

St. John's Church School  
Old Testament - JSB Supplemental Lesson

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**Lesson 18: The Ten Commandments #1-10: A Review**

**Goal** – The students will be reminded that:

- The first 4 commandments tell of us our duty and love for God and the second 6 tell us of our duty and love for others
- What each commandment means to them
- How to keep these commandments

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:3-17.

**Instruction:**

Last week, we read about how Moses went up into the mountain to listen to God. God gave him Ten Commandments, or Laws, to show him how to teach God's people how to live. Then, God sent Moses back to his people to share with them what God had told him. The Laws were written on stone tablets. Today, we will look at those commandments and talk about each of them. We divide the commandments into two groups: the first four commandments that tell us how we should love and obey God; and the final six commandments that tell us how to love others around us.

Let's begin at the beginning: Does anyone remember what the first commandment is? This is the commandment we studied last week.

1. The first commandment says, "Thou shalt have none other gods but me." Exodus 20:3.

It says that God should be more important to us than anything else. Let's say this commandment together. Can anyone tell me why this commandment comes before all the rest? Because worshiping and loving God is the most important thing that we should do. How do we worship and love God? By our prayers, our coming to church, our thinking about what Jesus would want us to do, and by doing our best to obey His commandments, even though we sometimes fail and don't always obey like we should.

So, who knows what the second commandment says? Here it is:

2. "Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image." Exodus 20:4.

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That means no idols. What are idols? Anything that we worship instead of God is an idol. This can be power, fame, clothes, cool toys, houses, movie stars. Can you think of anything else someone might put ahead of God?

3. The third commandment is: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Exodus 20:7

Who can tell us what this commandment means? Has anyone ever called you by the wrong name? Does it bother you? Has anyone ever called you by a mean name? Well, when we hear someone say, "Oh, my God," or even "OMG" or "Lordy" or "Holy cow," these are calling the Lord God's name wrongly. Sometimes people do it without even thinking about it. If you listen, you will hear this happen all the time, but as Christians, we must not disobey this commandment.

4. The fourth commandment is: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." Exodus 20:8.

As Christians, we celebrate Sunday as our Sabbath Day. How can we keep this day holy? Let's share some ways: Church going; Bible reading; prayers; taking time to think about God, rather than other things; doing God's work, rather than our own.

5. The fifth commandment begins the commandments that show us how we should act towards others. It is, "Honor thy Father and thy Mother." Exodus 20:12.

Why is it so important to honor our parents? Because God gives us parents to care for us, to love us, and to provide for us and protect us. They are God's way of looking out for us until we can look out for ourselves. How do you honor your parents? By loving them; by obeying them; by giving them respect; and by showing how much you love them.

6. The sixth commandment is, "Thou shalt do no murder." Exodus 20:13.

Another way to say this is, "Thou shalt not kill." In this commandment we learn that life is precious and a gift from God and that we should not kill anyone. But, besides not killing anyone, we should do our best not to think bad thoughts or say bad words against those who might wish to hurt us, but, instead, to do them good. Why? Because only God can judge a person's heart and know what is in it. We have to leave that to Him, and do

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our best to trust God to care for us, and try not to hate those who are not good to us as His children. Having hatred towards someone is disobeying this commandment.

7. The seventh commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."  
Exodus 20:14.

Who knows what this commandment means? Have you ever been to a wedding? Do you know that in a wedding the man and wife promise to be faithful to each other, and to love only that person as their husband or wife. This is how married people keep this commandment: by holding fast to their husband or wife, and thinking of no one else in this way.

8. The eighth commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15.

What does the word "steal" mean? Who can tell us? Yes, it means taking anything that does not belong to you, but belongs to someone else. Does this mean only toys, or books, or things? No, it can also mean stealing someone's good name by talking about them in a bad way, or taking advantage of someone who is weak. This is not such an easy commandment to keep. Have you ever "borrowed" something from a brother or sister or friend without asking? Have you ever seen anyone speak badly about a classmate or anyone else? This is stealing that person's good name, and it breaks two commandments: number eight and number nine that follows.

9. The ninth commandment is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Exodus 20:16.

You see, this commandment means that we must not steal our neighbor's reputation or good name by saying something untrue about that person, or not speaking up for them when we hear someone else say something that we know is not right about them. We should always lift each other up with good thoughts and words.

10. The tenth and last commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet."  
Exodus 20:17.

The word "covet" means to want something someone else has that you do not have. Sin begins with greedy desire. We must not be greedy or wish for what does not belong to us, but instead, to be thankful for each and every

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good gift that God has given us. We must not be jealous of anyone when they have something that we do not have but wish we did. Instead, we must learn to wish for God's will and the good that He has for us. What can we do to keep from breaking this commandment? We can learn to share in our friend's joy, and be happy that they are blessed, while we know that God will bless us with the good gifts that He wants for us, and be thankful for Him.

**Activity:**

Use the 10 Commandment Games that will be provided. Remind the children that they are to learn these commandments by heart. Encourage them to take their posters home and put them where they can see them always.

**Jesus in the Lesson:**

Who in the world was able to keep all of God's Commandments? Only Jesus, God's Son, was able to keep all of God's Commandments. This is why He was able to take our sins and our failures upon himself, taking the punishment we deserve to the cross, so that we may be forgiven for our sins.

**Prayer:**

**“Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee. Amen”**

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Lesson 12: The Fifth Commandment

To the Parents:

Today, we reviewed the Fifth through the Tenth Commandments. Your child was reminded:

- That the first 4 commandments tell of us our duty and love for God and the second 6 tell us of our duty and love for others
- What each commandment means to them
- How to keep these commandments

**These Commandments are:**

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land the Lord thy God giveth you." This commandment is found in Exodus 20:12.

6. "Thou shalt do no murder." Exodus 20:13.

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14.

8. "Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Exodus 20:16.

10. "Thou shalt not covet." Exodus 20:17.