

# SABBATH SCHOOL

Jr. High School Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level J • Unit 3 • Week 1

## LOVE FOR GOD—GOD'S FIRST FOUR COMMANDMENTS

### OBJECTIVE:

To learn that we show God the love He wants by following His Commandments.

### INTRODUCTION:

**Do:** Ask the students if they would like for you to do something really nice for them to show that you love and respect them. Select a student and give him or her a piece of asphalt.

**Ask:** Do you really appreciate my gift? Are you happy with it?

**Ask:** How do we know what another person would like as a gift?

**Do:** Have children discuss the answer. Determine that one way would be to ask the person what he would like.

**Ask:** How do we know what God wants us to give Him to show that we love and respect Him? Where does He tell us what He wants us to do, and how He wants us to worship Him? [Answer: If we were to ask God what He wanted, we could find the answer in the Bible—specifically in the Ten Commandments.]

### LESSON:

**Say:** The Ten Commandments tell us how to love God and how to love man.

**Do:** Read Matthew 22:36-40 (New Living Translation): "'Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?' Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'" This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.'"

**Say:** Let's take a look at these first four commandments to see how God wants us to love, honor and respect Him.

**First Commandment:**

**Say:** Think about this situation. Your parents have raised you—provided you with love, food, a place to live, clothing. What if—after all they have done for you—you were to say, “Well, thank you for all you have done, but I think I would like to have Mrs. [whoever]—or this stuffed bear—as my parent instead.”

And what if you then started thanking Mrs. [whoever] or the bear for providing you with food, a place to live, etc.? Do you think that would be smart? How would that make your parents feel?

**Do:** Read Exodus 20:3 (NLT): “Do not worship any other gods besides me.”

**Say:** Today many people think that God is something else. The Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, etc. had many ideas of who and what God is. The American Indians worship the earth and sky and nature, saying that all of it makes up God. God says “WRONG!” There is only one true God. God is the only God.

**Second Commandment:**

**Say:** Well, what if you decided to put your bear up on your dresser, and pray to it every night and think it is your parent? What if you were to put it on your dresser and think it is God?

**Do:** Read Exodus 20:4-5 (NLT): “Do not make idols of any kind, whether in the shape of birds or animals or fish. You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god!”

**Say:** While this says that we should not have an image of anything and pretend it is a god—it also means that God does not want us making an image of something and pretending it is HIM!

**Do:** Pick a student. Tell him (or her) that you want to be able to remember him throughout the week and not forget him. Draw a stick person on the whiteboard and ask the class how much it looks like him.

**Ask:** Who knows what God looks like?

**Say:** Although God gives some basic descriptions of Himself in the Bible, there is no way that we could make a picture or statue of Him that would show Him as He really is. It would be like me thinking of [name of student] as a stick figure. So God says not to make pictures or images to use even in worshipping Him. God is greater than we can imagine.

**Third Commandment:**

**Do:** Read Exodus 20:7 (NKJV): “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

Read Exodus 20:7 (NLT): "Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name."

**Ask:** What does vain mean? [Answer: Vain means empty, useless, false, unreal, worthless.]

**Say:** We can take God's name in vain by:

- Making His name unimportant or using it in a wrong way
  - \* We should all respect the president of the United States, Mr. George Bush. What if we all started saying, "Georgie, Georgie, Georgie," all the time—and never really thought of him as the president. We would be using his name, but it would not be honoring him as president.
  - \* Today people use God's name often—but not in the context of honor and respect. How many of you hear God's name used at school or on TV in a casual manner? (For example, "Oh, God.")
  - \* People use God's name as a curse word instead of to worship and honor Him.
- Using God's name to say something that God does not say.
  - \* What if you were talking with some friends and told them, "My mother wants me to smoke this cigarette!" That is what many people today do with God. They say that God wants them to worship Him by keeping Christmas, Easter and Sunday.
  - \* Is that true? No. They are using God's name in vain—they are misusing God's name.
  - \* If we are going to use God's name, we need to make it very meaningful. We can say "God says for us to keep the Ten Commandments." That is truthful and uses God's name properly.

#### **Fourth Commandment:**

**Do:** Have the students name several days that we have to honor one another. (Examples: Father's Day, Mother's Day, anniversaries, a birthday, graduation, etc.)

**Say:** God also tells us what days He wants us to honor Him on.

**Do:** Read Exodus 20:8 (NKJV): "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

**Say:** God also tells us to honor Him on His annual Holy Days. When people try to honor God on Sunday, Christmas or Easter instead of the Sabbath and Holy Days, it is like offering God a piece of asphalt.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

**Say:** So let's worship, love and honor God the way the HE wants us to. Don't give God a piece of asphalt.

#### **POSSIBLE ACTIVITY:**

**Do:** Assign pairs of students one of the first four commandments. Have students create a skit or scenario that shows/describes someone either keeping or breaking the commandment and share it with the rest of the group. Then have the other students guess whether the commandment was kept or broken.