACTIVITY 1: 5 Characters- Zacharias, Elizabeth, Gabriel, John, God. Label: 1. Z, E 2. Z, E 3. Z 4. G 5. G 6. G 7. Z 8. J 9. God 10. Z 11. God 12. J.

ACTIVITY 2: 1. God, 2. Sixth, 3. No Family, 4. sin, 5. God's, 6. families, 7. pray, 8. Families. Drawing activity.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read Luke 1:5-80

Prayerfully study the lesson

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the families of the children in your class, that each home may be a happy home where Christ is honored.
- Pray for each child, that they may trust in Jesus and follow Him closely in their homes.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

Bible Background

Luke 1:1-80

John was born into the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, a godly home much like the home that Jesus knew. John's father was Zachariah, which means "he who remembers Jehovah," or "he whom Jehovah remembers. Zachariah was a priest and served on the weekly rotation of priests in the temple in Jerusalem, descended from Abijah, one of the divisions of the sons of Aaron when David divided the house of Eleazar and Ithamar into priestly groups (1 Chron 14:1ff).

Elizabeth ("God is my oath") was a descendent of Aaron, whose wife was Elisheba (Ex 6:23), so both of John's parents were of priestly descent. Both of them were considered righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and the requirements of the Lord" (1:6). As a young child John would have learned the scriptures and other teachings as all Jewish children did, probably to an even greater degree than other children because of his father's position.

The birth of John is miraculous in that Elizabeth was barren, even as a young woman, and now she would give birth in her old age. This is a testimony to the power of God in giving them a child for his own purpose of preparing the way for the Christ. Many Old Testament mothers were barren as were the mothers of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, Samuel and now John. All these cases bear witness to the miraculous power of God in his plan of salvation. They also show that God keeps his people waiting for a particular promise, and when it is fulfilled, they are rewarded for their patience more than they might have expected. This waiting for God is something that God's people seem to be still learning, and why patience is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22).

In the case of John (meaning "graced by God), Zechariah received the news of his son's birth while in the middle of the temple service. As to his son's name, Zechariah (like Joseph) was given specific instructions that "you shall name him John" (1:13). He was also told that John would be great in the sight of the Lord, drink no wine or liquor, be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in the womb, and be a forerunner in the spirit and power of Elijah, turning hearts to the lord (1: 15-17). All of these describe a very high calling, possible only for one who would be "graced by God."

Zachariah would have passed this on to John as well as the scriptures pertaining to the promised Messiah. John also knew his own place in God's plan when he came preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, 'The voice of one calling out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!'" (Mt 3:1-3).

Like he did with Jesus, Luke concisely summarizes John's early years: "Now the child grew and was becoming strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel" (Lk 1:80). John actually did introduce Jesus to the world as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29). And he suffered for it, later being beheaded by Herod (Mt 10:14).

Learn the New Words

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

Abraham: a special man of God in the Old Testament

bless: to do good to or to take wonderful care of someone. Blessings are good things that come from God and sometimes other people.

Sarah: Abraham's wife

believed: to accept something or someone as true, you can listen to someone like this for advice.

possessions: things that belong to a person

vision: A vision is like a dream that happened when the person is awake. In the Bible, God talked to people this way.

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.

Read the Memory Verse

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

"Do you not know you are a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

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 Sixth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 2 lessons.

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. This is recorded in the Bible.

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 God even though he did not give them all the details of the trip God kept His promise, He 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) maybe 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? 600,00 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 Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Who is Who?

Activity 1

Name the 5 characters from our lesson and then use the first letter of their names to connect them to the correct statements.

Activity 1

WHO IS WHO?

Name the five characters in our story today.

Zacharias	Elizabeth
Gabriel	John
God	

Label the statements with the correct characters. Write G (for Gabriel), Z, E, J, or God. Some may need more than one.

Z, E	1. Had a godly marriage.
Z, E	2. Prayed to God and obeyed Him.
Z	3. Served God as a priest in the temple.
G	4. Appeared to Zacharias in the temple.
G	5. Said, "Do not be afraid. God has heard your prayer."
G	6. Told Zacharias he and his wife would have a son.
Z	7. Stunned by not believing God's promise.
J	8. His name was written on a tablet.
God	9. Gave Zacharias his voice back.
Z	10. Thanked God for keeping His promise.
God	11. Gave the Sixth Commandment to protect the gift of marriage.
J	12. Grew up in a home that loved and honored God.

Word Choices

Activity 2

Circle the best answer in each sentence and then draw a picture of your family praying.

Activity 2

WORD CHOICES

Circle the best answers.

1. Marriage is a precious gift from God / Zacharias.
2. God gave the Fifth / Sixth Commandment to protect His gift of marriage.
3. No family / Every family is perfect.
4. Because of sin / God's help, families have problems.
5. Families can hear God's / our promises in the Bible.
6. The Bible helps no one / families find answers to problems.
7. We can complain / pray to God for help and forgiveness.
8. God cares for families / only a few people.

Draw a picture of your family praying to God.

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

A Wife for Isaac

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 24:10-27

MEMORY VERSE: Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

CATECHISM: The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery.
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- trust God to care for their future
- know they can ask God to help them have godly homes
- understand that Jesus is a descendant of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: Abraham had one son Isaac who was not married. Abraham did not want a wife for Isaac from the place they lived as the people there did not love and serve God. Abraham sends his servant back to his old community to find a wife for Isaac. The servant prayed and asked God for help in finding the right girl for Isaac. God answered this prayer. Rebekah agreed to leave her home and go with the servant to marry Isaac. They married and served God and God blessed them with children. Their family was not perfect but God loved them.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What did Abraham want for his son, Isaac? What did Abraham do? What did the servant ask God to do for him? How did God help the servant? What did Rebekah do? How did God watch over this family? How did they honor God? Were they a perfect family? How did God help them? Who was one of Isaac's descendants? Can you ask God to help you with your future, a family, a job?

ACTIVITY 1: True or False: 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. T 8. T 9. F 10. T

ACTIVITY 2: 1. Husband 2. And 3. Wife 4. Love 5. And 6. Honor 7. Each 8. Other.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read the Bible passages, the student lesson, and the teacher's manual during the week leading up to the Sunday School Class.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that each child will live in daily repentance and faith in Jesus.
- Pray that any child who does not trust in Jesus will ask Him to be his/her Savior.
- Pray for God to tenderly guide and protect each child.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Genesis 24:1-67

"An excellent wife, who can find *her*? For her worth is far above jewels" (Prov 31:10). Abraham found "an excellent wife" for his son, Isaac. This was a very serious matter and Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman who served false gods as did the people of Canaan. He had his servant swear an oath about where to look saying, "I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live; but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son, Isaac" (Gen 24:3,4).

Moses prohibited marriage with the Canaanites because "you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they would prostitute themselves with their gods and sacrifice to their gods," (Ex 34:15). This command was based on the need for

God's people to be holy and not be compromised or defiled by evil. Paul also writes that Christians must "not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness," (2 Cor 6:14). And this warning would be especially important in marriage which is meant to a lifelong commitment. Abraham was already practicing that "separation."

The Canaanites were an immoral and wicked people cursed by God and doomed to destruction. God would not be pleased for Isaac to marry one of them. Although Abraham's relatives in northern Mesopotamia had their idols, they were at least a moral people who knew about God and respected him. And they were descendants of Shem who was blessed of God. Abraham saw that the only place to find a wife for Isaac was among his own people.

While we do not choose our children's mates (or at least try not to say anything about their choices,) we must teach them from their early days the importance of marrying believers because the union is intended to be "until death do you part" (1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14).

The servant's method in looking for the right woman is indeed interesting, but in that place and time it might not have been so unusual when looking for a wife. With a sense of divine direction, the servant stopped at a well in the town of Nahor, which was Abraham's brother's name. He prays and lays out a detailed plan to God on how it should play out as a sign to him (Gen 24:12-14). This was a very specific request for exactly the right mate, and there is a lesson in it for us. The best way for our children to find God's choice of a mate is to pray about it. They can even begin as children and praying through those years will help them keep their minds on the most important factor in their choice—the will of God.

Before she had even said "Amen," God answered. Rebekah came out with a jar on her shoulders. She was very beautiful. Her name means "to captivate" from a word meaning a "tie rope for animals." Applied to a female, that suggests that her beauty was such that men were "captivated" by her.

It becomes obvious that God is the real matchmaker in the marriage. When the servant related God's guidance to the family, her brother and father agreed saying that "This is from the Lord; take her and go, and let her become the word of your master's son as the Lord has directed" (vv 50-51).

Rebekah's mother and brother wanted her to stay for ten more days (24:55), but she did not want to delay her departure. They sent her with the servant and blessed her. Genesis tells us that Rebekah went with the servant and she married Isaac and he loved her greatly and she comforted him after the death of his mother, Sarah.

Learn the New Words

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

among: in the midst of, surrounded by

homeland: one's native land, where one is from

descendants: persons born to you, your children, and those born to them in the generations to come

permission: to allow, consent, say okay to

False gods: an item of worship other than the God revealed in the Bible

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.

SHARING: Ask the students, "What do you think makes a happy home?"

Read the Memory Verse

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

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

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

Recite the Enrichment Memory Verse as well,

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Sixth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask the students to share again what they think makes a home happy. Ask if they have more thoughts about what else might make a happy home.

Read the Lesson

Read the opening paragraph. **SAY:** God is with you now and He wants to be with you when you are grown up too. We don't know what our lives will be like tomorrow or next year. You can't know what your life will be like when you are grown up. You can know that God wants to be with you your whole life. He wants you and your home to belong to Him. You may get married in the future or you may not. God still wants you to have a happy home and you can pray for that. Whatever your future may be, God will be with you. You can trust God to take care of you.

Move on to the next paragraph. Ask for a volunteer to read it. **ASK:** Why did Abraham want to find a wife for Isaac from his homeland? (because the people around them didn't believe in the one, true God, like Abraham did. The people in the land of Canaan worshipped false gods and idols. Abraham believed it was very important for Isaac to have a wife who knew about the one true God. A wife who loved God would help him have a happy home.

ASK: What did Abraham do? Abraham called his servant to him and asked him to go back to his homeland to find a wife there for Isaac.

Read the next paragraph. **ASK:** What did his servant do? He took some camels, and

traveled back to Abraham's homeland where his family's relatives still lived. Also, Abraham's servant prayed and asked God to help him find the right person for Isaac to marry. He even asked God to give him a sign: when he asked for a drink of water at the well, the right young woman would offer to water his camels. That way he would be sure she was the woman God wanted to be Isaac's wife.

Explain that the servant talked to Rebekah's family. They gave permission for her to return with Abraham's servant and marry Isaac. The family wanted her to stay a while longer before going away, But when Rebekah's family asked her if she would leave to marry Isaac, she said, "I will go." Rebekah left her home with their blessing and went back with the servant to Abraham's family.

Read the fifth paragraph. Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and he loved her. They served the one, true God and God blessed them. They had children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Isaac and Rebecca were not perfect, and there were problems in their home. Even happy homes have problems. But God's love and forgiveness can overcome problems. Even though Isaac and Rebekah didn't have a perfect family, hundreds of years later, one of their descendants would be Jesus, the Savior of the world!

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

True or False?

Activity 1

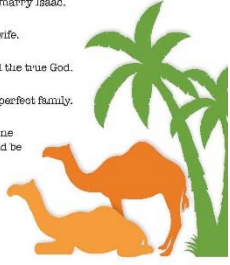
Write T by true statements and F by false statements.

Activity 1

TRUE OR FALSE?

Which statements are true? Write T for true and F for false.

<u>F</u>	1. Abraham's family did not trust God.
<u>T</u>	2. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman who served false gods.
<u>F</u>	3. God helped Isaac find a camel.
<u>T</u>	4. The servant prayed for God's help.
<u>T</u>	5. The servant asked Rebekah for a drink of water.
<u>F</u>	6. Rebekah did not agree to marry Isaac.
<u>T</u>	7. Rebekah became Isaac's wife.
<u>T</u>	8. Isaac and Rebekah served the true God.
<u>F</u>	9. Isaac and Rebekah had a perfect family.
<u>T</u>	10. Hundreds of years later, one of their descendants would be Jesus the Son.



ACTIVITY CENTER

Hidden Words

Activity 2

Follow the directions given to discover the eight words that make up the hidden message.

Activity 2

HIDDEN WORDS

Cross out all the numbers in the puzzle below.
Cross out the color words in lines 4, 5, and 7.
Cross out the girls' names in lines 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Cross out the boys' names in lines 1, 2, 4, and 8.
Circle the words that are left.
Write the message on the lines.

1. 987654321HUSBANDADAM	Husband
2. DAVID1965AND246ISAAC	and
3. 345REBEKAH975WIFE3579	Wife
4. EVERREDLOVERJOHNCAIN	Love
5. 3MANY4ANDPINK8ORANGE	and
6. HONOR208ELIZABETH729	Honor
7. BLUE611GREEN2EACH848	Each
8. 12346789OTHER321DANIEL	Other

Review the Sixth Commandment and meaning.

Pray that God will help your parents to honor each other.
Pray to have a home that loves and serves God when you grow up.

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: