

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 4 • Week 1

GOD HELPS HEZEKIAH

OBJECTIVE:

To demonstrate that God's Ten Commandments are laws to guide us in our relationships with one another and with God.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Close your eyes and imagine what the world would be like if we had no laws. What would happen if you got a new bicycle and one of your classmates didn't have one and wanted yours? Imagine what the roads and highways would be like if there were no traffic laws, including no stop signs or traffic lights. Imagine what it would be like if people could harm one another without any penalty. What kind of world would it be without laws and rules to guide people's behavior?

God knew that people needed guidelines to live by in order for people to get along together. He also wanted us to have a loving relationship with Him and provided guidelines for this as well. The Bible is filled with stories and examples to teach us how to love one another and God. This lesson about the laws of God will teach us some of those things.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: God gave to the human family a set of rules to guide their behavior. He also instructed them in other matters. If people would follow these instructions, then they would be a special people to Him and receive His blessings.

Read: Exodus 19:5. Ask the class how God treats people who are special to Him.

Ask: Who can tell me what these rules or laws are called?

Say: God gave these laws to a man He had called for a special purpose. He gave them to him on stone tablets on Mount Sinai.

- Ask: Who did God give these commandments to? [Moses.]
- Do: Let each student recite one of the Ten Commandments until all have been identified.
- Ask: Which commandment has a promise that goes with it and what is the promise?
- Read: Exodus 20:12 and explain.
- Say: One of the ways we can show God we love Him is by keeping His commandments.
- Read: Exodus 20:6.
- Ask: What ways do you show your love to your parents and how do they show you love?
- Say: The people of God, who at the time of Moses were called Israelites, obeyed God for a while and prospered. But at various times throughout history, God's chosen people decided not to obey God's laws and instructions. During these times, God allowed troubles and problems to come upon His chosen people. At other times, God has called prophets, kings and other leaders to restore the practices of the people of God and lead the people back to obeying the laws that God had instructed His people to follow. King Hezekiah was a man that God used for this purpose. Let's read about him.
- Read: 2 Chronicles 29:6.
- Ask: How do you think God responded to their disobedience?
- Read: 2 Chronicles 29:8-9 and explain.
- Say: Hezekiah began turning the ways of the people back towards God. The people began to worship God the way He had instructed them. They brought sacrifices and offerings to God. They sang and gave thanks to God.
- One of the things that the people had stopped doing was keeping the Holy Days. God told them if they served Him in the proper manner, He would bless them and treat them with compassion.
- Read: 2 Chronicles 30:9. Discuss compassion.
- Ask: How are your parents compassionate with you? How can you be compassionate with your classmates?
- Say: Once again, the people of God began to keep the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. God was very pleased with this development. He was gracious and merciful and began to heal the people.

Ask: What happens when we obey God?

Read: 2 Chronicles 31:20-21 to demonstrate what happened to Hezekiah for his obedience to God

Say: God blessed Hezekiah in many ways because the people were once again keeping the Holy Days and obeying God's commandments. He delivered them from their enemies. He guided them and protected them. God blessed Hezekiah with wealth, and he "prospered in all his works" (2 Chronicles 32:29-30).

God reveals other blessings He will give to people and nations if they will only obey His laws and statutes. Some of these can be found in Leviticus 26:3-13. God also reveals some cursings that will fall upon those who fail to keep His laws and statutes. Some of these can be found in Leviticus 26:15-20.

God will fight whatever battles we face in life, if we obey and trust in Him. We further see this evidenced in the life of Hezekiah.

During Hezekiah's reign, there was a powerful nation called Assyria which had conquered Israel. Assyria had even captured some of the cities of Judah. King Sennacherib was Assyria's king. King Sennacherib demanded gold and silver from King Hezekiah. He also made fun of King Hezekiah's trust in God.

Ask: What do you think King Hezekiah did to gain God's favor and protection?

Read: 2 Kings 19:1 and explain how King Hezekiah humbled himself and went to God in prayer for deliverance.

Read: 2 Kings 19:15-19, King Hezekiah's prayer.

Say: God answered King Hezekiah's prayer and defeated the king of Assyria.

Read: 2 Kings 19:35.

Ask: Why do you think God came to King Hezekiah's defense? What can we learn from the examples of King Hezekiah and King Sennacherib?

LESSON APPLICATION:

Discuss why laws are important.

Ask: What would happen if we did not have laws? For example, what would happen if we did not have traffic laws or laws against stealing?

Why is it important to have consequences for law breaking when people break laws?

If you could make a law, what would it be and what would the consequences be for those who broke your law?

Music:

Sing the following to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

God's eyes have seen the Ten Commandments as the way to live
The first four are how we love our God, the last six to our neighbor give.
One is no other gods and two is no graven images. Three is don't take God's name in vain.

Four is keep the Sabbath holy.
Five is honor your parents.
Six is never kill another; and seven, no adultery.

Number eight is never steal another's property.
Number nine is never bear false witness (that means never lie).
Number ten is don't want what belongs to anyone but you. God's law keeps marching on.

Keep the Ten Commandments holy.
Keep the Ten Commandments holy.
If you keep the Ten Commandments, God will bless your life each day.

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:3-17 Learn the Ten Commandments.

family activity

THE POINT:

To demonstrate that God's Ten Commandments are laws to guide us in our relationships with one another and with God.

ASK ME...

What is important about King Hezekiah's example?

What did he get the people to do?

What happened to King Sennacherib?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

As a family, read other Bible stories that illustrate the blessings that come from obeying God. Some possibilities to consider: Ruth, Joshua, Solomon.

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:3-17 Learn the Ten Commandments.