

Learning about the **TEN** Commandments

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing Learning about the Ten Commandments to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

The Ten Commandments are God's laws that bring order and harmony to our relationships—first, our relationship with God, then our relationships with others. The first three commandments establish our basic obligations in our relationship with God, our loving Father; the Fourth through Seventh Commandments establish our obligations as members of communities, whether it is our family community or the wider society.

At their core, the commandments are rules of love—for God and for all people. Though young children may not grasp the numerous exhortations of each commandment, they can certainly grasp concepts such as love, kindness, respect, and so forth. By framing the commandments in terms of these attitudes, you will make them meaningful and accessible to the children.

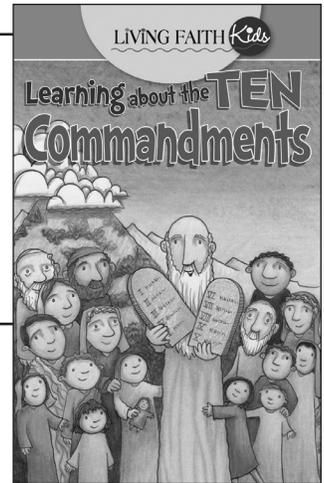
Opening Prayer

Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Loving God, because you love us, you give us rules that help us love you in return and love other people. Help us to learn you rules and follow them. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)	
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Say, <i>We will be learning about the Ten Commandments. The commandments are rules God gave us through Moses a very long time ago. These rules help us live happily with God and with other people.</i> • Discuss the art. Point out Moses, the people, and the tablet of the Ten Commandments.



2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud the Ten Commandments. Tell the children they will learn about each one.
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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the head and the first paragraph. Ask, <i>What would it be like to play a game where there are no rules? What problems can that cause?</i> • Read the remaining text. Ask, <i>To whom did God give the commandments? (Moses) Why did God give us the commandments? (Because he cares about us and loves us) What do the commandments help us do? (Be fair, loving, kind, and holy)</i>
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I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Here's a fun game. It has no rules, so you can do whatever you want! Ready? Get set! Go!

Hey, why aren't you playing? Oh, right. You need to know how to play. You need rules. Otherwise, it isn't a game. Imagine soccer without rules: no referees, no whistles, no goal lines. You could kick and throw. It might be fun for a while, but how would you score or win?

Rules and goal lines aren't just for games. Imagine walking past a house with a barking dog—and no fence to keep you safe. Imagine your parents trying to drive without traffic laws.

To be safe and happy, we need rules and boundaries. Long ago, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments for the same reason. God loves us and cares about our safety and happiness. He wanted us to know how to be fair, loving, kind and holy. God wrote His laws on stone tablets to show that he is always with us.

But God didn't just give us rules. He gave you ever played with someone who bosses you around? Not fair! God doesn't force us to do anything. Instead, he allows us the freedom to make our own choices. But to help us make the right choices, he gives us the Ten Commandments.