

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19 - 24

Lesson Memory Verse: Romans 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Lesson Aim: To teach the children the Ten Commandments so they can know what sin is and will have a sincere reason for going to Jesus Christ to be cleansed of their sins.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY - HE - SEE - WE - BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): There is the story of a man who watched a strong eagle fly high into the sky. It was beautiful to see this powerful bird soar across the heavens. Suddenly, the great eagle was in trouble and stopped flying. It crashed to the earth and fell not far from where the man was standing. The man ran over to the place where the eagle had fallen and noticed the big bird was dead. Then he looked more closely and discovered why the eagle had stopped flying a few minutes before it had fallen to earth. It had been weakened by its enemy while it was still flying. He found a small weasel had dug its claws into the mighty bird and had sucked away its life's blood. This caused the eagle to lose its strength and plunge to its death.

We are like this eagle. We seem to be very strong, but we, too, have an enemy. That enemy is sin. Sin will suck away our strength and plunge us into Hell unless we can have it removed. I want to teach you a lesson that will help you to know what sin is so you can get victory over sins by the help of Jesus.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us how we can know what sin is. It tells us this in the last part of our memory verse: ". . . for by the law is the knowledge of sin." That means the law, which is the Ten Commandments, will tell us what sin is. We can know what sin is by knowing the Ten Commandments.

Some people think that they will go to Heaven by obeying the Ten Commandments. This is not true. The first part of our memory verse tells us we cannot be "justified" (or saved) by "the deeds of the law" (by obeying the law). The Ten Commandments were given to us by God so that we would know what sin is, but it was not given as a way to heaven. Jesus is the only way to Heaven. He is the only One who can save us from our sins. It is only when we know that we have sinned that we will go to Jesus to be cleansed. Therefore, it is important that we know God's Law so we can see our need to be saved.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In our lesson today, we will try to learn the Ten Commandments so we can know when we have sinned and need Jesus to cleanse us by His blood.

I. Israel Got Ready (19:1-25)

A. Israel Came to Sinai (19: 1, 2).

God wanted Israel to meet Him at Mt. Sinai.

WE: God wants us to meet Him at the cross of Jesus.

B. Israel Wanted to Obey God (19:3-8)

God asked the people if they wanted to obey Him; they said they did.

WE: God wants us to obey Him; we should say, "Yes."

C. Israel Was Taught to Respect God (19:9-19)

God told the people to wash their clothes and put a fence around Mt. Sinai so no one would touch the mountain. Then they saw lightning and fire and smoke on the mount, they heard a long loud trumpet, they felt the ground shake violently, and finally they heard God speak to Moses. God wanted Israel to respect Him with a holy fear.

WE: We show respect to God by being clean when we come into His presence. When we have a clean body and clean clothes, it shows that we respect His holiness and hatred for sin. Of course, the most important thing is to have a clean heart and mind by trusting the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all of our sins. We also need to respect His power and listen to Him when He speaks to us from the Bible.

D. Israel Was Warned Twice (19:20-25)

God warned Israel two times that they were not to touch Mt. Sinai, or let any of their cattle touch it, or they would die.

WE: Whenever God repeats a warning as we read the Bible or hear someone preach or teach it, we need to pay attention to what God is saying and obey Him. He is telling us something important.

II. God Gave His Rules (20:1-26)**A. Israel Received the Ten Commandments (20:1-17)**

1. No other gods - v. 3
2. No graven images (of God) - vv. 4-6
3. No swearing - v. 7
4. Keep Sabbath day holy - vv. 8-11 For Israel (Ex 31:12-17); not for Christians (Heb 10:25).
5. Honor parents - v. 12
6. No killing (murder) - v. 13
7. No adultery (all sex sins) - v. 14
8. No stealing - v. 15
9. No lying - v. 16
10. No coveting (it is a strong desire to get something that does not belong to you) - v. 17

WE: We know what sin is by knowing God's Law. We need to be cleansed of our sins by Jesus Christ if we want to live with Him. We should memorize the Ten Commandments to help us stay away from sin.

B. Israel Was Afraid of God (20:18-21)

Israel was afraid of God because of the thunder, lightning, the trumpet sound, and the mountain smoking.

WE: We do not need to be afraid of God, unless we have sinned. Then the best thing to do is to confess our sin to God and ask Him to cleanse us by Jesus' blood.

C. Israel Was Warned Against Idols (20:22-23)

Israel was told that they were not to make any idol to represent God.

WE: We must not worship any idols, either. Anything that is more important to you than God is an idol, whether it is an image, a person, money, amusements or some other thing. Can you think of any idols that boys and girls might have?

D. Israel Was Told How to Worship God (20:24-26)

Israel was told how to make their altars and how they were to offer their sacrifices on the altars.

WE: We must learn to worship God with a right spirit and according to His Word (John 4:24).

E. Israel Was Promised the Commandments on Stone (24:12-18)

Moses was told to go up into the mountain, where God would give him the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets.

WE: God has given us His promises and commands in the Bible. It is a very precious book. We must read it to be aware of sin and know how to be cleansed from sin.

BE (for Action): Some children know the Ten Commandments, but they do not pay any attention to them and go on sinning as though nothing was wrong. If anyone swallows some poison, he had better know what to do, and do it quickly, or he will die. If you disobey the Ten Commandments, you have sinned. The Bible says we all have disobeyed His commands. Therefore, we need to run to Jesus and ask Him to cleanse us from our sins. If we do this with a desire not to return to those sins, we will be saved from spiritual death in Hell. If you do not give your sins to Jesus, there is no one else who can save you from that awful place. If you give your sins to Jesus, He will make you clean so you can go to Heaven. If you want to be cleansed of all your sins, go to Him today. If you stay after class, I will help you.