

God is Pure and Holy

(4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God gave us rules to follow as part of His special plan for the world
- Disobeying God's rules is called 'sin'
- Sadness, pain and suffering came into the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience
- In the Old Testament, God gave His people ten important rules for living. These rules are still important today.
- In the New Testament we learn of the new rule that Jesus added to the Ten Commandments: to love others

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Rules: road rules; safety rules; hygiene rules; rules for good manners

Link between "God is Pure and Holy" the classroom topics:

It is wise to follow rules that are set by people who are looking after us. This includes home rules, school rules and rules set by the government. It is also wise to follow rules for safety. A pure life is obedience to God. God sets rules that are for our good and we can learn about those rules by reading the Bible.

Values:

Integrity; honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; goodness, holiness

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1

God's rules were broken.

Sin separates us from God but Jesus has made a way back to God.

Bible references

Genesis 3 God's pure world spoiled by disobedience

Psalm 145:17 The Lord is righteous in everything He does.

Psalm 18:30 God's way is perfect.

1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 9:14 Jesus was without sin.

1 John 1:9 Jesus bridged the gap between people and God.

Preparation

Prepare the drawings for the story. Make them into large visual aids.

Discussion

Discuss things that are clean and pure.

EXAMPLES: white clothes that have just been washed; crystal clear water.

Experiment

Prepare a bowl full of pure water.

What kinds of things could make this water impure?

- solid particles (*e.g. sawdust, wood chips, dirt*)
- other liquids

How could we get rid of the things that make the water impure?

- Straining to remove things that float: (*sawdust, wood chips*)
- Using a funnel and paper filter to remove finer particles: (*dirt*)
- Boiling muddy water and collecting the water droplets made by the steam.

Definition

We say that God is 'pure' because He has no sin. We can also say that He is 'holy'.

Bible Lesson: Adam and Eve break God's rule

Just as this water began as being pure, the first people that God made, Adam and Eve, were pure when they were first created. They never did anything wrong. They had no sin. God set a rule for them to follow. They were not allowed to eat the fruit from a certain tree. Then one day, Satan came along and asked the man and woman, Adam and Eve, to disobey God's rule. He wanted them to follow him instead of God. Because the man and the woman obeyed Satan, their lives became impure. Everyone born after them also had impure lives.

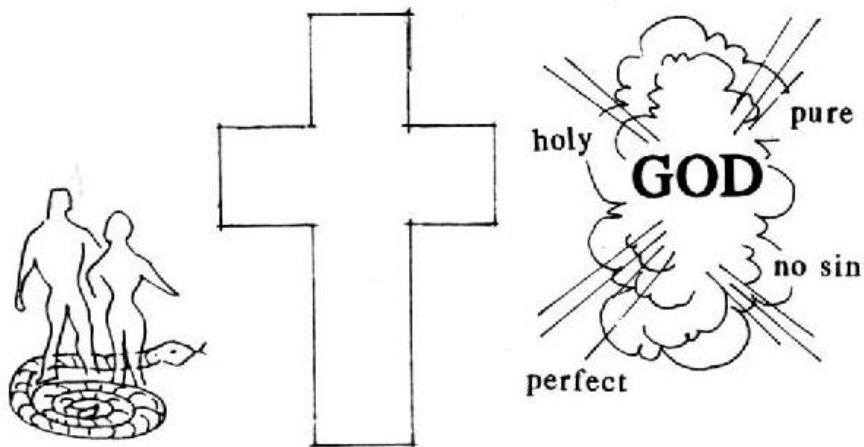
This created a big problem. God was pure, but people were impure. This meant people could no longer be friends with God. That's why God sent Jesus. By forgiving us for our sin, Jesus can remove the impurity from our lives, and we can be friends with God again.

When Jesus died, He was really being punished for something He didn't do. Jesus had never done anything wrong and yet He was being punished as a guilty person. God had planned, from long ago, that Jesus would take the punishment that the people of the world really deserved. Everyone in the world has done something wrong, but Jesus will forgive everyone who asks to be forgiven. He can forgive sins because of His death on the cross.

When God created the world, everything was perfect. Even Adam and Eve were perfect. However, Adam and Eve listened to the wicked serpent. They chose to obey him instead of God. When they did this, a huge gap was formed between the people and God. Adam and Eve could no longer be friends with God because God was perfect and without sin, but they now had sin in their lives. It was not just Adam and Eve who were sinful, but also their children, their children's children and so on. Now there was a huge gap between people and God.

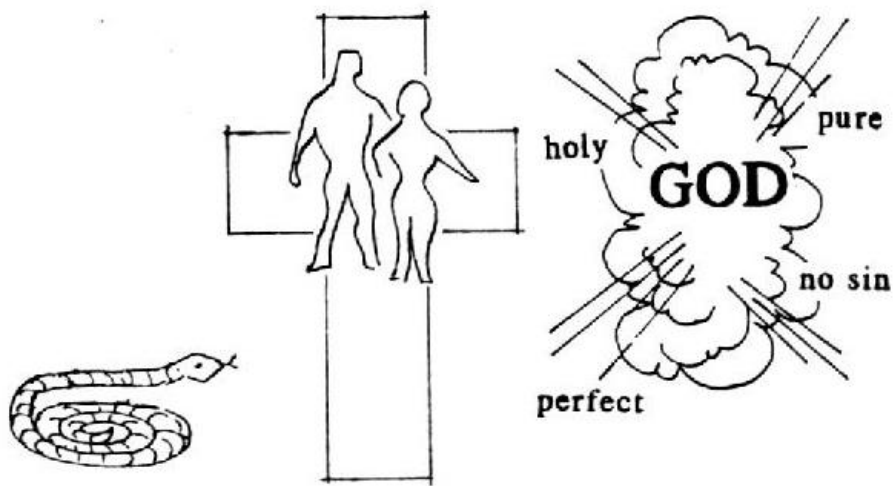


God made a special plan so that the people He loved so much could once again be friends with Him. He sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that people could be forgiven for their sin.



The cross became like a bridge. It was the way back to God. Now, when people understood why Jesus died, they could ask Jesus to forgive them for their sin and become friends with Jesus. Being friends with Jesus is being friends with God, because Jesus and God are one.

People can now walk across the bridge to be with God. They can do this by asking Jesus to forgive them for their sins. Then they must ask Jesus to be their special friend.



Activity: Ask the student to explain the three sets of drawings above.

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Week 2

God's rules.

Preparation:

Draw a large mountain on a very large sheet of paper as a visual aid.

Have ready the Ten Commandments written on ten pieces of paper. As you teach about the Ten Commandments, stick the pieces of paper one by one on the mountain, starting from the top.

Bible reference

Exodus 20

Introduction

Today we are going to talk about rules.

Why do we need rules?

Let's think of some rules that we follow in a game.

What happens when a person starts playing soccer, rugby or netball for the first time? Yes, they must learn the rules. They often learn the rules at first by breaking them, getting penalised (free goal kick, free pass for example), and then they try not to break the rules again.

What are the rules for netball? (e.g. no pushing, no running with the ball.)

What are the rules for soccer? (e.g. not touching the ball with the hand, not ripping up another player.)

What are the rules for rugby? (e.g. no punching or kicking people, don't throw the ball forward, must throw straight.)

Now let's think of rules we follow in school.

What are some of the rules in your home?

What are some rules that the government sets for our country? Who makes sure that people keep the rules?

Bible Lesson: The Ten Commandments

God's people, the Israelites, were once slaves in Egypt, under a ruler called a Pharaoh. This Pharaoh made the Israelites work hard in the hot sun making bricks and constructing buildings. The Great Pyramids are an example of the buildings built by slaves.

Then God decided that His people had suffered long enough. He chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt to a new land of their own. God helped them escape through His miraculous power. He did miracles like drying up the Red Sea so that they could cross to the other side. Then the Red Sea closed up again so that Pharaoh's army could not catch them.

Now they were travelling to their new land. They would be travelling for a long time. God was going to make Israel a special nation. One day Jesus would be born into this nation. God wanted His people to stay pure and holy. He gave them some special rules for living called the Ten Commandments. Here's how it happened.

The leader that God had chosen for the Israelites at this time was Moses. With God's help, Moses was leading the people to the new land. One day they came to a big mountain called Mount Sinai. (Show the paper mountain that you have prepared.) They made a camp and put up their sleeping tents. Then Moses climbed up the high mountain to talk to God.

The mountain shook. A thick cloud covered it. There was thunder and lightning. God had come to the mountain in the cloud. God told Moses the rules He wanted to give His people. God promised to look after His people if they obeyed Him. These rules are called the Ten Commandments and these are good rules for us to live by today.

Here are the first three rules that God gave to Moses:

Rule no. 1: "Love God and worship Him only".

What is worship?

How can we worship God? (We can thank Him for His greatness; we can sing songs to Him.)

This rule says that God is the only one we should worship. God does not want people to worship the sun, or spirits or other things.

Activity:

Ask the children to think of things we can say to God to show how we appreciate him, e.g.

We thank you God for

We love you because

Rule no. 2: "Do not worship idols or things."

God said, "Do not draw a picture or make a statue and worship it. Do not make a statue of anything and worship it."

Ask: What is an idol? What does an idol look like?

All the people in the countries around Israel made idols of wood, stone or metal to worship and pray to. God told Israel not to do that because the stones and statues can't see or hear. They are just pieces of wood, stone or metal.

Some people today think they are obeying God if they do not worship statues, yet they love money and things more than God. They might love their car, their house or the sport they play more than God. These things can become an idol if we love them more than God.

Rule no. 3: "Do not use God's name as a swear word."

Names are important. God's name is important. We must respect God's name. We must be careful when we use God's name and never use it for swearing. We must respect the names of the three persons of God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Activity

Draw Mount Sinai covered with the cloud, and add lightning. Draw the Israelites tents around the base of the mountain.

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Week 3

God gives us rules (Rules 4-7)

Introduction

Ask the children if they remember:

Why God wanted to give rules to His people the Israelites?

Who talked to God on Mount Sinai?

What do we call the rules that God gave?

What were the first three commandments?

Show the paper mountain from last session with the first three commandments on it.

Bible Lesson: Commandments 4 – 7

Rule no. 4: “Keep God’s day holy”

God had told the Israelites that the seventh day of the week was to be a day of rest. Remember how God rested on the seventh day after He created the world in six days? This was an example for us to follow. God said, “Do not forget that the day of rest belongs to me. I am the Lord your God.”

The day of rest for the Israelites was called the ‘Sabbath’ day. It is our Saturday. God said that the people had to keep this day holy. They could do all their work on six days, but they must not work on the seventh day. Just as God had worked and created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh, so people must do the same.

People from Israel even today keep the Sabbath as the day of rest and the day for worshipping God. The Sabbath is Saturday. Some Christians today, the Seventh Day Adventists, also have their day of worship and rest on Saturday. Other Christians set aside Sunday because this was the day that Jesus came back to life again.

Discussion:

How can we make one day special and holy?

We can go to church and Sunday school; we can sing and pray to God and learn from the Bible; we can spend time with family and friends.

Rule no. 5: “Respect your father and your mother”

What does ‘respect’ mean?

We can respect both people and property. To respect property is to take care of it and to treat it as if it has value.

To treat a person with respect is much the same. We are for the feelings of that person and treat them kindly and politely. We appreciate them and show that we honour them.

How do we show respect to our parents and grandparents?

- Listen to them when they speak to you
- Speak to them in a polite way
- Do what they ask you to do
- Say thank you
- Be helpful
- Pray with your parents
- Pray for your parents and family members

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Rule no. 6: “Do not murder anyone”

Every person is precious to God. God does not allow a person to kill another person. When God made animals and people on Day 6 of Creation, He made people more special than the animals because people and have a relationship with God. God gave permission for people to kill animals for food, but not to kill people.

Rule no. 7: “Be faithful to the person you marry”

To be faithful is to promise to stay with that person, and not leave them. God wants husbands and wives to love one another and to help one another, so that they can care for their children together. But sometimes sad things happen... a mother or father may die or has to leave. This is not God’s plan, but if it does happen, God promises to look after families who have lost a member.

Psalms 68:5 God is a Father of the fatherless and protector of widows.

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Week 4

God gives us rules (Rules 8-11)

Introduction:

Who has ever had something stolen from them? (Ask children to relate experiences.) How do you feel when someone steals something from you or your family?

Rule no 8: "Do not steal."

There is a true story in the Bible about a man who Jesus met. His name was Zacchaeus. You will probably remember this story. Zacchaeus was a rich man. He made himself rich by stealing from other people. His job was to collect money from people to give to the government. This is called 'tax' money. The government needs tax money to build roads and hospitals for the community to use. Zacchaeus took more than he was supposed to and kept it for himself. When Jesus came to his town Zacchaeus climbed up a tree so that he could get a good view of Jesus walking by. But he did not expect Jesus to call him down from the tree. "I want to go to your house today," said Jesus. As Jesus talked with Zacchaeus at his house, Zacchaeus knew that he had done wrong. He felt unhappy. Jesus told him that he could be forgiven for what he had done. Zacchaeus wanted Jesus to forgive him. He felt happy to be forgiven. Zacchaeus decided that from then on he would be honest and not steal. He gave back the money he had stolen.

Stealing is taking something that does not belong to you. It is taking something without asking.

Sometimes we may want to borrow something that belongs to another person. That's OK, but we must ask the person first. If the person says "yes", then we can use it, but we must take good care of it. And we must be sure to return it when we have finished using it.

Question:

What would you do if you borrowed something from someone and it broke or got damaged while you were using it?

Story: Johnny and the missing pencils

Johnny arrived at school and took the things he needed from his school bag. Today he was finishing off his project on reptiles. So far he had done four pages of beautiful drawings, and a piece of information about each reptile. Johnny loved drawing and was very good at it.

Recently Johnny had received for his birthday, a beautiful set of coloured pencils. Johnny was using his new pencils for the project.

Johnny picked up his pencil case. Something was wrong. He quickly unzipped it. To his horror, nearly all of the pencils had gone. He counted them. Only 5 left! Jonathan cried silently, hoping that no one would see him. But someone did see him.

"What's wrong, Johnny," asked his teacher.

Johnny explained what was wrong.

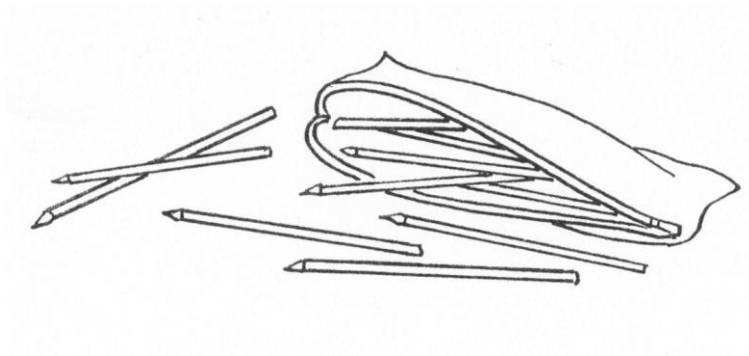
"I think we should pray and ask Jesus to show the person took the pencils, how wrong it was. Jesus knows how you feel too Johnny. We must trust that He will turn this bad thing into something good," said his teacher kindly.

There was a new boy in the school. His name was Thomas. He used to get into lots of trouble at his old school. But all of a sudden, at this new school, he felt bad about doing the things he had done before. Something inside him said, "Take the pencils back." Finally, he could stand it no longer. "I'll creep back after school when no one is there," he thought, "and put the pencils back in Johnny's pencil case."

After school, he crept into the classroom clutching the pencils. To his dismay, the teacher was working at her table.

"Can I help you, Thomas?" she asked. She saw the pencils, and knew immediately why he had come. But instead of punishing Thomas, the teacher said 'thank you' for returning the pencils. She also told Thomas about a special friend of hers who wanted to be Thomas's friend too. This friend, the teacher said, wanted to help Thomas. The friend, of course, was Jesus. Thomas was already sorry for what he had done. He told Jesus that he was sorry, and asked Jesus to be his special friend. The next day, Thomas also said sorry to Johnny. In fact, they became good friends. Thomas no longer did the things that he did at his old school.

Johnny was glad that his teacher had helped him to trust God at a time when things went wrong. He had seen how God could turn something bad into something good. Johnny not only had his pencils back, but he had a new friend as well. And best of all, Thomas had found a new friend, Jesus.



Rule no. 9: “Do not tell lies”

Discussion

What does it mean to be honest?

We should be honest in what we say and what we do.

If we say we are going to do something, then we should do it. NOT to do it is being dishonest.

What is a lie?

Making people think something is true when you know it is not true.

Why do people tell lies?

- To make themselves look important
- To cover up something they have done
- To get someone else into trouble

Is there such a thing as a little lie?

We might think that some lies are little. But these lies keep growing. Count how many lies the girl told in the following little story.

Skit for two people:

Mum: Where is the change from the milk that I asked you to buy at the shop?

Ruby: There was a hole in my pocket and it dropped out.

Mum: Then I had better sew up the hole. Give me your dress.

Ruby: It's OK Mum, I've sewn it up already.

Mum: Let me have a look at your sewing. I didn't know you could sew that well?

Ruby: You can't see it now because I gave my dress away to a girl who didn't have many clothes.

Mum: Where does this girl live Meri?

Ruby: I don't know. She was walking past our house.

Mum: Oh, look what I found under your bed! There was no hole in your pocket!

Rule no. 10: “Do not envy the things that belong to another person”

What does envy mean?

It means that you are unhappy because you don't have what others have, and you get angry about not having it.

God gives us the things we need, like clothes, food, shelter and a family. But sometimes people are not happy with the clothes they have, or the house they have because they see that someone else has something better. They even start to hate the people that have better things that they do.

God wants us to be happy with what he has provided for us. If we really do need more food or better things, then we can ask God to provide, but we must not look at others and say, “It's not fair. I don't have as much as they do!”

Jesus' new rule: Love one another (Rule no. 11)

Ten Commandments were given to Moses in the Old Testament for all of God's the people. But when Jesus came to live on earth, He gave us a new commandment: to love one another. We can call this the 11th commandment.

Jesus said that if we truly follow this commandment, we will be following the other commandments. If someone truly loves another person, they will not lie to them, steal from them, or envy their things.

What is love?

Love is...

A special feeling that fills your heart

A special way of speaking and acting

Treating people and things with special care and kindness

Treating other people just the way you would like them to treat you, with respect

Matthew 7:12 Do for others what you want them to do for you.

Why do we show love?

Without love people feel alone

When they don't feel they matter to anyone people become unhappy

Everyone needs to be loved

Everyone likes to be treated kindly

To love someone is to show someone that they are special

God tells us to love others

How do we show love?

Think about how another person feels

Care for people

Share with people

Speak kind words to others

Be friendly

Smile

Try to help others if they have a need

How would you show love in these situations?

Your Dad is sick and you want to show him how much you love him

Your baby brother or sister is tired and cross and crying

Your teacher is worried because the classroom is untidy

Someone in your class has no lunch today

A new student comes to your class

A small child is being teased by some older children

A student in your class is not good at sport but they are part of your sports team.