

God is Pure and Holy

Term 2 Week 2

God's rules.

Preparation:

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

Write each of the Ten Commandments on a separate piece 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 (Ten Commandments rules 1 – 5)

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.

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.