

## **PEACE IN A COMMUNITY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW OF LESSONS FOR THE FIRST TERM Class III**

The Ten Commandments are foundational in discovering how communities can live at peace with one another. This term focuses on how relevant the Ten Commandments are for us today. The lessons are divided into two units. The first unit focuses on God the Creator and Father (Strand 1A). Lesson one reviews the basic learnings from Class II. Lessons two-four teach the importance of making God our first priority in life. When we do that, everything else is put into proper perspective. The second unit teaches us how to love your neighbor as yourself. Lessons five through ten focus on Commandments 5-10 which teach us how to live in harmony with one another. Although the Ten Commandments are written with the negative approach to living, each starting with Do not..., these lessons approach the commandments with a positive spin. For example instead of dwelling on “Do not commit murder.”, the lesson will focus on learning to handle anger.

Each lesson is based on a Bible story or specific Biblical teaching. The Bible passages are taken from the Good News Translation unless otherwise indicated.

In addition to the basic **Teacher and Student Activities**, you are encouraged to utilize the information found in the **Notes for Teachers** which are written to give you more background for the Bible passage with other helps for strengthening the lesson.

Each lesson includes a section on **Peacemaking Connections** which reminds us how the specific behavior we are told not to do escalates conflict and creates more tension. It points out how peacemakers can use the right behaviors to defuse volatile situations and bring about peace.

**Extension Activities** are included. As in Class II, we recommend that each student be given two exercise books at the beginning of the year for use throughout the course. One exercise book will be referred to as the *Memory Verse Exercise Book*. Each week you are encouraged to have the students write their memory verse in the book with the reference. The *other exercise book* will be used to summarize the key point the student has learned that day. These books can be used as references in years to come.

Most lessons offer some optional activities that help make the lessons come alive in our daily living. These may be in the form of guided discussions, exercises related to the lesson or acronyms that provide formulas for coping with difficult behaviors that can lead to bringing peace and harmony. You are encouraged to bring real situations into the classroom that help the students practice what they are being taught.

Here is a brief outline of the ten lessons for the first term.

# TEN STANDARDS TO LIVE A LIFE IN HARMONY WITH GOD AND OTHERS

## Unit One: Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind

### Lesson 3.1: Standards For Living in Harmony With Others

*"God does not want us to be in disorder but in harmony and peace." 1 Corinthians 14:33*

*Basic Truth:* God wants us to live in harmony and peace

*Scripture:* I Corinthians 14:33

*Key Point:* Review basic peacemaking lessons learned in Class II

*Special Emphasis:* Introduce the ABCDE approach to Problem-Solving

### Lesson 3.2: Peace Standard: Love God

*"Worship no God but Me...Do not bow down to any idol or worship it!" Exodus 20:3,5*

*Basic Truth:* Loving God is the first priority in building peace in a community

*Scripture:* Exodus 19:1-20:3; 24:12-18; Genesis 11:1-9

*Key Point:* When our love for God is central we will not replace God with things like pride which the men building the tower at Babel did.

*Special Emphasis:* Discussion openers for identifying what it means to love and worship only God.

### Lesson 3.3: Respect the Name of God

*"Do not use My name for evil purposes." Exodus 20:7*

*Basic Truth:* God's name is to be used with respect, not for evil purposes.

*Scripture:* Exodus 32:1-16

*Key Point:* Use God's name only to honor Him and keep His reputation clean. Name calling lacks respect for others.

*Special Emphasis:* Suggested exercise, "What's in a Name?"

### Lesson 3.4: Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep It Holy

*"Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy." Exodus 20:8*

*Basic Truth:* God created the rhythm of our bodies. We are more efficient if we rest one day out of seven.

*Scripture:* Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:9-11

*Key Point:* Labor six days of the week and restore the body and soul on the seventh day.

*Special Emphasis:* Do 15 push-ups without stopping and realize the body's need for rest.

## Unit Two: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

### Lesson 3.5: Respect Your Father and Mother

*"Respect your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12*

*Basic Truth:* Respect of others is crucial in keeping peace

*Scripture:* Ephesians 6:1-4; Exodus 20:12

*Key Point:* Respect for others begins with respecting mother and father

*Special Emphasis:* ASSERT formula is introduced to help maintain respect when you don't agree with the other.

### Lesson 3.6: Love Your Neighbor

*“Do not commit murder.” Exodus 20:13*

*Basic Truth:* Anger that gets out of control can lead to drastic behavior

*Scripture:* Genesis 4:1-16

*Key Point:* Learning how to handle one’s anger prevents unnecessary conflict

*Special Emphasis:* Nine suggestions for how to handle anger positively

### Lesson 3.7: Be Faithful in Marriage

*“Do not commit adultery.” Exodus 20:14*

*Basic Truth:* A strong family begins with faithfulness between one man and one wife

*Scripture:* Genesis 1:26-28; 2:21-25

*Key Point:* When God is the foundation of the home, tensions and conflicts are less likely to occur

*Special Emphasis:* Discussion openers on ways families maintain faithful relationships

### Lesson 3.8: Be Honest and Upright With Others

*“Do not steal.” Exodus 20:15*

*Basic Truth:* Honesty builds trust.

*Scripture:* Genesis 31:1-42; Numbers 32:23

*Key Point:* Stealing is taking something from another without asking permission. Stealing creates conflict, tensions, and distrust.

*Special Emphasis:* Discussion openers on the issues of stealing, pausing to realize God knows when we steal.

### Lesson 3.9: Always Speak Truth

*“Do not accuse anyone falsely.” Exodus 20:16*

*Basic Truth:* Truth spoken in love will always be stronger than giving false accusations

*Scripture:* Ephesians 4:13-16, 25; Proverbs 12:22

*Key Point:* Speaking truth indicates you are maturing in faith

*Special Emphasis:* What happens when someone is wrongly accused.

### Lesson 3.10: Be Content

*“Do not desire another man’s house...or anything else that he owns.” Exodus 20:17*

*Basic Truth:* Coveting things from others builds distrustful relationships

*Scripture:* Philippians 4:10-13, 19

*Key Point:* Learn to be content with what you have

*Special Emphasis:* Using the acronym for CONTENT provides guidelines for learning to be content with what we have and not covet others’ things.