

God's Good Rules

Lesson 3

"No Fake Gods/No Idols"

Lessons from the Bible: Exodus 20:1-17

Object Lesson Props & Optional Materials:

- Plastic pitcher or bucket (be sure the container holds as many cups of water as there are children in the class)
- Water
- Tray
- Rocks (the kids can write on)
- For each child (cup, rock, red permanent marker)

Lesson – Start with Object Lesson:

No Room for God

Ask the children to think about what takes up a lot of their time, attention, and money—for example, TV, video or computer games, soccer practice, or playing with friends. Have the children write or draw those things on their rocks.

Use a red permanent marker to draw several large hearts on the pitcher, or tape red hearts from paper or stickers and place the pitcher on the tray. Hand each child a cup of water.

Say: This pitcher is like an empty heart. Let's fill this heart with God. When it's your turn, pour water into the pitcher and say, "God deserves first place in my heart because..." Then tell us something about who God is. For example, as I pour my water in, I'll say, "God deserves first place in my heart because he is my *creator*."

Let each child have a turn until the pitcher is nearly full. Check out the following passages for more of God's qualities: Psalm 104:24 and Proverbs 3:19.

Say: Our hearts are full of the goodness of God, but sometimes other things try to crowd into our hearts. Each of you may now tell us what's drawn on your rocks and then place your rock into the water.

As the children add their rocks, the water will over-flow. When they have finished, ask:

- What happened to the water? Why?
- How is this like what happens in our own hearts with God?
- How can we keep our hearts full of God so he has first place?

Say: God's second commandment is "You shall not make any idols." Sometimes things we love become like idols, crowding God out. But God wants and deserves first place in your life.

Children's Bible Lesson "No fake gods or idols"

Open in prayer.

Last week, we talked a little bit about idols as we learned about the first commandment. Can anyone remind me what the first commandment is? (Allow a student to answer). Right, the first commandment says, "You must not have any other god but me." (Exodus 20:3).

We know that the Ten Commandments are good rules that God gave to Moses for all people to follow, including you and me! These rules help us to have good relationships with God and people.

Today we are going to learn about the **second commandment**. It's closely related to the first commandment, since both deal with keeping God first in your heart.

Follow along with me in your Bibles as I read the second commandment. It's in Exodus 20:4-6. (Help kids find the proper verse so they can follow along).

- *"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 6 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."*

Last week we learned that the first commandment teaches us to keep God first in our hearts. When we make something in our lives more important to us than God, that is called idolatry. In ancient times, and even some people today, they would not only worship imaginary, made up, false gods, but they would build statues, called idols, and bow down and worship those. Doesn't that sound ridiculous, worshipping something made by a person, instead of worshipping the God who made people? There are a lot of places in the Bible that talk about idolatry.

In Psalm 135:15-18 –

- *“The idols of the nations are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands. 16 They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. 17 They have ears but cannot hear, and mouths but cannot breathe. 18 And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.”*

So, this verse is saying that idols are useless objects that can't do anything. Why bother praying to such a thing? They are absolutely worthless and those who make and bow down to worship made things are absolutely silly. We don't worship created idols because our God, Yahweh, is too big, too magnificent to be able to represent in a painting or sculpture. We would never be able to get the picture just right.

Romans 1:20 tells us:

- *“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God.”*

Our Lord cannot be made into an idol statue because most of what makes God, GOD, is invisible! Ideas that we can't really draw or imagine as a picture. Like his power that lasts forever. Or how he knows everything about everyone. Or how he loves us so, so, SO much! Now I feel like I ought to let you know, God likes art. It is okay to draw and create. God gave us the ability to be creative! The problem is when we make something to be more important than God. Have you heard the phrase, “you are what you eat?” Who wants to take a guess at what that means? (Allow students to answer). “You are what you eat” means that if you eat junk food all the time, your body will feel junky and icky. If you eat healthy foods, you will have a healthy body. I think a better phrase is, “you are what you worship.” If you worship and make anything else more important than God, you will become more like that thing. Think about it. If you choose to watch six hours of your favorite TV show on Saturday instead of reading your Bible and doing things to show love to love other people, you are going to turn into a couch potato who doesn't care for anyone or anything and who gets upset when the TV gets turned off.

But if you worship God and care more about what God thinks of you and what He wants you to do, then you will become more and more like God. You will become more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more patient, and kinder, you will do more good, and you will be more faithful and gentle and have better self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23).

We don't worship created idols, because we worship the invisible, incredible Creator!

I hate to tell you this, but the people of Israel broke this commandment while Moses was talking with God on the mountain, receiving the rules for them to follow. Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days. The people of Israel got tired of waiting for him, so they had the priest Aaron, Moses' brother, use all their gold to create a golden calf for them to worship. (Exodus 32).

Now that just sums up the story; there is a lot more that went on, but we may learn about that some other day. Moses was so mad that he burned the idol, smashed it to dust, and scattered the dust all over the water. Because Moses loved and obeyed God, he tore down the idol.

God takes sin seriously. He created everything and loves us so, so much. He deserves all our worship and praise. He wants us to tear down any idols in our lives. Hopefully none of us have a golden calf at home that we worship. But, as we discussed last week, we do sometimes make other things more important to us than having a good relationship with God.

This week, I want you to make sure you take time every day to worship God. Pray to him, read your Bible, and look for ways to show love to others every day.

Remember, you are what you worship, and I want us all to be like Jesus. Colossians 1:15 tells us, *"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation."* He is the one to worship!

End in Prayer.

Craft: Time to Worship God Bracelets. (printout below)

Have students make a watch bracelet to remind them to take time to worship God every day. Pass out one watch wristband per student. Let them color as they wish, and then cut it out. Help them tape it (loosely) around their wrists.

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:

- **Craft:** Time to Worship God Bracelets. (printout below)

Have students make a watch bracelet to remind them to take time to worship God every day. Pass out one watch wristband per student. Let them color as they wish, and then cut it out. Help them tape it (loosely) around their wrists.

- Wrist Watch Print-Out
- Golden Calf Coloring Page
- Autumn Coloring page
- 2nd Commandment – No Idols memory work page

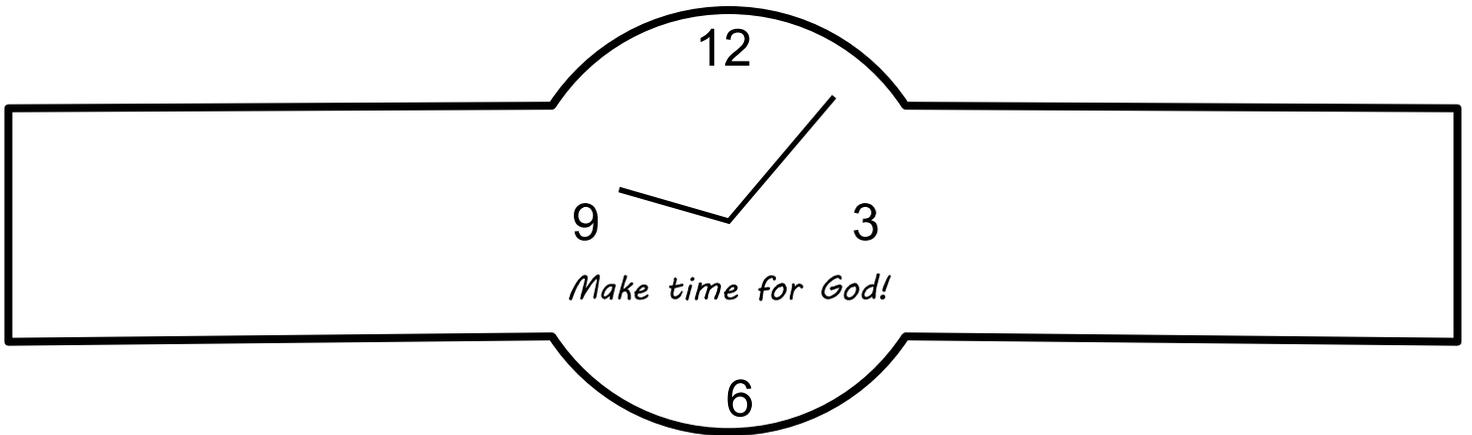
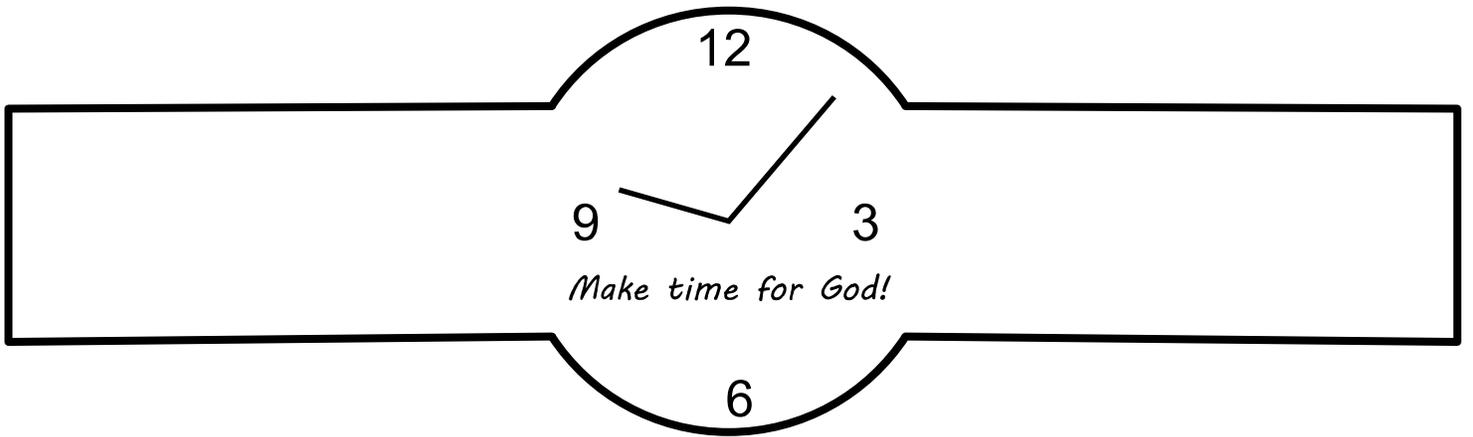
Video: God's Story – The 10 Commandments

<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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*Falling
in love
with
Jesus*

2nd Commandment

You shall
make no
idols.

