

3.02 PEACE STANDARD: LOVE GOD

Topic: Biblical Standards for Peace

Subtopic: Love and Worship God Only

1A. God the Creator and Father

Class: Class III (3rd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When students are asked what the first priority is for building peace in community, they will say to love and worship God only.

Attitude: Students will discover that when they love God, they reflect that love in other relationships.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Exercise Book

Scripture:

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

Teacher's Notes

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

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Is it important to you to live in a peaceful environment? How do we define peace?
2. When God chose the Israelites to be his chosen people, how did God teach them to live in peace?

Bible Story:

3. Tell briefly how the Ten Commandments came about. What are the first and second commandments? Ex 19:1-20:5
4. How did the people of Babel break these first two commandments? Gen.11:1-9

Suggested Discussion Questions

5. How can loving God be so important in building a peaceful community?
6. If we fail to love God, what other gods do we call on?
7. Why was God displeased with the people building this tower?
8. Did God let them know they were doing wrong?

Application:

9. How do you know if you love God first in your life?

Evaluation:

10. What can you do when you are tempted to make a god of something else?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Let students respond. Peace is harmonious living and respect for human life through God's guidance.
2. God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelite people through Moses.

Bible Story:

3. A. "Worship no God but Me." B. "Do not bow down to any idol or worship it."
4. They replaced God with their own arrogance and achievement. They were living in harmony with each other but not with God

Possible Answers to Questions:

5. When God has first place in our lives we live our lives doing what is best for everyone—not just us.
6. Money, education, famous people, fetishes, idols, fame, material riches
7. They made Pride their god. They wanted recognition and praise, replacing God.
8. He confused their ability to understand each other.

Application:

9. When we consider the real reason we want something—for our own recognition or for God's purpose

Evaluation: 10. Ask God to help you keep Him first in your choices.

Extension Activities

1. Have students write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse exercise book: “Worship no God but Me...Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.” Exodus 20:3, 5
2. In Exercise Book, have students write at the top of the page: Priority # 1 for Peace Building: LOVE GOD. Have them draw a picture of some aspect of the Tower of Babel and write that the Men of Babel replaced God with their Pride.
3. Discussion openers about what it means to love and worship only God. State each statement below and ask the students if that statement describes what loving and worshiping God alone means. A) Oscar always carries a special grass in his pocket because he says it brings him good luck. (False) b) When Dorothy’s uncle gave her money to stay home from church, she wanted to take it. (False) c) Ann was busy finishing her chores so she could go to the soccer game. Then she noticed her neighbor fall in her garden. She ran to see if she was hurt and went for help when she discovered more help was needed than she could give. All this made her too late for the soccer game. (True) d) Derek’s friend had a small radio that Derek wanted so badly. One day his friend left it beside a tree. Derek picked it up and when his friend came back he asked Derek if he saw someone pick it up. Derek said he didn’t see anyone take it and did not admit he had taken it. (False) e) Classmates were making fun of one of the students because she didn’t have a book-bag like most others had. Gladys saw what was happening and stood up for this student, stopping the embarrassment. (True) f) A well-known singer was coming to the nearby town and Jane wanted very much to see her. She demanded permission to go even though the cost to get there and attend would jeopardize her family’s food needs and it was occurring on Sunday when she normally went to church. (False)

When we love and worship only God and no other gods, our behavior reflects God’s love. Love is stronger than violence or selfishness. God’s love makes us aware of others’ needs and fears. It makes us act on the basis of what we would want others to do if we were in their situation. It is a strong basis for establishing a peaceful community.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

1. God had chosen the Israelite people as His people yet they had become slaves in Egypt. Life was miserable and hard. They cried out to God to help them. God called Moses to leave his flocks and lead the people out of Egypt into the Promised Land as God would lead them.
2. Nothing was easy about leaving their bondage. Pharaoh didn’t want to let them go. They got trapped between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea. God opened a path for the people to walk through the Red Sea to safety.
3. The people became very discouraged. It became clear that they didn’t know how to live together harmoniously. They complained because they didn’t have food. They complained about leadership. After about two months of travel, God gave them commandments to live by. He called Moses up on Mt Sinai and wrote down these commandments on two tablets of stone. We know those commandments today as the Ten Commandments.
4. The Ten Commandments are a reflection of God’s nature. We will discover that if we obey these commandments faithfully, we will live in peace with God and with one another.
5. Today we will consider the first two commandments: 1) “Worship no God but Me.” Exodus 20:3. 2) “Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.” Exodus 20:5 God who created us and everything in the world is worthy of our worship and love. If we put God first in our lives, the other commandments will fall in place.

6. There are a lot of things that will try to take our attention from putting God first. We sometimes want to put our trust in wealth, material things, fame, well-known people like singers or movie stars. We can even think our accomplishments are more important than God. Some people create images out of wood or clay and worship those. God is not happy when we put other things ahead of God.
7. In Genesis 11:1-9, we read about people who wanted to become famous and make a name for themselves. They thought they could build a tower that would reach up to the heavens. Other people would marvel at their accomplishment and stand in awe of those who had been able to make such a thing.
8. The problem was that these people were building this tower for the wrong reason. They built it to gain recognition for themselves. They replaced God with pride. They were in harmony with each other but not with God.
9. God looked at what they were doing and saw that it was sinful. He confused them in their language so that they could no longer understand each other. He wanted them to know that they were to love and worship Him and not make a god out of their achievements.
10. God gives us the ability to make things. When we love and worship God, we choose to do those things to give honor to God. We acknowledge that God is the one who makes it possible to do the task. We choose to do those things that will honor God and not ourselves.
11. We need to ask ourselves the reason we choose to do the things we want to do. [Include examples given in Extension Exercises Number 2 and help students think through this concept.] If we are doing it just to gain glory for ourselves, we need to ask God to forgive us and show us how He wants to accomplish His purposes. We need to ask God to give us the courage to do the right things.
12. The first four commandments teach us how to have a right relationship with God. They teach us to love God and worship Him only. We are not to make other gods and worship them. When God has first place in our lives, we know God's nature and the other commandments simply reflect how He wants us to live.

Peacemaking Connection

When we love and worship only God and no other gods, our behavior reflects God's love. Love is stronger than violence or selfishness. God's love makes us aware of others' needs and fears. It makes us act on the basis of what we would want others to do if we were in their situation. It is a strong basis for establishing a peaceful community

Key Points

This lesson gives us an introduction to a study of the Ten Commandments. The first two commandments teach us where to place our priority in life. God is to have first place in our lives. We are to worship Him alone. We are not to make other gods. The story of the building of the Tower of Babel illustrates how we can replace God with our own desires of self-gratitude and pride.

Teacher Evaluation

Do I worship God alone or do I put my trust in another god? If I trust another god, what is that god? Am I at peace with God? Am I living out the Ten Commandments? Am I a peacemaker in my community? Am I an example to these children that these commandments are relevant for us today?