

16



GOD'S GOOD RULES

The 10 Commandments & The Greatest Commandments

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 6: KINGDOM BEHAVIOUR

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Exodus 20:1-17; Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22: 37–40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:27

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about Kingdom Behaviour.
- God gave us the 10 Commandments because he loves us and knows what is best for us. The 10 Commandments help us to know what sin is. Following them creates a good and safe place for us to live.
- The 10 Commandments can be summarized in the Greatest Commandments – “loving God” and “loving others”.
- Jesus is the only one who could obey the 10 Commandments perfectly. That is why he could become the perfect sacrifice for sin.
- Jesus' sacrifice paid for our sins once and for all. We can now have forgiveness for our sins, and we can enter God's holy presence and receive his life through the Holy Spirit.
- In the 10 Commandments, the 4 commandments about loving God come before the 6 commandments about loving others. This is because we need to love God first. When we turn our love and attention towards Jesus who is the source of love, we become more like him. We are then better able to love others.

Memory Verse “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-31 - paraphrased)

ACNA
Catechism
Connections

Today's lesson of God's Good Rules is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q257 What are the Ten Commandments? The Ten Commandments are a summary and outline of God's Law.

Q258 What is God's Law? God's Law (Hebrew, torah: "instruction") is God's direct pronouncement of his will, both for our good and for his glory.

Q260 How did Jesus summarize God's Law? Jesus summarized God's Law by saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Q261 How did Jesus fulfill God's Law? For our sake, Jesus fulfilled God's Law by teaching it perfectly, submitting to it wholly, and dying as an atoning sacrifice for our disobedience.

Q262 How can you obey God's Law? As I trust in Jesus' fulfillment of the Law for me and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, God grants me grace to love and obey his Law.

Q263 Why are you not able to do this perfectly? Sin has corrupted human nature, inclining me to resist God, to ignore his will, and to care more for myself than for my neighbors. However, God has begun and will continue his transforming work in me, and will fully conform me to Christ at the end of the age.

Q264 How should you understand the Ten Commandments? I should understand them as God's righteous rules for life in his kingdom: basic standards for loving God and my neighbor. In upholding them, I bear witness with the Church to God's righteousness and his will for a just society.

Q266 How do the Ten Commandments help you to grow in likeness to Christ? They reveal my sin in the light of God's righteousness, guide me to Christ, and teach me what is pleasing to God.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Two strips of brown Kraft paper, one labelled "Love God" and one labelled "Love others". (See detailed instructions in props document.)
- 10 cards with one commandment per card.
- Greatest Commandments poster
- Ten Commandments poster
- Storyboard symbol: Two stone tablets placed together like a heart

Memory Verse: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31 - paraphrased)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Greatest Commandment (With All My Heart) Love the Lord (CJ and Friends) Ten Commandments Song <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	The Ten Commandments
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

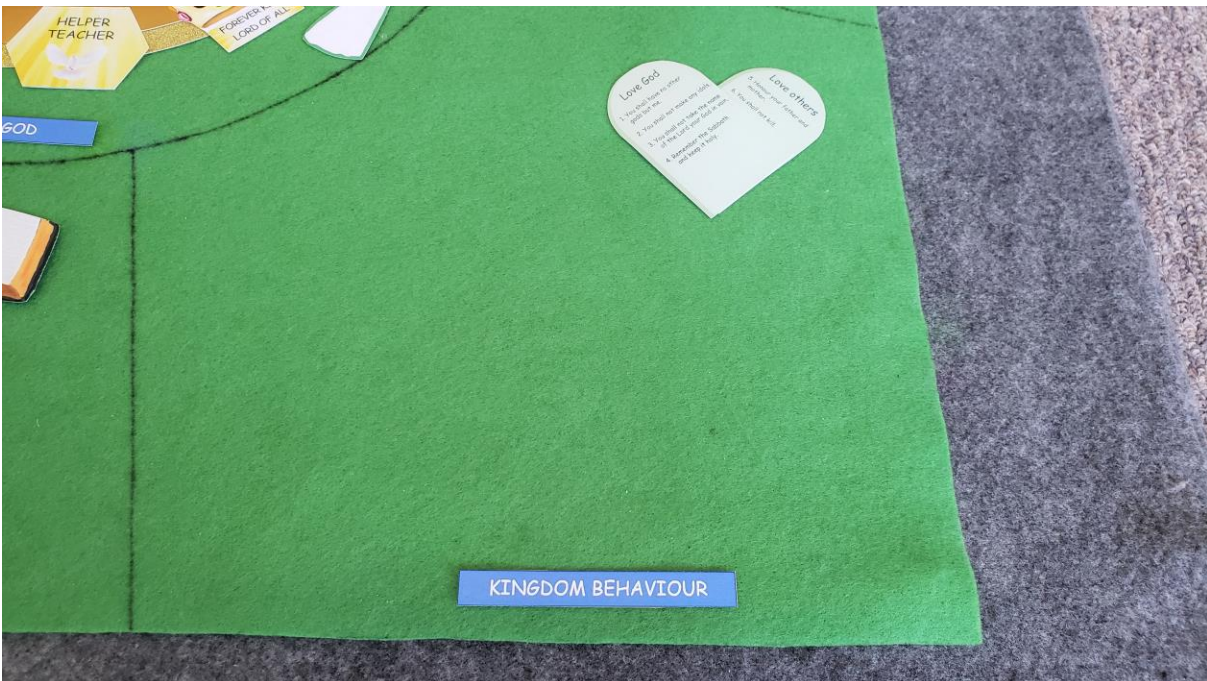
3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson



Ten Commandments cross



This is how the Kingdom Behaviour section should look at the end of the lesson. Leave the storyboard like this for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Set up two teaching stations: One with the storyboard, and a second station with the individual commandments and strips of paper. Place the 10 Commandments poster between the two stations, as you will need it for both. Start the lesson by the storyboard. Ensure the 10 Commandments are read in today's "Review of Foundations" section.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about Kingdom Behaviour.' (Place "Kingdom Behaviour" unit title on storyboard.)*

STORY:

TEACHER: Today we are going to talk about rules. What are some rules that you have in your home? (i.e. Don't run down the stairs; don't touch the stove; go to bed by 9:00 p.m., keep your room tidy, don't hit your brother or sister, etc.)

Sometimes we may not like the rules, but our parents made these rules because they love us, and they know better than we do what is best for us.

Our Heavenly Father made rules for us to follow as well. In the Old Testament God gave Moses the 10 Commandments. *(Point to 10 Commandments poster.)* They are more than just rules, they are laws, that have very serious consequences if they are broken. The 10 Commandments helps us to know what sin is. God loves us and wants us to know and follow these laws because he knows what is best for us.

In the New Testament, when Jesus was on earth, the religious leaders asked Jesus "What is the greatest commandment?"

TEACHER: *(Point to the 10 Commandments.)* Which one of the 10 Commandments would you pick as the greatest?

ACTION: *Let the children select different commandments.*

TEACHER: Well, do you know what Jesus answered?

ACTION: *Hold up the Greatest Commandments poster.*

TEACHER: Jesus quoted from the Old Testament and said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."

Does anyone see these commandments on the list of the 10 commandments?

TEACHER: Well, if you look really closely at these 10 Commandments and then look at the Greatest Commandments, you will notice something really special. All the 10 Commandments can fit under two titles: "Love God" and "Love others". The two Greatest Commandments are often called the "Summary of the Law", because they tell us that the 10 Commandments can be summarized as loving God and loving others. Let's take a closer look at these two categories.

ACTION: *Take the children to the second station.*

I have two sheets of paper here. This sheet says, "Love God". This other sheet says, "Love others". (*Place sheets on the floor.*) Let's read each of the 10 commandments and see which sheet it should be placed on.

ACTION: *Read each commandment and explain it to the children (italicized section). After each commandment have one of the children put the commandment onto the "Love God" sheet or the "Love others" sheet. Attach to the sheet with sticky tac.*

- Commandment 1: You shall have no other gods but me** (*Place under 'Love God'*)
Love God more than anything else
- Commandment 2: You shall not make any idols** (*'Love God'*)
Nothing in your life should be more important than God
- Commandment 3: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain** (*'Love God'*)
Always say God's name with respect and love
- Commandment 4: Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy** (*'Love God'*)
Honour God by resting on the 7th day of the week
- Commandment 5: Honour your father and your mother** (*'Love others'*)
Love and respect your Dad and Mom
- Commandment 6: You shall not kill** (*'Love others'*)
Do not murder anyone. Be kind. Help and protect others.
- Commandment 7: You shall not commit adultery** (*'Love others'*)
Always be faithful to your husband or wife
- Commandment 8: You shall not steal** (*'Love others'*)
Do not take anything that is not yours. Respect other people's property. Give generously to those in need.
- Commandment 9: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour** (*'Love others'*)
Always tell the truth, and talk about others with kindness.
- Commandment 10: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour** (*'Love others'*)
Be happy with what you have. Don't wish for what belongs to someone else.

TEACHER: Wow, all 10 commandments are about “loving God” and “loving others”! *(Point to the two sheets of paper)* Four commandments are about loving and honouring God, and six commandments are about loving others.

What do you think life would be like if we didn't have these commandments? *(People being disrespectful, killing each other, being unfaithful, stealing, lying and being envious.)* Would that be a good place to live? No! God gave us these commandments so that we would have a good and safe place to live. A place where people treat each other with love and respect. God's laws are wonderful! Our loving Heavenly Father knows what is best for us!

However, no one is able to obey the 10 Commandments perfectly all the time. Sometimes we disobey God's good will. That is called sin, and sin leads to death. It keeps us from entering God's Holy presence and receiving his life. In the Old Testament, animals had to be sacrificed to pay for people's sins, so people could enter God's presence.

Only one person who ever lived was able to keep all the commandments perfectly. That person was Jesus. He fulfilled God's Law on our behalf. Therefore, he could become the perfect sacrifice for sin when he died on the cross.

ACTION: *Place the two sheets of paper on top of each other in the shape of a cross (see photo).*

TEACHER: Jesus' sacrifice paid for our sins once and for all. We can now have forgiveness for our sins, and we can enter God's holy presence and receive his life through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also changes our hearts and helps us to keep God's commandments more and more.

Let's go over and look at our storyboard.

ACTION: *Have everybody sit down by the storyboard. Have the 10 Commandments poster next to you.*

TEACHER: *(Hold up the two stone tablets symbols.)* God gave Moses the 10 Commandments on stone tablets. Let's put these down on our storyboard to remind us of the 10 Commandments. We'll put the tablets together in a heart shape to remind us that they are all about loving God and loving others. *(Place the tablets as shown.)*

We have the 10 Commandments written on this poster. *(Point to poster.)* Have you noticed that the 4 commandments about loving God come first, and the 6 commandments about loving others come second?

Loving God is the greatest commandment of all. We need to love God first because he is the **source**, the beginning, of all love. When we turn our love and attention to Jesus who is the source of love, (*point to Trinity heart*) we become more like him and able to reflect **his** love to others.

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Heavenly Father, thank you that you have given us these wonderful laws because you know what is best for us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and so that your love will flow through us to others.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (God gave us the 10 Commandments to live by because he knows what is best for us.)
- **Why did God give us his good laws, the 10 Commandments?** (The 10 Commandments help us to know what sin is. Following them creates a good and safe place for us to live. God knows what is best for us.)
- **What did Jesus say were the two Greatest Commandments?** (“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.”)
- **What are the two main headings in the Greatest Commandments?** (Loving God and Loving Others.)
- **Do all the 10 Commandments fit into one of these two headings?** (Yes.)
- **Who is the only person who was able to keep the 10 Commandments perfectly?** (Jesus. That is why he could become the perfect sacrifice for sin.)
- **Who helps us obey God's commandments?** (The Holy Spirit, who changes our hearts and helps us obey God's commandments more and more.)
- **In the 10 Commandments, why do the first 4 commandments about loving God come before the ones about loving others?** (Because we need to love God first. He is the source of love. When we turn our love and attention towards Jesus, we become more like him. We are then better able to love others.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers
- Give the children the colouring page of the 10 Commandments printed on card stock. Have them colour the stone tablets, cut them out, and place them together in a heart shape. Talk about why the 4 commandments about loving God sits on top of the 6 commandments about loving others.

"Love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all
your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

This is the first and
greatest commandment.
And the second is like it:
Love your neighbour as
yourself."

(Mark 12:30-31)