



## R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

<b>LESSON TITLE</b> The Ten Commandments	<b>LEARNING STAGE</b> UKS2	<b>WST TEACHER/DATE</b> Mrs Tricia Bastable/Mrs Johanna Jordan/Mrs Fiona Penny
<b>AIM:</b> To understand the importance of the Ten Commandments. <b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b> 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.	<b>MAIN AREAS/ OF LEARNING</b> (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Human responsibility and values Justice and fairness Sources of wisdom  <b>Other AOL covered:</b> Beliefs and practices Identity and belonging Ultimate questions	<b>LESSON RESOURCES</b> <b>WST will bring:</b> PPT 2 Worksheets to photocopy <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db-IE_f2U5I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db-IE_f2U5I</a>  <b>School to provide:</b> Colouring pencils Writing pens

**Introduction:** Ask children how they feel about following rules. Why do we have rules and how do they help us? Rules are there to keep us safe and happy. Refer to coronavirus and school rules.

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 PP 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 in Egypt 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 led 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: the Ten Commandments. Apart from these 10 main rules, there are many more rules God gave to the Israelites (about 613!).

Optional: watch Saddleback video of Moses in the wilderness <https://youtu.be/w1k533L-tW0>

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? Explain that God gave them these rules after reminding them that He loved them and cared for them, the rules are there to help them be safe and happy (Slide 8).

Briefly **discuss** each commandment, what it means and why God gave this rule. Use PPT slides to support explanation. Ask the children to finish the relevant picture on the worksheet.

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 statutes to bow down to. While Moses received the 10 Commandments on the mountain, the Israelites made a golden calf to worship as a God. 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 7<sup>th</sup> day. In this commandment God asks people to keep time for him and it reminds us that we need time to rest. Many believers rest on Sunday/Saturday and go to a place of worship on that day.

The first 4 commandments are about people's relationship with God. The next 6 commandments are about people's relationships with each other.

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.

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

Explain that many rules and laws in our country are based on these commandments. When King Charles became king, he promised just like his mother Queen Elizabeth before him, to keep the Law of God.

Which commandment 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](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?

Summarise 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](http://www.watfordschoolstrust.org) or email [info@watfordschoolstrust.org](mailto:info@watfordschoolstrust.org)

