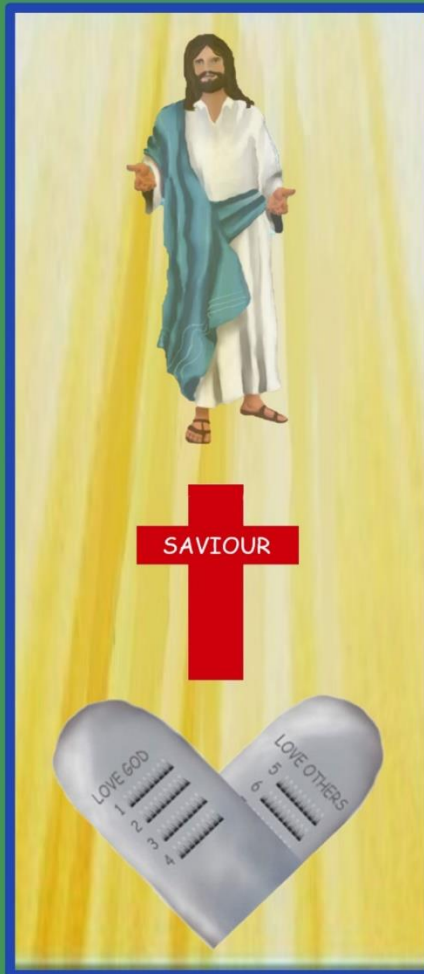


God's Good Rules

Love God

1. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make any idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.



Love others

5. Honour your father and mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

"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

Lesson 16: *God's Good Rules* (Condensed Version)

Saint Matthew's Anglican Church Children's Ministries

Year 2. Kingdom Life
Unit 6: Kingdom Behaviour

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS & THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS (Scripture: Ex. 20:1-17; Mark 12:30-31)

Objectives: To explain that: *Today's story 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 the commandments 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. *The Holy Spirit helps us keep God's commandments.

"I Wonder" Questions: *What do you see in this picture? *I wonder why the 10 Commandments are divided into two sections. *I wonder why there is a picture of Jesus on the poster. Let's find out more in our lesson...

Lesson Props: None

Lesson Summary: Today we will talk about how we behave in God's Kingdom, and the good rules that God has given us to live by. Do your parents make rules that you have to follow at home? *(Children respond)* Sometimes we may not like the rules, but our parents make 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 on two stone tablets. *(Point to 10 Commandments)* 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. You can see that the tablets are separated under two headings. The first 4 commandments are all about loving God, and the last 6 commandments are all about loving others. **Let's read** the commandments that tell us how to **love God**. *(Children read commandments one by one. The teacher says the following explanations after each commandment):* **1. Love God more than anything else. 2. Nothing in your life should be more important than God. 3. Always say God's name with respect and love. 4. Honour God by resting on the 7th day of the week. Now, let's read** the commandments that tell us how to **love others**. **5. Love and respect your Dad and Mom. 6. Do not murder anyone. Be kind. Help and protect others. 7. Always be faithful to your husband or wife. 8. Do not take anything that is not yours. Respect other people's property. Give generously to those in need. 9. Always tell the truth, and talk about others with kindness. 10. Be happy with what you have. Don't wish for what belongs to someone else.** In our Bible memory verse, Jesus said the two greatest commandments are loving God and loving others. Let's read the verse together. *(Children read)* This verse is often called the summary of the Law, because it summarizes the 10 Commandments as loving God and loving others. God's laws are wonderful! What do you think life would be like if we didn't have these commandments? *(Children respond)* Would that be a good place to live? No! Our loving Heavenly Father gave us these commandments so that we would have a good and safe place to live. 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 eternal death. Only Jesus was able to keep all the commandments perfectly. He fulfilled God's Law on our behalf. Therefore, he could become the perfect sacrifice for sin when he died on the cross. *(Point to cross)* Jesus purifies us from all sin and death, and his Holy Spirit gives us life. The Holy Spirit also changes our hearts and helps us to keep God's commandments more and more. We have placed the two stone tablets together like a heart. *(Point to symbol)* This reminds us that the 10 Commandments are all about loving God and loving 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.) ***How do the 10 Commandments help us to live?** (Children respond) **What did Jesus say were the two Greatest Commandments that summarize the 10 Commandments?** (Read memory verse.) ***Who is the only person who was able to keep the 10 Commandments perfectly?** (Jesus, our Saviour who became the perfect sacrifice for sin.) ***Who helps us to obey God's commandments?** (The Holy Spirit, who changes our hearts.)

Bible Memory Verse: The Greatest Commandments (Mark 12:30-31 - NIV) – see poster