



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 in the Christian faith 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 WST will bring: PPT 2 Worksheets to photocopy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db-IE_f2U5I School to provide: Colouring pencils Writing pens

Introduction

Ask children how they feel about following rules. Why do we have rules and how do they help us?

Today we will be looking at a special set of rules in the Bible (and the Torah): the 'Ten Commandments'. We will be learning about why God gave these rules to the people and how these are still relevant to Christians and Jewish people today and to society as a whole.

According to the Bible God made the world and everything in it. He meant for people to be friends with God, but people kept disobeying God, so God came with a rescue plan and promised a Saviour to help people to be friends with God again. But while people were waiting for this Saviour to come, God gave them rules to live by: The Ten Commandments.

Main content

Using PowerPoint slides, briefly introduce Moses, a character in the Old Testament, chosen by God for a special mission: to bring freedom to the people of God (Israel) and lead them out of Egypt. The Israelites were being used as slaves by the Pharaoh and longed to be set free and live in freedom. After 10 horrible plagues, the Pharaoh lets the Israelites go and Moses leads the people out of Egypt. After Moses lead the people out of Egypt, God made a covenant (an agreement) with the people. God gave them rules to live by and promised that He would guide his people and be with them. These are called the Ten Commandments. Apart from these 10 main rules, there are many more rules God gave to the Israelites (about 613!).

Activity

Give out worksheets with the 10 Commandments. In pairs discuss what the people might have been doing that they needed these rules. Were people behaving any different from today?

Briefly **discuss** each commandment, what it means and why God gave this rule. Use PPT slides to support explanation.

1. Make God number One - God should be the most important in people's lives.
2. Worship only God – In the time this commandment was given, people would worship all kinds of Gods and they would make statues to bow down to. In our days, sometimes people 'worship' other things, like football, pop idols, etc. This commandment asks people to worship God only and make him the most important in their lives.
3. Keep God's name special – Do not use any swear words or foul language. When talking about God or to God, do this respectfully.
4. Keep one day special for God – When God made the world, he rested on the 7th day. In this commandment God asks people to keep time for him and it is also a reminder that we need time to rest. Many believers rest on Sunday or Saturday and go to a place a worship on that day.
5. Respect your parents – To keep the world a happy place it is important that we respect those set over us. This starts with respecting our parents/carers and obeying them, but also includes teachers, club leaders, etc.
6. Do not kill – Not only should we not kill others, but this commandment also includes hurting one another physically, mentally or emotionally.
7. Be faithful to your husband or wife – Although this commandment is specifically for married people, it is also a reminder that we should all keep our promises. If we don't, many people get hurt.
8. Do not steal – not from a shop, not from other children or from school, not during a test/exam/homework.....
9. Do not lie – this also means we should not tell 'half-truths' or gossip
10. Be happy with what you have – Sometimes we may feel jealous because of what others have. This commandment reminds us that we should be happy with what we have and not always desire what other people have. Living this way will make us happier.

After each commandment ask the children to finish the relevant picture on the 10 commandment worksheet.

Are any of these commandments still good advice for today? If so, which ones and why?

Which one do you think is the most important?

When Jesus was asked about which of the commandments was the most important, his answer was surprising. Read the passage from the Bible in Matthew 22:35-40 or **Watch** the video clip 'The greatest Commandment' on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db-IE_f2U5I)

Briefly discuss what Jesus said. The Ten Commandments are not just a set of rules that tell people to 'do this' or 'don't do that'. Jesus said that the most important commandment was 'LOVE'. In another story in the Bible a woman was brought to Jesus because she had broken one of the Ten Commandments. The people asked Jesus to condemn her, but Jesus answered by saying that if anyone had never done anything wrong, they could punish the woman first. When the people heard that, slowly they started leaving because they all realized that they had done things wrong themselves as well. In the end Jesus told the woman to go and not make the same mistake again. Jesus forgave the woman. Why? The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross sometime later, he took the punishment for people's wrongdoings so that they can be forgiven.

Christians still try to follow Jesus' teachings today. They want to please God by following the rules he gave them. They also try to be forgiving to others. Do you think it is easy or hard to do this?

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

Make a poster which encourages someone to obey a rule. Choose from the Ten Commandments or base your poster on what Jesus said was the greatest commandment: 'LOVE'.

Extension/enrichment activities

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

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

