

# TEN COMMANDMENTS



## THINK ABOUT IT:

Why does God give you instructions?

### Introduction

Say, “God gave the Israelites instructions to live by. We know them as the Ten Commandments. Today we will explore and discover why God gave the Israelites and us these instructions.”

### Message

1. Give each small group a bag with the objects. Tell the children to listen to see if they can match their object with one of the commandments you will present.
2. One at a time, read the commandments from the posters. After each one, have one child from each small group hold up the correct object. Post the commandment on the board.

Put God first in your life (*mini foam finger*)

Don't make idols (*mini trophy*)

Don't misuse God's name (*plastic lips*)

Keep God's day holy (*calendar page*)

Honor your mom and dad (*person*)

Love your husband or wife (*ring*)

Don't kill (*plastic knife*)

Don't steal (*fake money*)

Don't lie (*plastic lips*)

Don't want what isn't yours (*car*)

3. Ask, “Did any of these commandments surprise you?”
4. Ask, “Why do you think God gave us these instructions?”
5. Say, “God gave us these instructions to teach us how to love God and how to love others. Next in your small groups you will divide the Ten Commandments into these two categories and discuss why they are important.”



### SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17

Mark 12:30-31



### MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Ten Commandments posters \*
- Tape
- Ten Commandment objects for each small group (mini foam finger, mini trophy, two plastic lips, calendar page, person, ring, plastic knife, fake money, car)
- Ten Commandments cards \*
- CBA cross for each child \*
- Visuals - Ten Commandments \*

\* Available in the Member Toolbox



### PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verses



### CBA's

- Prepare the CBA crosses as follows:
  - With the heart facing you, fold up the prayer (two folds).
  - Next fold in the A, then B, then C flaps so you have a square with the C on top.
  - You may use a paper clip to secure the square until ready for use.
- Have questions about the CBAs? See page 10 for more information.



### IDEA!

It is interesting to note that two of the commandments (one loving God, one loving others) both involve our words! The words we say and how we say them are very powerful!



### IDEA!

The visuals listed in the materials are provided as additional resources to be used at your discretion.

## Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Lay out the cards so all the children can see the commandments.
2. Have the children work together to sort the commandments into two piles: Loving God and Loving Others.
3. Read Mark 12:30-31.
4. Ask, "What were the two instructions Jesus gave?" (*love God, love others*)
5. Ask, "Why does God give us instructions?" (*give us direction in our lives, help us build strong and safe relationships, know how to worship Him, keep us safe, etc.*)
6. Ask, "How are you going to follow God's instruction to love others?" (*be kind, loving, thoughtful, forgiving, etc.*)
7. Ask, "How are you going to follow God's instructions to love Him?" (*pray, praise, read the Bible, learn more about Him, be careful of how I use His name, worship only Him*)
8. Say, "Because we have a sinful nature and make bad choices, we cannot follow all these instructions perfectly. God knows this and sent Jesus to die for and forgive our sins."
9. Use the CBA cross as a visual to explain the CBAs.
  - Say, "The Bible tells us a lot about how God gives us faith. We're going to use the acronym CBA to help us remember the important parts."
  - Open to show the 'C.' Open the 'C' flap and say, "C stands for Confess. Everyone needs to confess that you have sinned and made bad choices."
  - Open the 'B' flap and say, "B stands for Believe. Believe that Jesus died for the forgiveness of your sins."
  - Open the 'A' flap and say, "A stands for Ask. Ask God to forgive your sins and ask Him to be part of your life forever."
  - Show the question and say, "So, how does God give me faith? The verse John 3:16 explains what faith in Jesus means." Read the verse (in the heart). Take a few minutes to explain the concept of salvation further if clarification is needed and answer any questions the children might have.
  - Open the prayer flap to reveal the prayer (and the cross made when the visual is fully open!). Lead the children in prayer, encouraging them to pray with you if they'd like to affirm their decision to follow Jesus.

*"Dear God, I'm sorry for my sins.*

*I believe Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.*

*I want to follow you.*

*Please forgive me and be a part of my life forever."*