



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 19

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Man cannot keep law.

Bible Character(s): Moses

Scripture Reference: Exodus 20



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read Exodus 20. Look at the laws given to Moses and the Israelites. Reflect on the difficulty of keeping these laws. There are some we can keep, but others are more difficult. This shows us that we cannot hold to God's standard and that we are in need of a Savior. In God's omniscience He gave us rules knowing we could not keep them in order to highlight our dependence on Him. God desires for us to acknowledge our need and that only one person could keep all the Commandments (Jesus). The Ten Commandments highlight our need and point us to Jesus. Spend time in prayer, confessing your sin nature and thanking God for providing a Savior to redeem you, since "we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory" (Romans 3:23).

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Ten Commandments

Have campers see how many of the Ten Commandments they can list. Once all ten are listed, see if campers can put them in order. The point is not to see who has them memorized, just to get them thinking about the Ten Commandments.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will spend some time learning about the Ten Commandments. In Big Group, one of the lifeguards talked about memorizing the Ten Commandments. Instead of just memorizing them, we will look at how the Ten Commandments relate to our relationships with each other and with God. We will see how they show our need for a Savior, who is provided by God through Jesus.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did the camp staffers in Big Group teach us about the Bible? (They said that the Bible is like 3 things: pool rules, a rope dividing the pool, and a mirror.) How is the Bible like the pool rules? (The Bible is God's plan, He gave it to us to follow and obey.) How is God's word like the rope across the pool? (It sets boundaries for our lives, the Bible gives us guidelines to keep us safe.) How is the Bible like a mirror? (It shows us who we really are, it shows me that I'm a sinner who needs a Savior.) God didn't give us rules to *keep* us from enjoying life, but to guide us and protect us as we try to follow Him.

Does anyone remember what we talked about last week with the Israelites? They were complaining. They did not have thankful hearts for what God had done for them. What did God provide for them in the morning and night? Manna and meat. They continued to complain though. They were living in tents and waiting to enter the Promised Land. In Exodus 19 Moses went up to the mountain, Mt. Sinai, to meet with God. God gave him the Ten Commandments to help lead the Israelites.

Confidence from Commandments



The purpose is to show confidence and blessings that come with knowing boundaries.

Supplies:

Bandana (1 per bin)

Approximately 5' length of yarn or twine (1 per bin)

Bible

Have campers take turns trying to find the Bible with their blindfold on. (Hide it for each camper.) Next, tie the yarn around the Bible and have them try again (still blindfolded), but using the yarn.

Tie It Together

 As we have learned, the Israelites are in the desert. There is not a lot to do with their time there. Before, while they were slaves, they had clear boundaries. Now they do not. They were wandering in the desert. How do you think that would feel, to go from having clear boundaries and rules, to having no rules? (Allow responses.) I bet it was difficult for them to know what to do with freedom compared to specific rules they needed to follow. This relates to the activity we just did. How did finding the Bible with just a blindfold compare to finding it with the blindfold and rope? Did you feel more confident when you had something to guide you? (Allow responses.) When we have

something that guides us and helps us to make good choices, we are able to live with more confidence. God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments to help guide them in living their life to bring glory to God.

Let's take a look at the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 [NLT].

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Then God gave the people all these instructions:

2 "I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

3 "You must not have any other god but me.

4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. (the rest of verse 5 was taken out.) 6 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

7 "You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 You have six days each week for your ordinary work, (verse 10 was taken out.) 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You must not murder.

14 "You must not commit adultery.

15 "You must not steal.

16 "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

17 "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

Those are a lot of rules to learn! Do you think God wants us to just memorize and recite these commandments? No, God wants us to study them and learn how they apply to our lives so we can obey Him and live with a worship-filled heart. He does not want us to just memorize a list of rules and obey them just because God told us to. He wants us to learn about the commandments and have a desire in our heart to use them as a guide, just like the rest of the Bible is a guide, to live a life full of joy and worship for Him. God gave them to us out of love and He desires for us to want to be obedient out of love for Him.

Let's look at the Ten Commandments more closely so we can learn how they are a guide for our lives.

If you have some trouble talking through the Ten Commandments with your campers and relating them to the campers' lives today, read through the following to help you:

The first commandment is "You must not have any other god but me." This means don't put things like toys, money, or video games as more important than God. God wants us to have Him first in our lives.

The second commandment is “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind.” This means to give glory or honor to anyone or anything above God. For example, if you love to watch your favorite show or certain sports star on TV, and you choose to spend your time with this person (Watching on TV, reading about him/her, etc.) over spending time with God, then you are giving this person more glory and honor than you give God.

The third commandment is “You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God.” This means speaking God’s names disrespectfully. For example, saying something like “Oh my God” is misusing God’s name because you are not giving Him respect.

The fourth commandment is “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” This means that you choose to spend time with God. You are intentional about spending time with and worshiping Him.

The fifth commandment is “Honor your father and mother.” This means you obey your parent(s) and show them respect.

The sixth commandment is “You must not murder.” This does not just include actually committing murder, but it includes having bad thoughts and hating another person. God knows your thoughts and puts the same value on your thoughts as He does your actions.

The seventh commandment is “You must not commit adultery.” This means mommies and daddies are faithful to each other, and that you do not treat someone like you’re married to them when you are not.

The eighth commandment is “You must not steal.” This includes taking something without paying and also cheating in school.

The ninth commandment is “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.” This means you must not lie about anything.

The tenth commandment is “You must not covet.” This means you must not be jealous of anyone and the things that they have. God calls us to be content with what we have.

Ten Commandments Bingo



The purpose is to help the campers understand how the Ten Commandments apply to their lives today.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Ten Commandments Bingo” side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the “Ten Commandments Bingo” side of the worksheet. Explain that the campers will play a game in which the camp counselor will say one of the commandments and campers will raise their hands and (when called upon) give example of how it would apply in their lives. Whoever raises his hand first with a correct example gets a point (you can divide the class into teams, if you like). Have campers write an example in each of the commandment spaces on the

worksheet. Continue until all spaces have been filled. Bonus spaces can be repeated commandments with new examples.

Tie-it Together

 Can you see how the Ten Commandments apply to your life? God gave them to us as boundaries because He loves us and knows what is best for each of us. We should not try to keep each command in order to be perfect; we cannot be perfect because we are sinful. God wants us to recognize the commandments as a guide to helping us live a life of worship, the way He created us to live. God cares about our hearts. He knows if we want to obey Him out of love or if we are obeying because we care about what other people see and think. He wants us to obey and keep his commands because we love Him and want to worship Him. That is what makes God happy.

Examine Myself



The purpose is for the campers to examine their own lives to see where they are struggling with God's commandments, and how the commandments point them to Jesus.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “I Need Jesus!” side (1 per camper)

Pen or Pencil (1 per camper)

Red markers or crayons

Give each camper an “I Need Jesus” worksheet. Give them some time to reflect on the Ten Commandments and how they are struggling to obey God's commands in their own life. Tell them to write down or draw a picture of anything they are struggling with (ex. lying, loving others, thinking bad thoughts about someone else, worshiping something more than God, not honoring their parents, etc.). After they have spent some time examining their lives, have them draw a big cross with a red marker or crayon, covering their struggles. Go over the verse at the bottom of the page a few times.

Tie It Together

 What are some things that each of you struggle with? We all have different things that we struggle with. God did not give us the Ten Commandments strictly as a set of rules to follow. They are given as boundaries to help us experience the life God offers us. God gave the Ten Commandments to show His people, the Israelites, and us, how to live and be close to Him because He is holy. God knew the Israelites could not obey them all and we cannot either. We will never be perfect and follow every single command because we have sin in our lives. The Ten Commandments help us recognize that we cannot be perfect and they help show us our need for Jesus. Romans 6:23 says “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” The Bible tells us that we deserve death for our sin, but God showed His love and grace for us by giving His only Son, Jesus, as the sacrifice for our sin. Only one person can keep all the rules and that is God's Son – Jesus. Only He can save us.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer with your campers, asking God to give us hearts that want to follow and obey Him. Thank God for providing Jesus as the One who could keep all the rules and can stand in

our place and be perfect for us.



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