

Ten Commandments

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE GIVING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I. The mercy of God (God loves man) - Exo. 19:3-6
 - A. In coming to man
 - B. In speaking to man
 - C. In revealing Himself to man
- II. The revelation of God (God wants man to know Him) - Exo. 20
 - A. God is Jealous
 - B. God is Holy
 - C. God is Loving
 - D. God is Righteous
 - E. God is True
 - F. God is Pure, etc.
- III. The standard of God (God wants man to be like Him) - Matt. 5:48
 - A. What man should do: love God and men - Matt. 22:36-40
 - B. What man should not do: hate God and men

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I. You shall have no other gods before me - Exo. 20:2-3
(Lesson 7, "Knowing the True God," *Life Lessons*, Witness Lee)
 - A. There is only one unique God in the universe - Isa. 45:5; Deut. 6:4; Psalm 14:1; 1 Cor. 8:5-6
 - 1. He created everything - Gen. 1:1
 - 2. He gave life to everything - Acts 17:25
 - 3. He has revealed Himself to man - Rom. 1:19-20
(Use Paul in Athens - Acts 17:22-27)
 - B. This one unique God is faithful, He cares for His people - Psalm 89:33-37; Exo. 20:2; Joshua 24:17
 - 1. He delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt
 - 2. He led them through the Red Sea
 - 3. He came to meet with them at the mountain
(Use the story of the Exodus)
 - C. God is a loving God - 1 John 4:8b
 - 1. He wants us to love Him first - Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:36-38
 - 2. Whatever we love the most is our god, it is a matter of our heart
 - 3. What are some "other gods" people have? - Deut. 6:14
 - 4. We must have no other gods but the One true loving God
(Use the rich young ruler - Matt. 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23)

II. You shall not make any graven images (idols), nor bow down to them, nor serve them - Exo. 20:4-6; 1 John 5:21

(Lesson 7, "Knowing the True God," *Life Lessons*, Witness Lee)

A. Images that men worship (statues, pictures, pendants, etc.)

1. Created things on earth or in the heavens (male, female, animal, angels, sun, moon, stars etc.) - Deut. 4:15-19; Rom. 1:22-23
2. Imaginary things eg. totem poles, god's eye, birth signs (astrological symbols), etc.
3. Statues and pictures of God or of Jesus
4. Satan is behind every idol - 1 Cor. 10:20; Rev. 9:20

B. Bowing down or serving - Exo. 23:24-25

1. To bow down is to submit to (what is behind the idol)
2. To serve is to belong to (what is behind the idol)
3. We should only bow down and submit to God - Phil. 2:10-11
4. We should only serve God because we belong to Him - Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:29
(Use Daniel's three friends, Daniel chapter 3)

C. God is a jealous God

1. He made man to love Him and serve Him
2. Satan wants to distract us from God (take God's place) - Matt. 24:9-10
3. To have idols is to hate God and be judged - Exo. 20:5b; Joshua 24:19-20
4. To reject idols is to love God and receive mercy - Exo. 20:6
(Use Exodus 32, the story of the golden calf, to show God's judgment on sin and His blessing to the tribe of Levi)

III. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain - Exo. 20:7

A. The name represents the person

1. To misuse the name is to dishonor and offend the person - Lev. 19:12b
2. To honor the name is to honor the person
3. God's person and name are holy, sanctified (set apart), not common - Matt. 6:9
4. We must honor God by honoring His name

B. Improper use of the Lord's name

1. Satan is against the Lord's name - Rev. 13:6
2. God's enemies take His name in vain - Psalm 139:20
3. We must not take His name in vain - careless talk, making fun, oaths, cursing - Exo. 20:7
4. We must give account to the Lord for our words - Matt. 2:36-37

C. Proper use of the Lord's name

1. Believe in His name - John 1:12b
2. Call on His name - Rom. 10:13; Isa. 12:4
3. Bless His name - Psalm 96:2; 100:4
4. Love His name - Psalm 5:11

IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy - Exo. 20:8-11

(Lesson 18, "The Lord's Day," *Assembling Together*, Watchman Nee)

A. Meaning of Sabbath in the O.T. - to remember God as the Creator in the old creation

1. God worked for 6 days and rested on the 7th - Gen. 2:1-3
2. God blessed the 7th day and set it apart - Gen. 2:3a
3. O.T. emphasis was on doing no work and violation was a sin
4. God's 7th day was man's first day - God works then rests; man rests by accepting God's work, then man works

B. The Lord's Day in the N.T. - first day of the new creation

1. The Lord Jesus was resurrected - Luke 24:1-7
2. The Lord encouraged his disciples - John 20:19-20
3. The disciples received the Holy Spirit - John 20:22
4. The disciples sent by the Lord to preach the gospel - John 20:19, 21; Mark 16:14-16

C. Today there is no more Sabbath, but the Lord's Day

1. Sabbath was full of restrictions and regulations
2. Lord's Day full of rejoicing, worship and praise - Psalm 118:22-24 [clearly refers to the resurrection day]
3. Lord's Day is for the church to come together for the Lord's Table (the breaking of bread) - Acts 20:7
4. Lord's Day is for us to make our offerings to the Lord - 1 Cor. 16:1-2

V. Honor Your Father and Your Mother - Exo. 20:12

(*Life-Study of Exodus*, Message 51; *Life-Study of Ephesians*, Message 62)

A. By honoring our parents we remember that our source is God

1. Trace the children's origin back to God in parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, Adam, God - Luke 3:23, 38; 2 Tim. 1:5
2. Each child came from God - Gen. 33:5; 48:9a
3. God arranged a particular family for each child
4. We must honor God's wonderful arrangement for our life on this earth

B. The meaning of honoring parents

1. To honor is an inward attitude of respect to our parents
2. To honor is to show our love to our parents
3. To honor parents is to honor God who gave us our parents (Example: the Lord Jesus in Luke 2:51a- 52)

C. The blessing to children who honor and obey parents - Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20

1. "That it may be well with you" - to honor parents brings us protection, peace, and enjoyment in this life
2. "That you may live long on the earth" - to honor parents assures us of a full life on the earth
3. "This is well pleasing in the Lord" - to honor parents means God is pleased
4. God desires to give His blessing to each child - each child should want God's blessing

VI. You shall not murder - Exo. 20:13

A. God is the source of life

1. God created man and gave him life - Gen. 2:7
2. To respect human life is to respect God as the Creator
3. The varieties of human life - color, race, language, etc.
4. The oneness of human life - Acts 17:25b, 26a
(Stress that although men have outward differences yet all have the same created human life from God)

B. To be angry is the same as murder - Matt. 5:21-24

1. Murder is the outward act, anger is the inward motive, and hatred is the source - 1 John 3:15a
2. To hate is to be in darkness (be ignorant) - 1 John 2:11
3. To be angry shows that we have a problem with God in our heart - 1 John 3:12
4. We must be reconciled with others and with God - Matt. 5:24 (Use the story of Cain and Abel in Gen. 4:1-15)

C. God is love - 1 John 4:7-11

1. God loves us so we should love others - 1 John 4:11
2. We need the love that comes from God to overcome hatred, anger, and murder - 1 John 4:7-8
3. If we love God we must love our brothers - 1 John 4:20
4. The new commandment is to love one another - 1 John 4:21

VII. You shall not commit adultery - Exo. 20:14

A. God's arrangement in creation

1. God prepares a couple for each other, brings them together and yokes them together - Gen. 2:18, 22; Matt. 19:6
2. One man and one woman, a married couple - Gen. 1:27; 2:24
3. This couple to have children and care for them - Gen. 1:28
4. God's blessing is on His arrangement - Gen. 1:28

B. God's arrangement is broken by man's sinful behavior

1. Men or women leaving their families and living with someone else (emphasize the matter of unfaithfulness to the marriage vow and damage to the family members)
2. Living together without being married (emphasize the matter of no permanent commitment, no vow)
3. Dating different persons is in the principle of adultery (trying out different ones and not trusting God to provide the right one)
4. Engaging in physical contact, holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc. (proper only in marriage)

C. God's arrangement is reaffirmed and maintained

1. By the Lord Jesus - Matt. 5:32; 19:4, 8b-9; Mark 10:6-9
2. By the Apostle Paul - Eph. 5:31-33; Heb. 13:4, note 4¹
3. By the church (standing for God's arrangement and against the way Satan and the world have spoiled marriage)
4. By the brothers and sisters in the church (keeping a good relationship with each other as brothers and sisters but not practicing the things of the world - dating, dancing, parties, petting, etc. It is not right for the boys and girls to be improperly touching each other)

VIII. You shall not steal - Exo. 20:15

A. God requires every man to work for his family's living

1. After he sinned, Adam had to labor hard tilling the ground to get food to eat - Gen. 3:19a
2. Paul told the believers to work, not to steal - Eph. 4:28
3. Out of all the fruit of our labor we should give an offering to the Lord - Deut. 16:17
4. We should also give to those in need - 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7

B. To steal is to take what belongs to someone else

1. What we steal has either been worked for or has been a gift to the other person
2. Even taking a small item that does not belong to us is stealing, eg. a pencil, a piece of chalk, a penny, etc.
3. Emphasize how strict we must be regarding what belongs to others - not to borrow without permission, what to do when we find something, etc.

C. To steal requires restitution

(Lesson 3, "Clearance of the Old Living," *Life Lessons*, Witness Lee; Chapter 2, "Concluding the Past," pp. 28-30, *A Living Sacrifice*, Watchman Nee)

1. The O.T. law required the repayment double, fourfold or fivefold - Exo. 22:1, 4, 7
2. The N.T. word of Paul, stop stealing - Eph. 4:28
3. The N.T. example of Zacchaeus - Luke 19:8

[Help the children to clear up any past misdeeds by confessing to the Lord and making restitution.]

IX. You shall not bear false witness (lie) - Exo. 20:16

A. Satan is a liar and the father of lies - John 8:44

1. Satan lied to Eve in the garden - Gen. 3:4
2. Satan caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie - Acts 5:3
3. The lake of fire is for Satan and all liars - Rev. 1:8, 27
4. Those who love lies are shut out of the New Jerusalem - Rev. 22:15

B. God is true and in Him is no lie - Rom. 3:4a

1. God is the only true God - Jer. 10:10; John 17:3
2. God cannot lie - Titus 1:2a; Heb. 6:18; Num. 23:19a
3. God's word is true - 2 Sam. 7:28; Psalm 119:1; John 17:17b
4. The truth of the Lord endures forever - Psalm 117:2

C. We must love the truth and hate all lies - Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9a

1. God delights in those who tell the truth - Psalm 51:6; Prov. 12:22
2. We must choose the way of truth - Psalm 119:30
3. The Lord is near to all who call on Him in truth - Psalm 5:18
4. God wants all men to be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth - 1 Tim. 2:4; 3:15

X. You shall not covet - Exo. 20:17

- A. To covet is to want something that belongs to someone else [illustrate with practical examples from the children's experience]**
- B. To covet leads to more serious sin**
 - 1. The case of Achan - Joshua 7:20-21**
 - 2. The Prophet's warning - Micah 2:1-2**
 - 3. The Apostle's warning - 1 Tim. 6:10**
- C. We must be content, satisfied with what we have - Phil. 4:11**
 - 1. Godliness with contentment is great gain - 1 Tim. 6:6-8**
 - 2. Coveting turns our heart away from God - 1 Tim. 6:9-10**
 - 3. Everything we need will be provided for us by God, He will not forsake us - Phil. 4:19; Heb. 13:5**

HOW TO OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Deut. 6:5-6; Psalm 119

I. By loving the Lord - Deut. 6:5

- A. The Ten Commandments show us what God is like**
- B. The Lord Jesus said to love the Lord God is the first and great commandment - Matt. 22:36-37**
- C. If we love the Lord we will love His Commandments - Psalm 119:2, 127-128**

II. By receiving His Word

- A. The Lord's Word must be in our heart - Deut. 6:6**
- B. The Lord's Word in our heart keeps us from sinning - Psalm 119:9-11**
- C. The Lord's Word keeps us in the right path - Psalm 119:105, 133**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS- REFERENCES IN THE BIBLE AND IN THE MINISTRY

COMMANDMENT	EXODUS 20	DEUT. 5	O.T REFERENCES	N.T. REFERENCES	EXODUS LS REF.
1. No other gods before Me	v. 3	v.7	Exo. 34:14; Deut. 6:14; 8:19; 11:28	Mk. 12:29-30; Eph. 4:6; 1 Cor. 8:4-6, 1 Tim. 2:5	pp. 592-593, 597, 601, 622- 623, 782-785
2. No image or likeness	v. 4-5	v. 8-9	Exo. 34:17; Lev. 26:1; Deut. 7:25	1 Jn. 5:21; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:22- 23; 1 Cor. 8:4	pp. 592, 599, 623-624, 782- 783, 784-785
3. Not take the name of God in vain	v. 7	v. 11	Lev. 19:12	Matt. 5:34; Jam. 5:12; 3:10; Rom. 12:14	pp. 624, 783, 788
4. Keep the Sabbath day	v. 8-10	v. 12-15	Exo. 34:21; 31: 14; 16:27; 35:3 Isa. 58:13-14	Heb. 4:1-11	pp. 998, 624, 819, 820
5. Honor father and mother	v. 12	v. 16		Matt. 15:4; 19:19 Eph. 6:1-2; Col. 3:20	pp. 595-596, 598, 625, 817, 820
6. Shall not kill	v. 13	v. 17		Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9; 1 Pet. 4:15 1 Jn. 3:15	pp. 816-817, 824
7. Not commit adultery	v. 14	v. 18		Matt. 19:18, 9; 5:27-28; Rom. 7:3, 13:9, 1 Cor. 6:9	pp. 818
8. Shall not steal	v. 15	v. 19		Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9; 1 Pet. 4:15; Eph. 4:28	pp. 599, 818
9. Not bear false witness	v. 16	v. 20	Prov. 12:17; 24:28; 19:9	Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9	pp. 600-601, 818
10. Not covet	v. 17	v. 21	Ezek. 33:31; Prov. 28:16; Psa. 10:3	Rom. 13:9; Luke 12:15; Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:3; Heb. 13:5	

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS - SECOND GRADE

OVERVIEW

We spend the second grade on the moral law of the Ten Commandments which has never been abrogated by God. The ordinances nailed to the cross do not include the moral law except that the Sabbath is over. We have a series of lessons--3 weeks on each of the 10 commandments--30 weeks on the 10 commandments, plus an introduction of 3 weeks, plus a conclusion of a number of weeks. We can take a whole year on the 10 commandments, laying a good foundation. You would be surprised how we could do this, but this was one of the really good and effective series that we used. We teach them this by the time they got to be in about the third grade.

We teach them about: not having any other gods because there is only one unique God. This is about not having idols which includes a lot of things. We teach them about not taking the name of the Lord in vain. In grade school already they have heard the Lord's name taken in vain. We give them a lesson about the Lord's Day; not on the Sabbath. We teach them what is the meaning of the Lord's Day. We teach them about honoring their parents. We teach them about not murdering. Of course they are not going to murder, but according to the New Testament to be angry with someone is very serious. We have to help them to deal with their anger. They will realize that to be angry is wrong. The commandment on adultery we present very positively, by presenting God's arrangement in having one husband and one wife. We do not have to define adultery. We do not have to tell them things prematurely. But we just present a very positive view of God's arrangement and purpose in marriage. We teach them about stealing, about lying, and about coveting. They need to hear all these things. This is the moral law, concerning their relationships with men and their relationship with God. This is a foundation for their salvation. This actually trains their conscience in a very good way.

(Editor's note: This series of materials covers the Ten Commandments in 23 weeks. If this series is expanded to cover 40 weeks additional lessons need to be prepared.)

The preceding are the blending of briefly edited transcriptions of Gene Gruhler's sharings given in several localities.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson One

INTRODUCTION TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Burden to Impart:

God reveals Himself and His character to His people through His law, the Ten Commandments. The Jews got to know God's tremendous power through the miracles He performed in order to save them from slavery and deliver them out of Egypt. But, they got to know His Person through the Ten Commandments that He gave to them. Each commandment is a revelation of His character, personality, and being. By looking closely at the Ten Commandments we can see an ancient "photograph" of God and can know Him. This will then let us know how we should be and how we should behave in order to be His people and please Him.

Memory Verse: "Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart" (Psalm 119:2).

Facts to Teach:

1. God's chosen people, the children of Israel, the Jews, lived for hundreds of years as slaves in Egypt. Finally, when their suffering was so bad that they could no longer bear it, they remembered the God of their fathers and cried out to Him to save them and deliver them from the slavery of the Egyptians.

2. God answered their prayer and with His mighty power He delivered the whole nation of two million Jews out of Egypt, brought them through the great Red Sea on dry ground, and led them to a special place, Mount Sinai, where He would reveal Himself to them in a very special and intimate way.

3. At Mount Sinai God gave His people His law. They had already seen many miracles which showed them His great power, but now He gave them something that would reveal His Person and character to them. His law, and especially the Ten Commandments, is like an ancient "photograph" which God used to show His people what He is like. God wanted His people to know Him, to know His character, and to know His personality and heart. He loved them so He spoke to them and revealed Himself to them through His law.

4. Every law is made by someone, and every law reveals what kind of person it is that made it. If a person makes a law that allows no one to take a bath or brush their teeth, what kind of person is he? If a bank robber became the president, what kind of laws do you think he would make? By studying the Ten Commandments we can see what kind of God we have; what He likes and what He hates; what He approves of and what He disapproves of.

[Messages #51 and #53 from the Life Study of Exodus by Witness Lee, published by the Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, give more clear help on each of the Ten Commandments.]

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Two

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT (1): YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS (Exo. 10:1-3; 1:11, 14, 16)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how the Lord, Jehovah God, looked upon the miserable, sorrowful affliction of the children of Israel and answered their prayers and groaning. As a great and powerful eagle He delivered them from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage, and brought them safely to Mount Sinai to Himself. No Egyptian god ever cared about them, helped them, or answered their prayers. *Only He, the true and loving God who rescues us when we call, should be our God.*

Memory Verse: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

Facts to Teach:

1. The first thing that the Lord wanted to show His people about Himself was that He alone was their God.

2. What God is He? He is the God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He was the only One who cared about them, who loved them, who answered their prayers, and had compassion on their sufferings and afflictions. Their God is the real God, a loving God, a powerful God, a God who saw their needs and cared about them, and rescued them when they cried out to Him.

3. The Egyptians worshipped and served many so-called gods. They had a sun god, a moon god, star gods, and a Nile River god. They had gods they believed in and would pray to, to help them and protect them. The Jews had lived so long among the Egyptians that they were greatly influenced by their customs and beliefs. They even believed in the Egyptian gods and prayed to them, but no answer came. No Egyptian god helped them a bit. They continued in sorrow and in slavery. Their fate seemed hopeless and their situation was helpless.

4. But the Lord looked upon their sorrow and heard their groaning (their prayers). He had compassion upon them and kept His covenant with their fathers (Exo. 2:23-25). He sent ten terrible plagues upon Egypt, defeated Pharaoh and all of his armies, and opened up the Red Sea so they could cross over on dry ground to safety. Like a great eagle He snatched them up out of the house of bondage and brought them to safety (Exo. 19:3-4). Was not He alone their God? Surely they should have no other god.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Three

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT (2): YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS

(Exo. 20:1-3; Isa. 45:5; John 1:3;
Acts 14:15; 17:24-25; 1 Cor. 8:5-6)

Burden to Impart:

The one true God is the Creator of the universe, the heavens, the earth, and all the creatures in them. Only He should be our God. He is the only source of life in the universe. He is the Provider and the Caretaker of His creatures (especially man). He alone should be our God, the One we love above everything else.

Memory Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Facts to Teach:

1. There is only one true God. He is the Creator of the universe. He created the heavens, the earth, and all things. Apart from Him nothing has come into existence that has any existence (Isa. 55:5; John 1:3; 1 Cor. 8:5-6). Since He is the Creator of all things, shouldn't we only worship Him?

2. This one true God is the living God (Acts 14:15). He is the One who made the universe and everything in it. He is the Lord (owner, possessor) of heaven and earth. He also is the source of all life in the universe (Acts 17:24-25). Since all lives, including our own, come from Him, shouldn't He alone be our God?

3. This unique living God is the One who takes care of all His creation and His creatures. He sends rain from heaven and gives fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness (Acts 14:17). Since only God provides for our sustenance, shouldn't our prayers only be said to Him? Shouldn't our thanksgiving be given to Him alone?

4. Since our God, the only true God, is the Creator of the universe, the Source of all life, and is our Provider, we should only worship and love Him. Whatever a person loves more than everything else is his god. Some people love money more than everything else. Money then is their god. Some people love their possessions (bicycle, skateboard, dolls, etc.) more than everything else. Their possessions are their god. God alone must be our God, the One we love with all of our heart, soul, and strength; the One we love above everything else.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Four

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT (1): DO NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF A CARVED IMAGE (Exo. 20:4-5; Isa. 44:16-17; Psa. 135:15-18; Dan. 3:1-30)

Burden to Impart:

Our God is jealous. His unique image and expression is the Lord Jesus. We should make no image to represent Him. We should make no image to bow down to in submission or to serve. We only belong to the Lord our God. We should serve Him alone, trust Him alone, and pray to Him alone (Isa. 44:16-17). All other statues or pictures that are supposed to represent God are false.

Memory Verse: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image...you shall not bow down to them or serve them" (Exodus 20:4a, 5a).

Facts to Teach:

1. The second thing that God commanded His people was to make no graven (carved) images of anything in heaven, on the earth, or in the water. Neither should they bow down to them or serve them. All images are idols made by man's hands and are an insult to God.

2. God is unique. He is only one. There is no God besides Him. He is the invisible God. His only image is the Lord Jesus (2 Cor. 4:4). He alone is able to express the invisible and true God perfectly.

3. The nations who lived around the children of Israel did not know the one true God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In their ignorance, the nations supposed that there were many gods. They thought there were good gods, such as the sun, the moon, the stars, the rain, etc. They also believed there were evil gods such as a storm god, a lightning god, etc.

4. The nations would make images to represent these gods and would bow down to them to honor them, hoping to make them happy. They would pray to them and offer gifts to them so that the idols would do good to them. They also worshipped idols out of fear so that no harm would befall them.

5. Psalm 135:15-18 tells us that although the idols have mouths, they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear. They are only the work of men's hands. They cannot see our needs, they cannot hear our prayers, they cannot speak to our heart, they cannot help or save anyone.

6. Although we cannot see the true God because He is invisible, yet He can see us. He hears us when we pray and saves us when we call upon Him. To Him alone should we bow. And one day every knee will bow to Him (Phil. 2:9-10). Him alone should we serve because we belong to Him (Psa. 100:3; Acts 17:29).

7. One day a king named Nebuchadnezzar had a great image (idol) set up (see Daniel ch. 3). He commanded everyone to bow before it or else be thrown into a fiery furnace. Daniel's three friends refused to bow to any image, no matter what happened. They were thrown into a fiery furnace, but they were not hurt. Not even a hair was singed. The Lord stood with them in the furnace and no harm befell them. Their God was the real and living God. He is the One we should honor and serve at any cost, not a lifeless idol.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Five

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT (2): DO NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF A CARVED IMAGE (Exo. 20:4-6; 32:1-35; Josh. 24:19-20)

Burden to Impart:

The Lord God is both the Creator and the Savior of His people. He alone is worthy of our worship and service. He alone is worthy of our love. All images, pictures, statues, objects, charms, or pendants that are supposedly related to Him are actually idols. God hates everything of idolatry and will not tolerate idolatry. We also should hate and reject anything of idolatry.

Memory Verse: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image...for I the Lord your God am a jealous God"
(Exodus 20:4a, 5m).

Facts to Teach:

1. Our God is real, loving, and jealous. He created us, He alone can save us, and He alone should be our God. He will not tolerate anything made by men's hands to "represent" Him, because God knows how men are--eventually the image would replace God altogether.
2. An idol is any kind of image, carving, statue, painting, photograph, charm, or pendant that is supposed to be related to God or to represent God. People like these kinds of objects and jewelry because they trust in them and feel safer or more secure by having them. They feel that these objects (which are really idols) make God nearer or more real to them, and trust in them for "good luck."
3. However, all of this is not true and is just superstition. This is just the devil's deceit. The devil is lying and cheating people to keep them from knowing the real, living, and loving God whom they alone should honor, serve, and love with all their heart.
4. Though we cannot see God with our eyes, we believe He is with us. He hears us when we pray and He watches over us all the day.
5. Because our God is real and He loves us, He is jealous over us. He hates everything that would replace Him. No husband would allow His wife to place the picture of another man in his house or even to have it in her wallet. Our love must be for God alone.
6. God demands that all idols be put away, burned, or crushed. In His Word (Josh. 24:19-20) He warns us not to serve foreign gods. If we honor idols we hate God. To reject idols is to love God and receive mercy (Exo. 20:6).

[Point 7 may be taught for enrichment if time allows.]

7. In Exodus 32 we see God's anger when the children of Israel insulted Him by worshipping two golden calves. They even went so far as to say: "These are thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." God commanded all those who were on His side to take their sword and kill all those who worshipped the idols. This was a most serious sin and brought forth God's anger and judgment.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Six

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT (1): DO NOT TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN (Exo. 20:7; Lev. 19:12b; Matt. 5:33-37; 12:36-37)

Burden to Impart:

We are not to take the Lord's name in vain. As He alone is our God and He is a jealous God, His name is sacred and holy. Also, it is precious to us. Our prayer should be for His name to be sanctified. His name should not be spoken of in a careless or joking way. Neither should it be used in anger, for that is blasphemy. Nor should God's name be used to prove a point, as when people swear by His name that they are telling the truth. His name represents His Person and is equal to Himself. To honor His name is to honor Him; to dishonor His name by using it in vain is to dishonor Him.

Memory Verse: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

Facts to Teach:

1. This third commandment is based upon the previous two: we have only one God to love and we have only one God to serve, and He will not tolerate any idols because He is a jealous God. His name is sacred, His name is holy, and His name is precious to us. His name should never be taken in vain.

2. A person's name is associated with the person himself because the person's name represents the person himself. A person is known by his name. A person is referred to by the use of his name. When a person is despised, his name is hated. When a person is loved, his name is precious. When a person is honored, his name is lifted up. When a person is dishonored, his name is badly spoken of. Even by what tone we use when we speak or call a person's name reveals how we feel about the person to whom we are speaking (happy, mad, kind, etc.).

3. How we use and express God's name reveals how we feel about God. We should never use His name in a vain way or take it in vain. This means that:

- a. We should never joke in any way using God's name.
- b. We should never express anger using God's name--that is to curse with His name.
- c. We should not use God's name to back up what we are saying by saying, "I swear to God...." The more one does that, the less likely what they are saying is true. The Lord Jesus taught us to speak simply "yes" and "no" (Matt. 5:33-37). To swear falsely in such a way is to deliberately use the Lord's name in vain.

4. If the Lord will one day judge us for all careless words we speak (Matt. 12:36-37), how much more serious is it then to use His name in vain?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Seven

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT (2):

THE PROPER USE OF THE LORD'S NAME

(Matt. 6:9; Rom. 10:13; Isa. 12:4; Psa. 18:3)

Burden to Impart:

Only we, the Lord's children, truly know how precious and dear is the Lord's name. His name is above every name on earth and in heaven (Phil. 2:9). We should never use His dear name in a vain way. We should pray that His name would be sanctified and exalted in all the earth. We should believe in His name, call upon His name, bless His name and love His name. Glory to His name!

Memory Verse: "Every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

Facts to Teach:

1. There is only one name under heaven given among men by which we can be saved: the name of the only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. God's enemy, the Devil, hates His name (Rev. 13:6) and will use all means to keep His name from being known to man (Acts 4:18).

3. For this reason the Lord taught His disciples, those who loved and followed Him, to firstly pray that God's name would be sanctified on the earth (Matt. 6:9, as it already is in heaven). This means that His name would be made known as the most special and unique Name on earth among all nations and peoples.

4. When a person hears of the Lord Jesus and believes in His name he is born of God and becomes a child of God. How blessed to believe in His name!

5. In order to enjoy the Lord and His ever available salvation we can call upon His name (Rom. 10:13; Isa. 12:4). As we call upon His name out loud, whether loudly or softly, we know He is very near to us (Psa. 145:18). As we call upon His name we are protected from all of our enemies (Psa. 18:3). Oh, Lord Jesus!

6. As God's people we should not be those who use His name in vain, rather we should bless and give thanks to His name (Psa. 96:2; 100:4).

7. As God's people and dear children we should be those who love His name (Psa. 5:11), even sweetly calling Him, "Abba, Father!"

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Eight

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (1): REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY (Exo. 20:8-11; Gen. 2:1-3)

Burden to Impart:

God commanded man to remember the Sabbath and to keep it holy so that man would remember that he was created by God and for God. God would also surely take care of man's needs. Man should not work slavishly seven days a week for Himself and forget his God. This would be to forget the purpose for which he was created.

Memory Verse: "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy"
(Exodus 20:8).

Facts to Teach:

1. The first three commandments were concerned with God Himself. They taught His people to only worship Him and to use His name rightly. The fourth commandment reminds us of God in His work of creation.

2. God wanted His people to live with a constant reminder that their God was the Creator of all things. All things came into being by Him, for Him, and for His purpose. All things rightfully belong to Him, even we ourselves.

3. Also, all that we need in order to live and exist comes from Him. Our health, strength, ability to work, earn money, and buy food all comes from Him. We may "plow and plant," but if God does not send the rain there will be no harvest. He is both our Creator and Sustainer.

4. God worked for six days to prepare the earth for man. He prepared light, air, land, plants, light bearers, sea life, and animals. After all was prepared God created man. Finally, there was a man upon the earth with God's image and likeness to express Him. Now, on the seventh day, God rested. God did not rest because He was tired. God rested because He was satisfied. What God desired when He began His work had been attained so He rested.

5. After creating Adam on the sixth day God rested from His work. The first thing Adam did after being created was to rest with God and enjoy fellowship with God on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a day for man and God to be together in rest and fellowship.

6. When God told man to remember the Sabbath day and to keep it holy He told him how he was to do this: by not working on the Sabbath. Man was not to work for himself on the Sabbath, he was to rest with God. This is healthy for man in many ways. Those who do not honor God or trust in God as their Creator and Sustainer work like slaves seven days a week. They do not allow their body or mind to rest, nor do they remember their Creator or honor Him.

7. As New Testament believers although we do not remember the Sabbath, we do remember the Lord Jesus on the first day of the week. (See Lesson 9.)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Nine

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (2): THE LORD'S DAY

**(Psa. 118:22-24; Luke 24:1-7;
Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:9)**

Burden to Impart:

In the New Testament age we no longer keep the Sabbath, which was established to remember God our Creator and His rest on the seventh day. We do, however, set aside one day to remember the Lord Jesus, that is, the first day of the week, the day of His resurrection. On this day, the Lord's Day we gather together to remember Him, to rejoice in His resurrection, and to give our offerings to the Lord.

Memory Verse: "I was in spirit on the Lord's day"
(Revelation 1:10).

Facts to Teach:

1. The fourth commandment was given to God's people in the Old Testament. On the Sabbath day they were to do no work at all. They were to rest on the Sabbath in remembrance of how God rested after He completed all of His work in making the heavens and the earth.

2. In the New Testament age we are no longer commanded to keep the Sabbath. This is because since the Lord Jesus has died and accomplished redemption the Sabbath type has been fulfilled (Col. 2:16-17).

3. In the New Testament age we see that the believers set apart one day in particular to honor the Lord, the first day of the week. This was the day of the Lord's resurrection (Luke 24:1-7), the day that the disciple's sorrow was turned into joy (John 16:22). On this day of resurrection the Lord met with His disciples and encouraged them, breathing the Holy Spirit into them (John 20:19-22).

4. This day is a day of rejoicing and praise (compare Psa. 118:22-24 with Acts 4:10-11).

5. This day was known as the "Lord's Day" by the early disciples (Rev. 1:9) because it was set apart for the Lord in a special way.

6. The Church gathers together on this day to remember the Lord at the Lord's Table meeting (Acts 20:7).

7. Also, on this day the saints are to make their offerings to the Lord in thanksgiving for His blessing to them (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

8. The unbelievers call the first day of the week "Sunday" in honor of the sun and use this day mainly for pleasure. The Christians respect the first day of the week as the Lord's day and use this day in a special way to honor and remember their Lord and Savior.

(See Lesson 18, in Assembling Together, by Watchman Nee).

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Ten

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT (1): HONORING YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

Burden to Impart:

The first four commandments only deal with our relationship with God. The fifth commandment deals both with our relationship with God and man. This is because although we were brought into existence by our parents, our source is actually God (Luke 3:38). He is the Father of every family (Eph. 3:14-15) and the One who gave each child to its parents (Gen. 33:5; 48:9). *If we do not honor our father and our mother we do not honor God Himself.*

Memory Verse: "Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

Facts to Teach:

1. The first five commandments are one group. They all use the divine title "the Lord your God." Each commandment in this first group has something to do with God. Although the fifth commandment is the first one which talks about our relationship with man (our parents) it is actually dealing with something deeper than merely our relationship with our parents; it is dealing with our relationship with God.

2. God alone is to be worshipped by man, but our parents are to be "honored." To honor our parents is to hold them in high regard and to give them much respect. To honor our parents is to remember that actually God Himself is our source.

a) By tracing our origin (have the children make a family tree) we can see that the source of us all is God (Luke 3:23, 38).

b) Although God is our source, our parents are the means through which God brought us into this world. God selected our parents and formed us within the womb of our mother (Psa. 139:13). If we dishonor the ones who God selected to bring us into this world we also dishonor the One who selected them; God.

c) Children are given to their parents by God (Gen. 33:5; 48:9). So we see that God Himself decided which children to give to each parent. He left no room for accidents or errors. He Himself decided on each arrangement for His chosen ones.

3. God is actually the "Father" of every family (Eph. 3:14-15). He is the source, planner, and arranger of every family. To honor our father and mother is to accept God's arrangement and wisdom. To not honor our father and mother is to dishonor the One who ordained that we should be born of them and placed us under their responsibility to take care of us. (See Life-Study of Exodus #51)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Eleven

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT (2): HONORING YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

Burden to Impart:

We honor our parents by having an inward attitude of respect toward them. We show our love toward our parents by honoring them. To obey our parents is right, but to honor them is what God desires. By honoring our parents we honor God Himself, who gave us our parents.

Memory Verse: "Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2-3).

Facts to Teach:

1. In the previous lesson we saw how honoring our parents is related to our relationship with God. We will now look at how honoring our parents is also related to our relationship with others.

2. The first commandment dealing with how we should treat others has to do with how we treat our parents. Because God is a loving God He wants us to express Him in all of our human relationships; the first of which is with our parents. If we are wrong in our attitude and relationship with our parents the foundation for our relationships with others is defective and will affect all other relationships (with siblings, friends, teachers, bosses, spouses, etc.).

3. The meaning of honoring our father and mother:

a) Paul charged the children to "obey your parents," for "this is right" (Eph. 6:1). However, he continued on to say that they should "honor" them also (v. 2). To honor is more than to obey. To obey is outward and is seen in the action. To honor is inward and is a matter of our attitude and feeling.

b) Surely disobedience dishonors our parents, for it ignores their words of instruction to us. However, even obedience does not honor our parents if it does not come from a respectful attitude. By honoring our parents we show our love toward them.

c) To honor our parents is to honor God who gave us our parents. (See the example of the Lord Jesus in Luke 2:51a, 52.)

4. The blessing promised to children who obey and honor their parents: (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20)

a) "it may be well with you" - protection, peace, joy in this life

b) "live long on the earth" - God is the one who measures our days; He promises a long life to those who honor their parents.

c) "this is well pleasing in the Lord" - God is well pleased.

d) God desires to bless each child. We should desire God's blessing.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Twelve

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT (1): YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

Burden to Impart:

To murder is to violate God's absolute sovereignty over human life. This is against God, God's purpose, and God's loving nature. God created man in His image for His own pleasure and purpose. God gave man his life and existence. To murder is to completely disregard God as the Creator of every man and to act in harmony with God's enemy the Devil, who hates God and hates man, and who is a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44).

Memory Verse: "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13).

Facts to Teach:

1. Murder is the intentional taking of a human being's life (not an animal's) out of malice. Murder is by no means accidental.

2. To murder is against God's law because it is against God's loving nature and also violates His life-giving sovereignty. Since the Ten Commandments reveal God to us, they also show us what God likes and what He does not like; how we should behave and how we should not behave.

3. In this lesson we will focus only on one characteristic of God as seen in the sixth commandment: God alone is the giver of human life. Therefore, He alone can rightfully take it away.

4. God created mankind as His last work of the creation. Man was created in a particular manner, in God's image and likeness, and with a particular purpose, to be for God (to express Him and to represent Him). Man was created for God and belongs to God (Gen. 1:26-27).

5. God is personally and directly the source of human life (Gen. 2:7). Thus, human life is the most valuable item to God in the universe.

6. James 3:9-10 tells us that because man has God's image and is His expression we should never curse another man, for that is to insult His Creator. From this we see that to despise human life is to despise its Creator and to respect human life is to respect its Creator, God.

7. Although human beings possess different colors, races, languages, abilities, intelligence, etc., God is no respecter of persons. He loves all mankind and He alone is the Author of life (Acts 3:15; 17:25b-26a).

8. Only God, the source of human life, has the right to take man's life. (However, God has committed man with the authority to execute murderers and evil doers - Gen. 9:6.)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Thirteen

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT (2): YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

Burden to Impart:

We should love all men and should not murder because God loves all men (Matt. 22: 39-40). Since murder results from anger and hatred we must allow neither one to fill our heart, for God considers both the same as murder (Matt. 5:21; 1 Jn. 3:15). We must confess such feelings to the Lord so that we can be not only forgiven but washed by Him. In this way we can pray for our enemies and those who mistreat us. Then His love will fill our heart.

Memory Verse: "But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment" (Matthew 5:22).

Facts to Teach:

1. The sixth commandment reveals to us that to murder is against God's nature and law, for God is the giver and source of man's life. Only God has the authority to take a man's life.

2. Also, man should not murder because God is love. All of the commandments concerning our behavior towards others is summed up in the Lord's word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39).

3. Murder results from anger and hatred. For this reason the Lord considers them both to be the same as murder (Matt. 5:21; 1 John 3:15). God will not tolerate murder either in action or in heart, for God is love. A heart that is filled with anger or hatred cannot be filled with love or with God.

4. When anger is allowed to remain in our heart it becomes hatred, and hatred gives place to the devil (the murderer, John 8:44). For this reason we are told to not allow the "sun to go down on our wrath," for this will "give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:26-27). This means that we are never to allow anger to be in our heart more than one day. In this way it will not become hatred.

5. Two things help us to have a change of feeling in our heart from anger, bitterness, and hatred (Eph. 4:31) to love:

a) To remember how much kindness and forgiveness God has shown to us (Eph. 4:32). In the same way we should forgive others.

b) To pray for those who spitefully use us (Matt. 5:43-44).

6. Love is the greatest virtue God desires to see expressed in us. Love is able to swallow up anger, hatred, bitterness, and murder. Love comes from God, for God is love (1 Jn. 4:16). As we confess our natural feelings of anger, etc. to the Lord and are cleansed and forgiven by Him, we will find grace to pray for our "enemies" and those who spitefully use us. Soon we will love them and want them to also know the Lord and His forgiveness and love.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Fourteen

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT (1): YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Burden to Impart:

God's original arrangement for men and women is seen in the creation. God prepared a wife for Adam and brought her to him and joined them together as husband and wife (Gen. 2:22; Matt. 19:6). Their union was to be permanent, breakable only by death (Rom. 7:2). Their commitment and loyalty to each other was to continue throughout the rest of their lives. As God is faithful and unchangeable in His commitment to His people, a husband and wife are to be faithful and loyal to each other.

Memory Verse: "...What God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6b).

Facts to Teach:

1. What we read in Genesis chapters 1-2 reveals to us how God planned and arranged things for man, for sin did not yet come into the world and spoil everything. Everything God created for man was not only right, it was the best. It was "very good" (1:31).

2. God created one man and God prepared one woman especially for him. Not only did God prepare her for Adam, He Himself brought her to Adam and "yoked" them together (Gen. 2:18, 22; Matt. 19:6). Adam did not have to go looking for her, or try to convince or win her to be his bride. God Himself would look after Adam's need.

3. God Himself established the marriage of Adam and Eve. Therefore, marriage was according to God's plan so that man could both fulfill God's purpose and also live a happy and satisfied life.

4. God intended that Adam and Eve would live their entire lives together. They were to share everything together (both the good times and the trials also). They were to be committed to one another in an unbreakable bond. Love is called the "golden chain" that joins two people together when they get married. That chain is actually attached by God Himself and should never be broken by man.

5. Marriage is a commitment of two people to one another in an exclusive way. It is the promise of a man to share his most intimate life and love with only one woman, his wife from then on. Likewise for his wife.

6. God blessed Adam and Eve after their "marriage" and told them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with their many children and descendants (Gen. 1:28). God wanted to see the couple He had put together in His wisdom become a family.

(This lesson is to show God's proper arrangement for husband and wife in marriage. There is no need to mention adultery or divorce in this lesson. Try to save these matters for the following lesson.)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Fifteen

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT (2) YOU SHALL COMMIT ADULTERY

Burden to Impart:

When men or women break God's arrangement in marriage and their promise to be faithful unto one another by leaving their spouse (and children), they commit adultery. The only thing that should ever separate a husband and wife is death (Rom. 7:1). Although divorce and adultery are common in the world, they are completely against God's law (Heb. 13:4). God is faithful, and He wants His people to be faithful and loyal to one another in marriage. In this way we can learn what real love is.

Memory Verse: "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).

Facts to Teach:

1. Marriage is a commitment made by two persons to be loyal and faithful to each other for the rest of their lives. This decision is very honorable and is sealed by God (Matt. 19:6) for it is according to God's own arrangement.

2. However, God's arrangement is often times rejected and broken by man's sinful behavior. When God's arrangement is disregarded, God's blessing is also lost. (Also, God's judgment must later be faced).

3. Whenever a man or woman leaves their spouse and family to live with someone else they are not being true, loyal, or faithful to:

a) One another - they have broken their vows and promise to be committed to one another faithfully for the rest of their lives.

b) Their family - they have broken God's arrangement and have caused all of the family to suffer and experience the loss of God's full blessing.

c) God - God has joined them together in His wisdom and according to His plan. Man has no right to overthrow God's doing once it has been accomplished.

4. Some men and women commit adultery by living together as husband and wife without actually being married. Such a relationship is without commitment to one another. When a problem comes along they simply separate rather than learn the harder lessons of love and loyalty.

5. As God's children we should pray and trust Him to provide the right spouse for us. The worldly practice of dating and trying out different ones will only lead to sin and mistakes.

6. Physical contact (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.) with those of the opposite sex is improper outside of marriage (1 Cor. 7:1) and will soon lead into temptation and sin.

(Be sensitive presenting this lesson to children of divorced parents. DO NOT condemn the parents. In wisdom try to simply teach God's truth.)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Sixteen

THE EIGHT COMMANDMENT (1) YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

Burden to Impart:

Because God is love we should not steal. We should respect the property of others, and in so doing, show respect to others. We can be saved from temptation to steal by working to earn money to buy the things we need. We can be saved from stealing by not allowing greed and covetousness to fill our heart. We should be thankful and content in whatever circumstances we are (Phil. 4:11).

Memory Verse: "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15).

Facts to Teach:

1. Definition: to wrongfully take for yourself what rightfully belongs to another (whether a person or otherwise, such as a school, a store, etc.)

2. God gave this commandment to His people to teach them that they must respect other's property. If we do not respect other's property we do not respect others themselves. Our God is righteous and our God is love. If we do not respect other's property we not only sin because we are unrighteous, we sin by failing to love our neighbor as ourself. Would you like to live with a people who had no respect for other's property?

3. There are two causes of stealing: laziness and greed (covetousness).

a) Before man sinned and fell he freely gathered his food from the earth. After man's fall God cursed the earth FOR MAN'S SAKE (Gen. 3:17-19), so he would have to work hard to survive. This would keep man busy so he would not just live in sin.

b) Some people are lazy and do not want to work hard enough to support themselves. They would rather take an "easy" way, stealing. If a person works hard he will have enough money to buy what he needs. We enjoy and appreciate things we work for. It makes us feel good inside when we pay the price.

c) The other cause of stealing is greed and covetousness. We desire something we don't need, or we covet what someone else has. When someone is not satisfied with either what they have or the amount of what they have, they will be easily tempted to steal. Prayer and thanksgiving kills covetousness.

4. God desires His people to work for their food and possessions. Work is good for man. Not only should we work for ourselves and for our own family, we should also give an offering to the Lord (Prov. 3:9). The Lord gives us strength and health so we can work and not steal.

5. We should work to give to needy people, as Paul did (Acts 20:33-35). To steal is a shame. To give is more blessed than to receive.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Seventeen

THE EIGHT COMMANDMENT (2): YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

Burden to Impart:

Stealing is to take whatever belongs to someone else without their knowledge or permission. This includes "borrowing" and not returning or repaying. Stealing is sin, and should be cleared up by first confessing the misdeed and then by repaying or restoring what was taken.

Memory Verse: "He shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full..." (Numbers 5:7).

Facts to Teach:

1. Stealing breaks the basic law of God: that we should LOVE our neighbor as ourself (Gal. 5:14) and treat our neighbor as we would like him to treat us (Matt. 7:12).

2. Stealing is to take what belongs to someone else. Either that person worked for the item, or his parents, or it was a gift. But at any rate, someone had to work and pay for it.

3. Stealing does not only mean to take money from others, or some costly thing. Stealing is to take ANYTHING from another person without their knowledge or permission. It may be a small item, like a pencil, an eraser, a sticker, etc. Our conscience will strongly protest if we intentionally take anything that does not belong to us. That strong warning represents God's warning to us. He knows our thoughts and intentions (Heb. 4:12) and is warning us not to steal.

4. Sometimes we steal unintentionally by "borrowing" something and "forgetting" (or neglecting) to return it. To return the item or to repay the money borrowed is the borrower's responsibility. If they do not return the item or repay the money, they have stolen it, just the same as a thief. Although the lender may forget what we borrowed, the Lord does not. This is a warning to us to not borrow things from others (Rom. 13:8).

5. Another way we may be guilty of stealing is by taking something we found. Every lost thing has an owner. If we find something we should always look for the owner or turn in the item to the proper authorities so that the item can be returned to the owner if he reported it was missing. If he does not report it missing and the owner is not found the item will probably be returned to the finder.

6. Stealing requires restitution. This means that we should not only confess our sin to the Lord and to the owner, we should repay or replace whatever we stole. In the Old Testament God required a person to repay at least a fifth more, sometimes double or even fivefold (Num. 5:7; Exo. 22:1, 7). This teaches the thief not to be either lazy or greedy and covetous. God is happy whenever we clear up any past misdeeds. This is what Zacchaeus did when he got saved (Luke 19:8).

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Eighteen

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT (1): YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS

Burden to Impart:

Our God is true, and all of His words are true. His enemy, the Devil, is the "father of lies" (John 8:44). When we speak lies, especially against another person, we become one with the Devil. God hates lying lips (Prov. 12:22) and will judge all lies (Matt. 12:36) and all liars (Rev. 21:8, 27). By obeying our conscience we can be saved from lying and the Devil, and will thus be preserved to be truthful persons.

Memory Verse: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).

Facts to Teach:

1. The ninth commandment shows us that our God is the God of truth. Because He is true He requires that we, His people, also be true and truthful, honest and faithful, in our speech. To tell a lie about someone, or to bear "false testimony" against them, violates God's basic law of loving our neighbor as ourself (Luke 10:27).

2. God is real; God is true (Rom. 3:4; 1 John 5:20). The Lord Jesus said, "I am the ...Truth..." (John 14:6). God's Word and the words of the Lord Jesus are all true words (John 17:17). In fact, one thing that God cannot do is lie (Heb. 6:18).

3. In contrast, the Devil is called the "father of lies" (John 8:44). When he speaks, he speaks a lie. He cannot say the truth, for there is no truth in him at all. Whatever he says is in some way twisted, distorted, or exaggerated. Eventually, whatever comes from the Devil is not the truth. It is in some way untrue and is just a lie.

4. Those who follow the Devil will be as he is and do as he does - they will become liars. How does the Lord feel about liars? "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 12:22). God has prepared the lake of fire for the judgment of the Devil, the father of lies, and all liars who follow him (Rev. 21:8, 27).

5. Also, those who "love and practice lies" are shut out of the City of God, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:15) along with all of the other wicked and unfaithful persons. They have nothing to do with God's people. Those who practice lying eventually love lies and hate truth.

6. God created us with a kind of built in "burglar alarm," our conscience. Whenever we are about to lie our conscience will forewarn us. Our conscience will bear witness with us if our words are true (Rom. 9:1). However, if our words are not true or sincere our conscience will protest against us and cause us to feel guilty. Even if others don't catch the lie, our conscience surely will. How precious is our conscience! We must treasure and listen to our conscience because God gave it to us to save us from following the Devil and becoming liars, like him. Our conscience preserves us to be truthful persons for the Lord.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Nineteen

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT (2): YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS

Burden to Impart:

Since all lies come from the Devil (John 8:44), we should have nothing to do with lies in any form (exaggeration, half-truths, flattery, slander, pretension, etc.). We should love the truth and only speak the truth. As followers of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus, we should allow no deceit to be in our mouth (Rev. 14:5).

Memory Verse: "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

Facts to Teach:

1. The Bible tells us that those who reject God and His salvation are those who "love" and practice lies (Rev. 22:15) and who do not "love the truth" (2 Thes. 2:10). As God's children and as Christians we must love the truth and hate any form of falsehood or lie.

2. There are many different kinds of lies we should be aware of:

a) An outright lie - something said that has nothing to do with the truth; it is an intentional lie.

b) A careless lie - careless speech, like talebearing (Lev. 19:16), passing on stories that you aren't sure are even true.

c) A half-truth - to tell a half-truth is really subtle, it is to use something true to present a falsehood.

d) Silence - remaining silent when we should speak (Lev. 5:1). For example when someone asks, "Does anyone here know who wrote on the wall?" By remaining silent we are actually lying.

e) Exaggeration - Some people constantly exaggerate, making a small thing great, an ordinary thing to be extraordinary, etc.

f) Flattery - to compliment or praise beyond the truth, usually done for a selfish motive, but it is a lie and damages the person (Prov. 26:28). (Better are the "wounds" (hard, truthful words) of a friend, than the kisses (flattery) of an enemy (Prov. 27:6).

3. Most excuses are simply a lie in one form or another. Once a lie is told it usually leads to another lie, even a stronger lie, to try and prove how the first lie was true. It is more honorable to have done wrong and admit it than to do wrong and lie when caught.

4. God delights in those who tell the truth (Psa. 51:6; Prov. 12:22). Like King David, we should pray that our words would be acceptable in the Lord's sight (Psa. 19:14).

5. Those who faithfully follow the Lord do not allow their mouth to speak lies or anything deceitful (Rev. 14:5)..

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Twenty

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT (1): YOU SHALL NOT COVET

Burden to Impart:

Coveting is the inward source of many serious sins (lying, stealing, adultery, murder, James 1:14-15). Coveting not only destroys our love toward others, if it is not resisted and confessed to the Lord as sin, it will make our heart completely sad and miserable (1 Kings 21:4). It is "more blessed to give" (and will make us happier) than to receive (Acts 20:35), or to covet and take from others.

Memory Verse: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's" (Exodus 20:17).

Facts to Teach:

1. To covet is to greatly desire something that you do not have, or that someone else has. This is not limited only to material things but may also be other qualities (beauty, intelligence, strength). (Have the children illustrate with some things they have coveted.)

2. The other nine commandments mainly deal with wrong and sinful actions; this commandment deals directly with our heart and thoughts. Though Paul could boast that he was able to keep all of the outward commandments (Phil. 3:6), he realized that before God he (as we all) was a sinner because in his heart he was covetous (Rom. 7:7).

3. Covetousness in the heart eventually leads to sin in the action (James 1:14-15). The first sin in the human race was caused by Eve's coveting the fruit that God had forbidden her to eat.

4. Examples of serious sins and problems caused by coveting are as follows:

a) Achan's sin of taking forbidden spoils from the enemy caused Israel's army to be defeated (Joshua 7:20-21).

b) King David forsook righteousness and committed adultery and murder due to coveting a neighbor's wife (2 Sam. 11:2-27).

c) King Ahab coveted his neighbor's vineyard so much that he became completely miserable (1 Kings 21:1-4). Eventually, his wife had the neighbor, Naboth, killed so the vineyard could be given to her husband.

(It would be sufficient to use only the story about King Ahab to illustrate how coveting corrupts us and makes us miserable.)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Twenty-One

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT (2): YOU SHALL NOT COVET

Burden to Impart:

As God's children we need not be anxious concerning our living, for He has promised to take care of us (Heb. 13:5-6). Neither should we allow our heart to be drawn away from Him and His will because of covetousness, desiring and pursuing what we do not really need or what God has not allotted to us. The secret of being inwardly content with the Lord's presence in whatever circumstances we find ourselves will kill covetousness and bring us peace and satisfaction (Phil. 4:11-13).

Memory Verse: "...I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Facts to Teach:

1. As God's children we should not be anxious for any necessity of life, whether food, clothes, or housing. He cares for the birds and He has promised that if we seek first His kingdom that He will see that all of our needs are taken care of (Matt. 6:33). Anxiety is caused by the lack of trust in God. This is an insult to the Lord.

2. The main cause of covetousness is not because of need, but because of being dissatisfied with what we have. Happiness does not come from possessing more, it comes from being satisfied and content with what we already have.

3. Our fallen human nature can never be satisfied with what it acquires and possesses; the "eye is not satisfied with seeing" (Ecc. 1:8). If we seek happiness by trying to satisfy all of our desires, we will only find, as king Solomon did, that it is like chasing the wind, and is a vexation to our spirit (Ecc. 1:14).

4. The apostle Paul warns us that covetousness leads to many temptations and snares, foolish and harmful desires, which plunge men into ruin and destruction (1 Tim. 6:9-10) and will turn our heart away from God.

5. He also taught us that our chief desire should be to live a life of godliness with contentment, not a life of self-indulgence and covetousness.

6. Paul overcame covetousness. He desired no man's gold or silver. Rather, in his desire to lead men to Christ, he labored night and day, so that he could supply his own needs, and the needs of those with him (Acts 20:33-35). He did not desire to be profited from others, rather, he desired to spend and be utterly spent for their sake (2 Cor. 12:15).

7. To overcome the sin of covetousness we, like Paul, must also learn the secret of being satisfied in whatever circumstances we find ourselves (Phil. 4:11-12), for God has brought us there.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Twenty-Two

SUMMARY: THE TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

Burden to Impart:

The spirit of the Ten Commandments is love. Every commandment is fulfilled spontaneously by loving God and loving our neighbor (Matt. 22:36-40; Rom. 13:8-10). Neither fear nor duty is an adequate motivation to obey God's commandments. Love is the key factor (John 13:23).

Memory Verse: "And He answered and said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

Facts to Teach:

1. One purpose for which God gave the Ten Commandments was to reveal Himself to His redeemed people. Each commandment gives more light and understanding concerning His nature, His character, His ways, His feeling, and His heart. Each commandment is precious, for it is like a photograph of God's inward being revealed to us.

2. In considering the Ten Commandments in relation to the two greatest commandments we may group them into two groups: the first four commandments as one group, and the last six commandments as another. The first four commandments directly concern our relationship with God, the last six commandments directly concern our relationship with men (Exo. 20:2-17).

3. The Lord Jesus taught us that not only the Ten Commandments, but all of the Word of God revealed to men hangs upon just two commandments (Matt. 22:36-40).

4. If we love our God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind we would:

- a) not have other gods,
- b) not make any carved image,
- c) take the Name of the Lord in vain,
- d) remember God the Creator by sanctifying our days and time for Him.

5. If we love our neighbor as ourself we would:

- a) honor our father and mother
- b) not murder
- c) not commit adultery
- d) not steal
- e) not bear false witness
- 6) Not covet our neighbor's possessions.

6. Since both of the greatest two commandments are a matter of love, either loving God or loving man, love is the spirit of God's commandments.

7. The Ten Commandments expressly tell us what NOT to do, what is AGAINST God's nature. Concerning what we SHOULD do positively in order to walk pleasingly toward God and man, only one word is all that is necessary to instruct us: we should LOVE our God with our all, and we should love our neighbor as ourself. Love is the fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:8-10).

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Lesson Twenty-Three

CONCLUSION: HOW TO PRACTICE KEEPING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Burden to Impart:

Because of our sinful nature we experience a spontaneous tendency to sin and to break God's holy law (Rom. 7:15-21). We should practice confessing our sins to the Lord daily so that He can forgive them and cleanse us from all of our sins with His precious blood (1 Jn. 1:9). Also, we should turn our heart to the Lord daily in order to keep our heart soft and loving Him. Then, by receiving His word we will be strengthened to overcome the slavery of sin (Psa. 119:9-10).

Memory Verse: "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart" (Deuteronomy 6:6).

Facts to Teach:

1. Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin (Rom. 7:7). Through Adam's fall sin entered into the world (Rom. 5:12) and rules in every man, causing him to break God's law and sin, even doing things that he hates to do (Rom. 7:14-20).

2. Although we are all weak and fail God often, He has given us a way to go on with Him:

a) Whenever we sin and break one of God's commandments we should never cover up our sin or just try to forget it. We should confess it to the Lord and receive His forgiveness and cleansing through the precious blood of Jesus who died to wash away all of our sins and failures (1 John 1:9).

b) We should turn our heart to the Lord again and again, day by day. Sin (breaking God's law) causes our heart to become hardened and turned away from the Lord (Heb. 3:13). When we confess our sins to the Lord and turn our heart back to Him we will love Him again, our heart will be softened, and every veil will be taken away (2 Cor. 3:16).

c) By turning our heart to the Lord our heart is softened, but by receiving the Lord's Word we will be strengthened and enabled to keep His Word and His commandments (Deut. 6:6; Psa. 119:9-11). Although our flesh is weak and utterly unable to do it in ourselves, God is able to do it in us as His Word abides in us.

NOTE: We should not minimize or spiritualize away the requirement of the Ten Commandments. Rather, we should impart God's righteous requirement to the children so that through His Law they may come to know Him and also know themselves, that they are sinners. We should never give them an impression that because of the greatness of God's grace we may "sin so that grace may abound" (Rom. 6:1). Rather, we should lead them to aspire to live a godly and righteous life.