

God's Good Rules

"Who's Number One?"

Lessons from the Bible : Exodus 20:1-17

Object Lesson Props & Optional Materials: God First – Go Fish!

Start with Object Lesson:

God First! Go Fish printout, *See on Activity Printout page at end of lesson. (at least two copies, cut out, for every four or five kids. Works best on cardstock. Consider printing each set on different colors of paper, so you the games don't get mixed up)

Game: Print out at least two printouts, cut out and shuffle "God First" Go Fish Cards. *This game is played just like normal go fish, but the deck is made up of items people often idolize and treat as more important than God.*

The purpose of the game is to be the first to get rid of all your cards by making matches and declare, **"God is first in my heart!"** Each student starts with five cards. The rest of the cards are face down in a stack in the middle. The student whose birthday is soonest goes first. The player asks another player if they have a particular card.

(For example, "Joseph, do you have the TV card?" If the player asked has that card, they must hand it over. If not, the first player draws from the draw pile. If they pick up the card they just asked for, they make a match and have another turn. If not, play moves on to the person to the left. Play continues until one player has found matches for all the cards in his hand and declares, **"God is first in my heart!"**

Bible Lesson: Who's Number One?

Open in prayer, then say, great work playing today's games! You know that our games always have something to do with our lessons. Can anyone take a guess about what today's game has to do with our lesson? (Allow children to guess.) Today's games were all about putting God first in our hearts. Last week, we started to learn about the Ten Commandments. Who can tell me what the Ten Commandments are? (Allow students to answer.)

The Ten Commandments are ten rules that God gave to Moses for the people of Israel to obey. Obeying rules helps keep us safe, healthy and happy. Rules help us to have a good relationship, to get along well with God and with other people.

Let's quickly read the passage from the book of Exodus where we learn about the Ten Commandments, just for review, and then we will spend the rest of class learning about the first commandment.

Read: Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments

1 Then God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves.

3 "You must not have any other gods except me.

4 "You must not make for yourselves any idols. Don't make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. ⁵ You must not worship or serve any idol. This is because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. A person may sin against me and hate me. I will punish his children, even his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ⁶ But I will be very kind to thousands who love me and obey my commands.

7 "You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly. The Lord will punish anyone who is guilty and misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day. ⁹ You may work and get everything done during six days each week. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a day of rest to honor the Lord your God. On that day no one may do any work: not you, your son or daughter, or your men or women slaves. Neither your animals nor the foreigners living in your cities may work. ¹¹ The reason is that in six days the Lord made everything. He made the sky, earth, sea and everything in them. And on the seventh day, he rested. So the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother. Then you will live a long time in the land. The Lord your God is going to give you this land.

¹³ "You must not murder anyone.

¹⁴ "You must not be guilty of adultery.

¹⁵ "You must not steal.

¹⁶ "You must not tell lies about your neighbor in court.

¹⁷ "You must not want to take your neighbor's house. You must not want his wife or his men or women slaves. You must not want his ox or his donkey. You must not want to take anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Discussion:

There is something special about the order in which God gave us the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments tell us how to have a good relationship with God, and the last six commandments tell us how to have a good relationship with other people. Also, you may have been able to guess, the first commandment is the most important one.

If we do a good job following this rule, the others are easy to follow. If we can't follow the first rule, we won't be able to follow all the others. Let's read that first rule again. (Read Exodus 20:3.)

"You must not have any other god but me."

Okay, trick question: everyone shout out at once and tell me, how many gods are there? (Let students shout out.) Yes, there is only ONE God! His holy name is Yahweh. He created everything in the universe and made people special, to love and follow Him. So, the first commandment DOES NOT MEAN there are other real gods. It means that we sometimes act like there are and we worship other things, or sometimes, people make up gods and tell stories about them and worship these made up gods instead. The Egyptians did exactly this. When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, just two months before God gave them the Ten Commandments, the Egyptians worshiped a whole bunch of made up gods. In fact, a whole bunch of people in the world back, then, and even some today, worshipped made up gods with made up names. Israel knew there is only one real God and they agreed to do what God told them (Exodus 19:5-8).

These days, there are still people who don't believe that Yahweh is the one true God and that Jesus is his son. But they still worship something. We are created to worship.

- Isaiah 43:21 says, *"the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.*

The whole point of God's law is for people to show love to Him and to one another. If you're stealing from someone, you aren't showing them love, are you? And if you disrespect God by worshiping something else, that isn't showing God that you love him.

**The Ten Commandments aren't meant to help us get to heaven.
The only way to get to live forever in heaven is to ask Jesus to live in your heart, and to do your best to follow him.**

So, if we aren't worshipping God and putting Him first in our hearts, then what ARE we worshipping? What are some things we make more important in our lives than God? (Allow students to answer. If you want, write the answers on the board.)

There's not really a wrong answer here. Sometimes, we make our schoolwork or homework more important than God. Sometimes we care more about getting good grades than having good hearts. Sometimes we care more about spending time watching TV or playing video games or reading our favorite books than we do spending time with God. Sometimes we choose to skip church or not read our Bible because we have other things to do. Sometimes we care more about our sports team. Either the one we're on or a professional team. We want to win. We want to be number one!

Schoolwork, sports or other hobbies, our chores, our friends and families, are all important. But nothing is as important as having a good relationship with God. What are some things we can do to help us have a good relationship with God? (Allow students to answer. Possibly write their answers on the board.) **Going to church and Sunday school, reading our Bibles, praying, and treating others well, all show that God is first in our hearts.**

Before we close in prayer, let's think about WHY we put God first.

Exodus 20:2 says, ***"I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery."***

Then verse three is the first commandment, telling us that there is only one God and we should follow and obey him. We love and obey God because he rescued us from slavery. Now, you and I have never actually been slaves in another country, like the Israelites were in Egypt.

Read, John 8:34:

"Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin." Then in verse 36, Jesus tells us, "So if the Son [Jesus] sets you free, you are truly free."

Before Jesus saved us from our sins, it was like we were slaves to our sins. But when we believe that Jesus died on the cross to save us, and we ask him to forgive us of our sins, he sets us free! We worship only God because only God can save us from our sins!

End in prayer.

10 Commandments in simple terms.

1. **Put God first**
2. No fake gods
3. Respect God's name
4. Respect God's day of rest
5. Respect your parents
6. Do not kill people
7. Respect marriage
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not be jealous

Bible Verse

Psalm 119:1-2: "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts."

Activities:

- God First – Go Fish Cards
- Study Flash Cards to memorize 10 commandments. Use the simple terms listed above.
- 1st Commandment Verse
- 1st Commandment Coloring Page
- Ten Commandments Coloring Page 2

Here's a fun music video to learn The 10 Commandments through song

<https://youtu.be/L2hB5Gqo8Vo>

Video: God's Story – The 10 Commandments

<https://youtu.be/aX28nAB4S7A>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

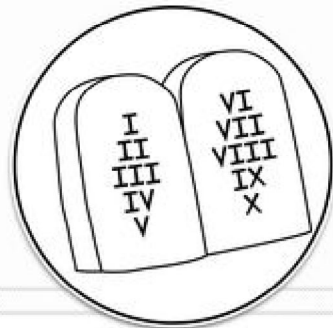
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1st Commandment

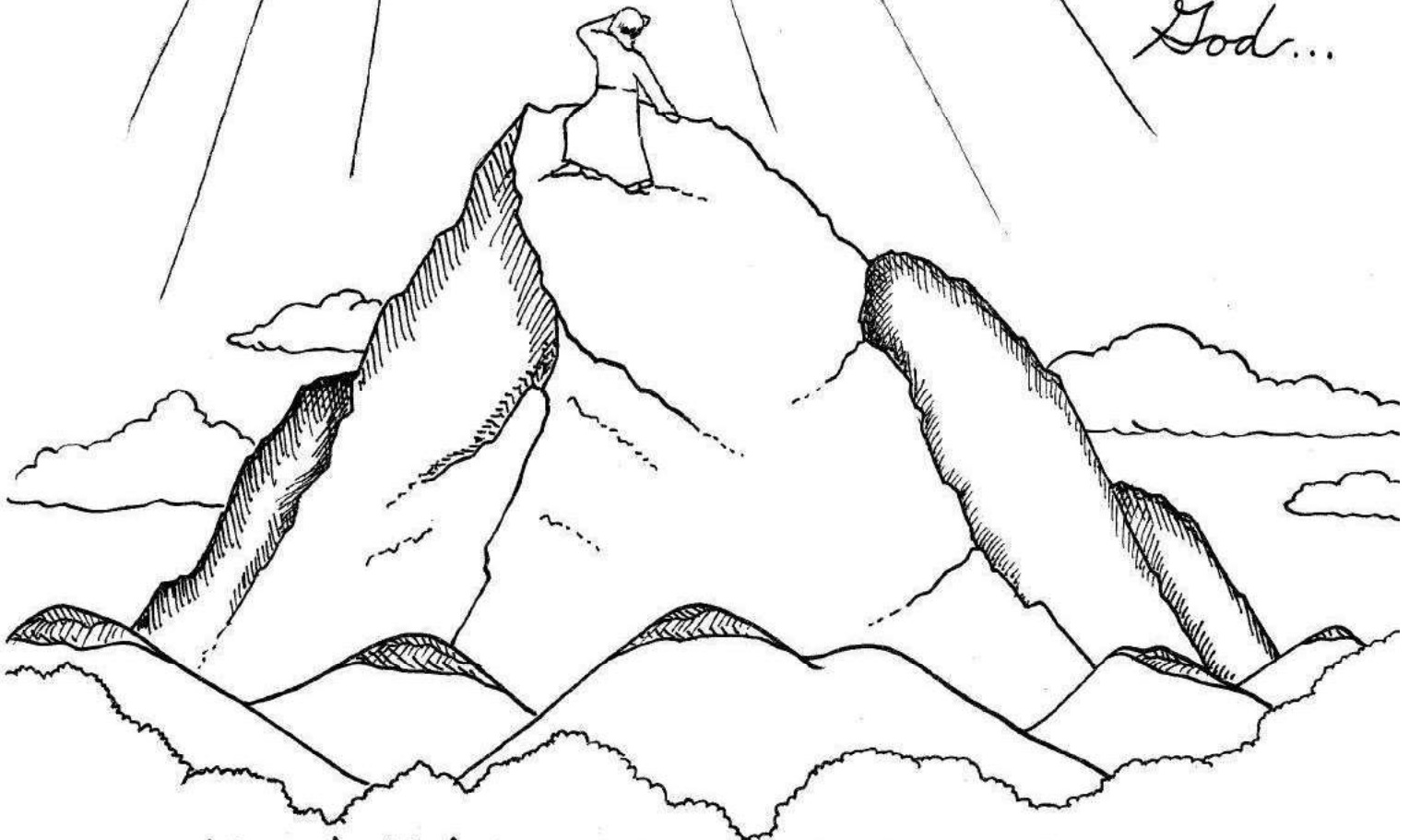
I am Yahweh
your God.

You shall have
no other gods
before Me.



1
first

"I
am
the
Lord
your
God..."



...You shall have no other gods before me."

I can
keep

God's
Word.

