



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE The Ten Commandments	LEARNING STAGE UKS2	WST TEACHER/DATE Mrs Tricia Bastable/Mrs Johanna Jordan	
AIM: To understand the importance of the Ten Commandments. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To explore the meaning and importance of the Ten Commandments and how these rules still impact people's lives and society as a whole.	MAIN AREAS/ OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Human responsibility and values Justice and fairness Sources of wisdom Other AOL covered: Beliefs and practices Identity and belonging Ultimate questions	LESSON RESOURCES Worksheets to photocopy School to provide: Colouring pencils Writing pens Additional paper for posters Vocab: Commandments forgiveness sin	

Introduction

Johanna asks the chn to think about rules and why we have them. Joanna explains that we have rules to keep us safe and happy. In this RE lesson we are going to look at a specific set of rules, the 10 commandments. The 10 commandments are 10 rules that you can find in the Christian Bible and in the Jewish Torah and even in other religions you will find rules that are very similar.

In this lesson we will first look at where the 10 commandments come from. We will then look at the 10 commandments and try to understand what they mean. Then we will look at what Jesus said about the 10 commandments and how these rules are still relevant to Christians and our society as a whole today.

Introduce The Big Story of the Bible. God made the world for people to be friends with God, but people kept disobeying God, so God came with a rescue plan to help people to be friends with God again. God gave the people guidelines to live help them live in a way that pleased God. But as we'll see the people couldn't stick to those rules, so Jesus came into the world to teach people how to live for God. Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to bring forgiveness for people and to start God's kingdom where people can be friends with God again.

Main content

An animation is shown to re-tell the story of Moses leading the people out of slavery in Egypt and receiving the commandments from God. Apart from these 10 main rules, there are many more rules God gave to the Israelites (613!).

Activity

Johanna introduces the 10 Commandments worksheet. You may like to pause the video to discuss these rules with the class. Would they have chosen the same rules for their top 10 rules? What would be the same, what's different?

Tricia and Johanna give a brief synopsis of each commandment, explaining some of the context and the implications of each one. You may like to briefly **discuss** each commandment, what it means and why God gave this rule.

1. Make God number 1. The first commandment says that God should be the most important in people's lives.
2. Worship only God. This commandment asks people to worship the true living God only and make him the most important in their lives.
3. Keep God's name special. Don't use God's name as a swear word.
4. Keep one day special for God. Jewish people attend the Synagogue on a Saturday while Christians attend Church on a Sunday Both to worship God.
5. Respect your parents.
6. Do not kill. Jesus also said that being so angry against people that we thought about hurting them was as bad as killing someone!
7. Keep your promises.
8. Do not steal. Johanna also mentions cheating here.
9. Don't tell lies.
10. Be content with what you have.

Johanna asks the chn to think about which commandment they think is the most important and why. She also asks the chn to consider whether any of these rules are relevant today.

Many years after the 10 Commandments were given Jesus was teaching about God and was asked about which of the commandments was the most important, his answer was surprising. He said that we should love God and love each other. He taught people that God was more interested in people's hearts and attitude towards God than he was about whether they kept all the rules.

Johanna tactfully refers to the woman caught in adultery that was brought to Jesus to be stoned. He explained that everyone does things wrong and that God would forgive people who are truly sorry. Christians still try to follow Jesus' teachings today.

Christians believe that if they say 'sorry' to God he will forgive them.

Does this mean that you can just do whatever you want to do as long as you say sorry? No because you will hurt others and disappoint God. Christians want to follow God's rules because they know how much God loves them. But even if they fail, they know that God will forgive them.

Summarize why God gave the Ten Commandments and all the other 613(!) rules.

God gave these rules:

- To help people live good lives and create a better world
- To help people be friends with God and with each other.
- To help people understand that they need God's forgiveness when they make mistakes.

Activity

Children can reflect on the lesson by making a poster which encourages someone to obey a rule. They can choose from the Ten Commandments or base their poster on what Jesus said was the greatest commandment: 'LOVE'.

Extension/enrichment activities (optional).

Look at a number of 'crimes'. What punishment would you give and how would the punishment help the person to change his ways?

Plenary

Christians believe that God gave rules to people to help them to be friends with God. Even if they find that they cannot always keep the rules, they know that God will forgive them when they say 'sorry'. This encourages them to try even harder to keep the rules to please God.

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

Discuss whether it is possible to keep all 10 commandments perfectly? What do you think happens when people fail to live up to the standard? Should they be punished or get help?

Think about: what would the world look like if we all kept the Ten Commandments? Would your school/class be any different? Look at charities that campaign for freedom/justice. How do they encourage people to treat each other well?

Class teacher's notes

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit
www.watfordschoolstrust.org or email info@watfordschoolstrust.org

