

4.17 Ten Commandments: Rules and a Choice

Topic: Peace in Community

Subtopic: Rules

1A: God the Creator and Father

3F: Be holy

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to explain how the Ten Commandments help prevent conflict.

Attitude: Students will recognize that those who are friends of God will practice holy living.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

Optional: colored pencils or markers and drawing paper

References: Exodus 19:1-20, 20:1-17
Peace Education Lesson 24

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 30:19

Teacher Activities

Introduction: Ask students how rules help keep peace.

Review what students know about Moses and the Ten Commandments. Ask students to explain what the first four commandments mean. Most of this lesson will focus on the last six commandments.

Bible Story: Write these questions on the board: (1) What does the commandment mean? (2) Would doing this help prevent conflict? How?

Do a *Think-Pair-Share* for each of the last six of the Ten Commandments.

Romans 3:23 says that everyone has sinned and broken the rules sometime. That is why Jesus died to forgive our sins and help us become friends of God.

Application: *Questions*

1. Why do we need rules?
2. Why would we want to obey God?
3. How do the Ten Commandments help eliminate conflict and fighting?
4. Can you give any examples of how breaking these rules has caused a conflict?

Evaluation: Do you see students trying to keep the Ten Commandments? Do they understand the connection between breaking the rules and conflict? Are you modeling

Student Activities

Introduction: Discuss the importance of rules.

Students share what they remember about Moses and the Ten Commandments. Review what the first four commandments mean.

Bible Story: Students *think* for 30 seconds and then discuss with a partner (*Pair*) the meaning of each commandment and how it prevents conflict. The teacher calls on several students randomly and they *share* what they and their partner discussed.

Application: *Answers may vary. Here are some possible answers:*

1. Rules help people know what to do. They take away many of the reasons for conflict.
2. God is holy and we want to be like Him; To be God's Friend; To stay in a place where God can help us and care for us)
3. If we are honest, don't steal and so on, we are less likely to make others angry or defensive. We will get along better with others.
4. *Answers will depend on student experiences.*

Evaluation: Were students able to explain why keeping the commandments helps prevent conflict?

Extension Activities: *Art. ((Optional materials))* Have each student choose one of the Ten Commandments to illustrate. Have them divide a paper in half. On one side of the paper they can draw someone obeying the Commandment. On the other side they can draw someone not obeying the Commandment. They can write the Commandment underneath. These pictures can be put together in a book or on the bulletin board.

Writing. Have students copy the Ten Commandments into their journal and then finish this sentence. “Following the Ten Commandments helps prevent conflict because...”

Memory Work. Write phrases from the memory verse on cards. Give the cards to students and have them come to the front of room. See how quickly they can line up in the correct order without talking to each other. You can have two teams doing this at the same time and see which team can line up first. Then have each team say the verse together. *Alternative:* Start at the back of the class and each student say one word of the verse and proceed around the room saying the whole verse.

Dramatize Moses’ last speech. Have someone pretend to be Moses and give his last speech. The class can be the congregation of Israel and from time to time might say, “We will,” or “Amen.” Have the student remind his or her audience of the Ten Commandments and then tell the class they must choose if they will serve God or not. He or she may want to quote the memory verse as part of their dramatization.

What would happen if? Do Lesson 24 in *Peace Education*. Read the story “The Class Bully” and stop at various places to ask, “What would happen if...” Discuss the story. You can have students make up their own stories about someone who is breaking one of the Ten Commandments. Have them read their story to the class and stop half way through and ask, “What would happen if...”

Notes for Teacher

Laws and rules tell people what is right and wrong. They help people stay out of trouble. They keep things fair. They help prevent conflict. This lesson helps students understand this by focusing on the Ten Commandments which were given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Key Points: Students will understand how keeping the Ten Commandments will prevent conflicts and they will want to follow the commandments.

Introduction: Ask the students what they remember about Moses and the Ten Commandments. If students completed the Standard II and Standard III curriculum of Peace in A Community, they will know the Ten Commandments from memory and be familiar with Moses. Have them say the commandments from memory if they know them. Here are the verses as they were learned in earlier lessons:

- 1. Worship no God but Me.**
- 2. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.**
- 3. Do not use My name for evil purposes.**
- 4. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.**
- 5. Respect your father and your mother.**
- 6. Do not commit murder.**
- 7. Do not commit adultery.**
- 8. Do not steal.**
- 9. Do not accuse anyone falsely.**
- 10. Do not desire another man's house..or anything else that he owns.**

Here are some important points to bring out in your discussion.

- Rules tell people what is right and wrong. They help people stay out of trouble. They keep things fair. They help prevent conflicts.
- God gave the commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.
- Moses went down from the mountain and called the people together and told them everything God said. The people said, “We will do everything that the Lord has said.”
- Just before Moses went to heaven, he reminded the people of God’s rules for living and told them they must choose if they would follow God or not. (This is the memory verse for today.) Each person must choose if they will be God’s friend and obey His commandments or if they will rebel against Him.
- Review the first four verses by asking the students to explain what each one means. These verses explain that God is holy and must be honored as holy. The next six verses focus on how we will treat other people. That is the focus of the Bible Story time today.

Bible Story: Discuss the last six of the Ten Commandments by doing a Think-Pair-Share with each verse.

Think-Pair Share: For a think-pair-share you read the verse and the questions and let the students think for 30 seconds (Think). Then they discuss the questions with a partner (Pair). Then stop the discussion and randomly call on some of the students to share what they discussed (Share). Write the two questions below on the board and then read one commandment at a time and have students answer the two questions.

- (1) What does the verse mean?
- (2) Could doing this help stop conflicts? How?

Holy Living. **These rules show us how God wants us to live. God is holy and so He requires His friends to live holy lives. Are these rules hard to obey?** (They are not easy. Romans 3:23 says that “Everyone has sinned.” No one keeps the rules perfectly. That is why Jesus died for our sins --so there would be a way to be forgiven and reconciled to God when we break His rules. If we are God’s friends and stay close to Him, He helps us to keep these rules.)

You might think of God’s commandments as a boundary or a fence to keep you close to God. If you go outside that fence, you will face dangers that come from living in sin. God doesn’t want His friends to be hurt so He tells us how to stay close to Him. We all face some problems in life but there are many problems we can avoid if we follow God’s rules and stay close to Him. We must choose what we will do.

Closing. **Why do we need rules?** (Rules help people know what to do. They take away many of the reasons for conflict.) **Why would we want to obey God?** (To be His friend; to stay in a place where God can help us and take care of us; because He loves us and we love and trust Him; His rules are designed to help us live peacefully with others) **How do the 10 commandments help eliminate conflict and fighting?** (If we are honest, don’t steal, don’t envy others, and so on, we are less likely to make others angry or defensive. We will get along with others.)

Friends of God Unit II Peace in Community

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