

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 4 • Week 1

RESTORING TRUE WORSHIP

OBJECTIVE:

When finished with this lesson, the student should understand that God defines true worship. God gave Israel specific instructions on how to worship Him, and He provided them with the Ten Commandments. Unfortunately, Israel chose the way of the nations and turned away from God. God provides one example of how Manasseh repented and restored true worship in Israel.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare in Advance: Using the list on the next page, cut the Ten Commandments into strips (10 strips) and cut out the numbers into 10 separate units. Fold each commandment in half and put the Commandment strips and numbers in a box, basket or hat. Buy a roll of double-stick cellophane tape and one white sheet of poster board.

Additional Activity: It may be helpful to make Ten Commandments flash cards (using 10 index cards) for each child. They could then have these visual Ten Commandments cards to take home. The cards could be completed in class or at home. The activity will reinforce what has been done in class.

Do: Let each child reach into the box/basket/hat and pull out one piece of paper, which will contain either a number or a commandment. (If class is small, you may want to use two boxes/baskets/hats. One will contain the numbers and the other the Commandments. Let each child reach in each box/basket/hat. They will then have a number and a commandment—which don't have to match each other.)

Do: Have the children match the proper number with the proper commandment wording by taping them to the poster board using the double-stick tape. Repeat this process until you have covered all of the Ten Commandments with their proper numbers and wording.

Say: Worshiping the true God means following the Ten Commandments or rules.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make unto you any graven images.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not commit murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet.

Say: Now let's go to our lesson for today, and let's see how one king decided to ignore the First and Second Commandments of God and how it affected his life.

BIBLE LESSON:

GOD DEFINES TRUE WORSHIP

Only God can define how to worship Him. Matthew 22:37-39 states that we are to "love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself." God wants us to obey Him and not make up our own ideas on how to worship Him. The story of Manasseh, king of Judah, shows us what can happen when we decide for ourselves how to worship God.

KING HEZEKIAH

Imagine becoming the king of a nation at the age of twelve. That would be quite a responsibility, wouldn't it? Manasseh did become the 14th king of Judah at the age of 12, and he reigned for 55 years in the city of Jerusalem.

King Manasseh was the son of King Hezekiah. Before the reign of Hezekiah, the nation of Judah had been led by many wicked kings, who had wanted to practice the same pagan traditions of idolatry, which were used by their neighboring nations. Judah had rejected true worship as God had defined it. Hezekiah tried to obey the laws of God and keep God's Commandments. Hezekiah destroyed the pagan idols and put a stop to much of the idol worship. He led the nation of Judah back to God.

KING MANASSEH AND IDOL WORSHIP

Manasseh's father had set a good example of true worship for young King Manasseh to follow; however, Manasseh made some very bad decisions. Perhaps his peers and friends that lived in the other nations surrounding Judah influenced him. He ignored his father's wisdom. He broke God's First and Second Commandments, and he caused many of the people whom he ruled to return to idolatry. Breaking God's law and worshiping idols is sin.

One day Manasseh told his servants, "I think I'll carve an idol and put it in the house of God. All the other temples around this area have statues to make their houses of worship beautiful." Manasseh used his creative talents to carve a large idol out of stone and he placed it in the temple in Jerusalem. King Solomon had built this temple and God had placed His name and His holy presence there. The fortune-tellers and the priests of Baal helped Manasseh reestablished many old pagan practices.

Ask: The Bible and The Ten Commandments show us that God warns against the practices of worshiping idols and against other forms of idolatry. What is God's definition of true worship?

Read: Acts 5:29, Deuteronomy 8:6 and Matthew 22:37-39.

KING MANASSEH AND THE FORTUNE-TELLERS

During his younger years, Manasseh strayed so far away from the true God of Israel that he was practicing sorcery, soothsaying, witchcraft and he even dealt with mediums, fortune-tellers and wizards. In worshiping the true God, these things are forbidden. Manasseh didn't know it at the time, but all these false practices were hurting his relationship with the true Lord of the Bible. God was not pleased with Manasseh's actions. Manasseh led the inhabitants of the cities of Judah to do more evil than the surrounding pagan nations. God had already destroyed some pagan nations as an example for Israel (2 Chronicles 33: 9).

Ask: Where in the Bible does God show He hates the idea of anyone visiting a fortune-teller or dealing with sorcery, witchcraft and soothsayers?

Read: Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

MANASSEH IS CAPTURED

During this time God spoke to Manasseh and to the people of Judah through His prophets. God asked them to remember His Commandments and laws that He had given through Moses. God wanted them to be blessed so they could always live in a safe city, but they wouldn't listen. Manasseh even killed all who protested his evil ways.

One day when Manasseh least expected it, trouble took him by surprise. The commander of the army of the King of Assyria marched into Jerusalem and seized him. The commander bound Manasseh's feet with bronze chains. He put a hook on his belt and another hook in his nose and took him back to the city Babylon. Manasseh was now a prisoner instead of a king.

MANASSEH CALLS ON GOD

Manasseh was chained and mistreated by his captors. It was at this time he remembered God. He got on his knees and fell forward to pray. "Oh God if only You would hear my prayer and see my affliction and pain. If only You would set me free, for You have the power and with You all things are possible."

Manasseh was sincere as he humbled himself before God.

God is a very forgiving God. God heard Manasseh's prayers, and He mercifully answered him. The Lord God was moved emotionally by Manasseh's plea for help. Manasseh was set free and brought back to his kingdom in Jerusalem.

MANASSEH REPENTS

Manasseh's experience convinced him that the Lord is the true God. He gained respect for God and the city in which God had placed his name. Immediately upon his release from Babylon he hired builders and consulted with the architects. "I want to build a great new outer wall around the City of David (Jerusalem)," he told them. "It is to be very high so that we can use the wall as a lookout. We'll start west of the Gihon Spring in the valley. Stretch it as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate and encircle the hill of Ophel."

Then he consulted with his guards and said to them, "We must place an army commander in all the strong and protected cities of Judah and we will secure the wall with soldiers after it is built." Manasseh began to realize that he had been guilty of leading his people away from God, and he wondered if God would protect his city after all that he had done wrong.

Manasseh repented. To repent means to turn in the opposite direction of sin. It means to change your mind from the wrong way of thinking, to the right way. Manasseh truly had changed his mind. He began to follow in his father's footsteps and changed the pagan system of worship, which he was guilty of setting up in the first place. He set his mind to reestablish a true system of worship. He removed the idols out of the temple of the Lord and out of the courts. He destroyed the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem. He threw all the debris outside of the city. He restored God's altar and reinstated the animal sacrifices and the peace offerings and the offerings of thanksgiving, which were required by God. And when he gathered the people of Judah into his presence he commanded them, "You will all serve the true God of Israel" (2 Chronicles 33: 15-20).

Ask: Was God very patient in dealing with Manasseh and his rebellious worship practices? How long did Manasseh reign? Was this reign longer than any other king of Judah?

Read: 2 Chronicles 33:1.

SUMMARY

God is very forgiving and very patient in dealing with His people. He warns them over and over again. Sooner or later, however, He does require us to do the right things and to worship Him in truth. His Bible is full of instructions on how to do this. That is why we attend Sabbath services, so that we can learn what is required of us in our worshiping practices. We live in a world that is filled with the

wrong system of worshiping God. We also have many other distractions to take our hearts and minds away from focusing on pleasing God. It is up to us to discover, search, research and perform the right worshiping practices. Just as Manasseh had to correct his mistakes, we need to be careful also and undo wrong practices of worship.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Prepare in Advance: Make enough copies of the "Pagan Gods Mentioned in the Bible" sheet for each child in your class. Bring a pair of scissors for each child.

Activity: Hand out "Pagan Gods Mentioned in the Bible" sheet.

Say: In the Bible, God told His people not to worship the various gods of the pagan nations around them. Some of these pagan gods that were mentioned are pictured on this activity sheet. From the scripture list at the bottom of the page, see if you can match the correct scripture with the pagan god pictured.

Do: When everyone is finished, read the correct answers off the back of your master copy and have the students correct their own pages.

Do: If there is time left, they can cut up the false gods into confetti.

MUSIC:

Sing: "O Come and Let Us Worship Him," page 1 of the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:4-6 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Ask: What idol forms do you know of that people might bow down to and worship?

Ask: What does it mean when the Bible says we must worship God in sincerity and truth?

Discuss: The following points:

- Sincerity and truth means having no images to hinder our path toward God.
- The first four of the Ten Commandments show us how to worship God.
- Have class repeat memory verse together a few times.

family activity

THE POINT:

To gain a deeper understanding of the First and Second Commandments and recognize the false gods in history and in our age today.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Complete the activity “Things We Trust and Put Ahead Of God” sheet. Then talk about how these things could take the place of God in our lives today.

What other things, not included on the sheet, can you think of that people might trust in more than they trust in God?

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:4-6 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

CAR

MONEY

ROCK STARS

LIQUOR

TOYS

THINGS WE TRUST AND PUT AHEAD OF GOD

Worshiping God in sincerity and truth means obeying the First and Second Commandments. In ancient times mankind made many images to represent God. People worshiped things found in nature like the sun, moon, stars, bugs and cows. In modern times we put material possessions and our hearts' desires ahead of our desire to obey God's Commandments. The edge of this page contains words that represent things available in our society that people might believe in or put their trust in besides God.

Look through old magazines and cut out pictures to paste on this page, or another sheet of paper, which would represent the gods of our modern age and which would match the words at the edge of the paper. Have fun!

CAR

MOVIE STARS

MAGICIANS

SEX APPEAL

THE MILITARY

GOOD LOOKS

FORTUNE-TELLERS

MUSICIANS

WRONG RELIGIONS

DRUGS

**JOB OR HIGH
POSITION**

CLOTHES

EXPENSIVE HOUSES

SPORTS

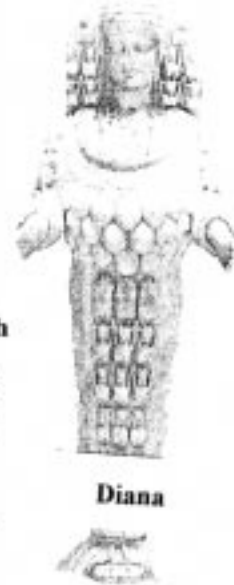
CELEBRITIES

JEWELRY

PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE GOD OF THE BIBLE.

Pagan Gods Mentioned in the Bible

Some pagan gods who are mentioned in the Bible are pictured below.
Match the god with the corresponding scripture and write it under each one.



	Exodus 32: 5, 8, 19	Acts 28:11	
Isaiah 46:1	Numbers 22:41	I Samuel 5:2-7	I Kings 18:19
Acts 19:24, 27-28	Acts 7:43	Acts 14:12-13	

PAGAN GODS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

ANSWER SHEET

1. Asherah (and or Baal)	1 Kings 18:19
2. Baal	Numbers 22:41
3. Nebo	Isaiah 46:1
4. Golden Calf	Exodus 32:5, 8, 19
5. Zeus	Acts 14:12-13
6. Moloch	Acts 7:43
7. Diana	Acts 19:24, 27-28
8. Dagon	1 Samuel 5:2-7
9. Twin Brothers	Acts 28:11

MORE PAGAN GODS

Name of God in NKJV	Description	Biblical Reference	Name Used in Other Translations
Adrammelech	A Babylonian god worshiped by the Sepharvites	2 Kin. 17:31	
Anammelech	A Babylonian god worshiped by the Sepharvites	2 Kin. 17:31	
Asherah	The wife of Baal in Canaanite mythology	1 Kin. 18:19	prophets of the groves (KJV)
Ashima	A Hittite god worshiped by the people of Hamath	2 Kin. 17:30	
Ashtoreths	The plural form of Ashtoreth	Judg. 10:6	Ashtaroth (KJV, RSV, NRS, NAB) (NAB)
Ashtoreth	The Syrian and Phoenician goddess of the moon, sexual love, and fertility	2 Kin. 23:13	
Baal	The chief male deity of the Phoenicians and Canaanites	Num. 22:41	
Baal-Berith	A name under which Baal was worshiped in the time of the judges	Judg. 9:4	
Baal of Peor	An idol of Moab, probably the same as Chemosh	Ps. 106:28	Baal-peor (KJV)
Baals	The plural form of Baal	Judg. 8:33	Baalim (KJV)
Baal-Zebub	A name under which Baal was worshiped at the Philistine city of Ekron	2 Kin. 1:2-3	
Beelzebub	A heathen god considered by the Jews to be the supreme evil spirit	Mark 3:22	
Bel	A god identified with Marduk, chief Babylonian god	Is. 46:1	
Chemosh	The national god of the Moabites and Ammonites	Jer. 48:7, 13	Chemosh (NRS)
Chiun	A star-god, identified with Saturn	Amos 5:26	Kiyyun (NAB) Kaiwan (RSV)
Dagon	The chief god of the Philistines	1 Sam. 5:2-7	
Diana	In Roman mythology, the goddess of the moon, hunting, wild animals, and virginity	Acts 19:24, 27-28	Artemis (RSV, NIV, NAB) (NAB)
Gad	A pagan god worshiped by the Israelites along with Meni	Is. 65:11	Fortune (RSV, NIV, NAB) (NAB)
Gold calf	An idol made by the Israelites in the wilderness	Exodus 32	
Hermes	The Greek god of commerce, science, invention, cunning, eloquence, and theft	Acts 14:12	Mercurius (KJV) Mercury (NRS)
Mammon	The Aramaic word for riches, personified by Jesus as a false god	Luke 16:9, 11	Worldly wealth (NIV, NRS)
Meni	A heathen deity worshiped by the Israelites along with Gad	Is. 65:11	Destiny (RSV, NIV, NAB) Fate (NRS)
Merodach	The Babylonian god of war and the patron deity of the city of Babylon	Jer. 50:2	Marduk (NIV, NRS, NAB) (NAB)
Milcom	Another name for Molech	Zeph. 1:5	Malcham (KJV)
Molech	National god of the Ammonites whose worship involved child sacrifice	Lev. 18:21	
Moloch	Another name for Molech	Acts 7:43	
Nebo	The Babylonian god of literature, wisdom, and the arts	Is. 46:1	
Nehushtan	The name given to Moses' bronze serpent when people began to worship it	2 Kin. 18:4	
Nergal	The war god of the men of Cuth, in Media-Persia	2 Kin. 17:30	
Nibhaz	An idol worshiped by the Avites	2 Kin. 17:31	
Nisroch	An Assyrian god with a temple in Nineveh	Is. 37:38	
Remphan	An idol worshiped by Israel in the wilderness, perhaps the same as Chiun	Acts 7:43	Rephan (RSV, NIV, NRS) Rompha (NAB)
Rimmon	The Assyrian god of rain, lightning, and thunder	2 Kin. 5:18	
Sikkuth	A name given by the Babylonians to the planet Saturn	Amos 5:26	Sakkuth (RSV)
Succoth Benoth	A Babylonian goddess, the mistress of Marduk	2 Kin. 17:30	
Tammuz	A Babylonian fertility god	Ezek. 8:14	
Tartak	An idol worshiped by the Avites	2 Kin. 17:31	
Twin Brothers	In Greek mythology, the twin sons of Zeus	Acts 28:11	Castor and Pollux (KJV, NIV, NRS)
Zeus	The supreme god of the ancient Greeks	Acts 14:12-13	Jupiter (KJV, NRS)