

God Cares for His People

Day 1 Moses

God Cares for

Lesson: Exodus 1-2 (Baby Moses)
Bible Verse: Jeremiah 31:3

Day 2

God Cares for His People

Lesson: Exodus 7-13 (The Plagues)
Bible Verse: Psalm 145:20

Day 3

God's People Cross the Red Sea

Lesson: Exodus 13:20-22, 14
Bible Verse: Ephesians 3:20

Day 4

God Gives Food and Water

Lesson: Exodus 16:1-17:7, Numbers 11:7-9
Bible Verse: Philippians 4:19

Day 5 Rules

God Gives Ten

Lesson: Exodus 19:1-20:17, 24:12-18, 31:18, 32:15-16
Bible Verse: Exodus 19:5

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Day 1

God Cares For Moses

(Exodus 1, 2)

Expressions of care become unforgettable when words and deeds are intertwined. God knows this. That is why He has expressed His love and care for us with timeless, powerful words. In one scripture, God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." (Jeremiah 31:3) And God demonstrated His love and care for us when He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." (John 3:16)

Let's think about people who care for us and ways that they care for us. Tell me what these people do for us. (Let children discuss the role of each person.)

- *parents,
- *grandparents
- *doctors
- *policemen
- *firemen
- *school teacher
- *babysitter
- *Bible Club teacher

Today we are going to start talking about ways that God showed that He loved and cared about the Hebrew people who we read about in the Bible in the book of Exodus. That's the second book in the Bible.

The Hebrew people are also called the Israelites. They were the great-great-great-great (I don't know how many greats) grandchildren of Abraham. They were living in Egypt and the Egyptian Pharaoh (that's another word for the king) and all the other Egyptian people had made slaves of all the Israelites. The Egyptians needed many brick to build houses and walls. The Israelites were forced to do the hard, hot job of making millions of bricks. But in spite of all this, the number of Israelites continued to increase, and Pharaoh was afraid the Israelites would rise up against the Egyptians and have a war with them. Pharaoh's plan to control the situation included killing all Israelite baby boys. He wanted all the baby boys to be thrown in the river.

Our story today is about one of those baby boys. His name was

Moses. His mother's name was Jochebed. When Moses was born, Jochebed was able to hide him at home for awhile, but after he got a little bigger and probably cried a lot louder, it was harder for her to hide him. She knew that her new baby was in danger. She loved him very much and she wanted to protect him. She knew if she kept him much longer, the soldiers of the Pharaoh would find him and throw him in to the river. So she decided to hide him some place else.

Jochebed got a basket. She covered the basket with tar. The tar would keep water from leaking in. The basket would float as if it were a little boat. Finally, Jochebed put the baby in the basket, and took the baby to the Nile River. She put the basket in the tall grass at the edge of the river.

Miriam, the baby's big sister, watched to see what would happen. Someone came to the river. It was the Pharaoh's daughter. Suddenly she saw the basket. She asked one of her servants to get the basket. The Pharaoh's daughter opened the basket. It was a baby! She heard a tiny cry and saw his little fingers. She knew the baby was one of the Israelite babies. She knew about her father wanting to kill all the Israelite boy babies.

Miriam was watching all of this take place. She decided to talk to the Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam asked, "Would you like for me to go and get one of the Israelite women to take care of the baby for you?"

"Yes," said the Pharaoh's daughter.

Miriam ran home to get her mother. When the Pharaoh's daughter saw Jochebed, she said, "If you will take care of this baby, I will pay you."

Jochebed took the baby in her arms and smiled. Of course she would take care of her own baby! So Jochebed took care of Moses until he was old enough for the Pharaoh's daughter to adopt him.

This was all a part of God's plan because He had great things that He wanted Moses to do when he became a man. God cared for Moses and protected him through a time when so many baby boys were being killed. He used Jochebed to hide Moses

out for a period of time at home and then to come up with the clever idea of making the basket boat for Moses. He used Miriam, the sister, to keep a close watch on Moses while he was floating around in the Nile River. And, He used the Pharaoh's daughter to find Moses and to adopt him as her own son. Though all of these different people, God showed how much he loved and cared for Moses by using them to help protect Moses.

We're not sure how long Moses got to live at home with his own family before he was adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter, but it was probably long enough for him to begin learning about the God that the Israelite people worshiped--the one and only true God. And then once he was adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter, he had the opportunity to receive the best education and to be treated as royalty. All of these things were part of God's plan to prepare Moses to one day be a great leader of the Israelite people.

We've seen how God cared for baby Moses, and we know that God cares for us. Let's talk about some ways that He cares for us. (Let children discuss the following and also add other ways.)

*He loves us.

*He gave us Jesus.

*He gave us the Bible.

*He gives us food, homes, clothes, families, teachers, friends.

We have so much to be thankful for because God loves us and cares for us. (Prepare a small box with a lid. Glue a mirror in the bottom of the box.)

(Hold up box.) **I want to show you who God cares for. I am going to let you come up to me one at a time and take a peek in this box. Don't tell anybody what you see until everybody has had a turn and then we will talk about what you saw.**

(Continue after everyone has had an opportunity to look in the box.) **Who does God care for? God cares for.....**(Call out the names of some of the children and point to them.) **God cares for each of us.**

Bible Verse:

God cares for us because He loves us so much.

I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Jeremiah 31:3

God reaches toward us with kindness that is motivated by a deep and everlasting love. That means a love that lasts forever.

Prayer Time:

Thank you God for loving us with an everlasting love. Thank you for taking care of us. Thank you for providing for our needs. We love You.

Day 2

God Cares For His People

(Exodus 7-13)

Do you remember the name of the baby we talked about yesterday? (Allow children to respond.) His name was Moses and God cared for him in a special way by protecting him from the Pharaoh who wanted to kill all boy babies.

Remember I told you that God had a special plan for Moses. In our story today Moses is a man. Moses has not been living in Egypt for awhile, but God speaks to him and tells him that He wants him to go back to Egypt. The Egyptian people are still using the Israelite people as slaves. The Israelites are being mistreated and are having to work very, very hard. They were sad and miserable. They prayed to God for help, and God heard their prayers. God told Moses that He wanted him to go back to Egypt and to rescue the Israelite people from the Pharaoh and the Egyptian people.

Moses went to the Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelite people leave Egypt, but the Pharaoh said, "No!" He needed to keep the Israelite people around to do all the work.

To teach the Pharaoh a lesson, God started sending plagues (or troubles) on the Egyptian people. But none of these bad things happened to the Israelite people. All of these bad things that happened to the Egyptian people showed the power of God. All of these things were done to convince the Pharaoh that he was to obey God and let the Israelite people leave Egypt. But the Pharaoh was a very stubborn man and he did not want to lose all of his Israelite slaves.

The first thing God did was to turn all the water of the Nile River to blood. Egypt was a large country, but most of the people lived along the banks of the Nile River. They depended on the water from this river for drinking, farming and fishing. There was no water for the Egyptian people to drink. All the fish died. There was blood everywhere. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Next God sent a plague of frogs. There were frogs everywhere. The frogs even hopped into ovens and onto people. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Then came a plague of gnats. Gnats are little bugs. The gnats were all over the Egyptian people and animals. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Then came a plague of flies. Lots of flies. The Egyptian houses were full of flies. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Next came a plague on the animals. All the animals got very sick and most of them died. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Then came the plague of the boils. These were terrible sores that were all over the bodies of the people. These sores were very painful and very uncomfortable. The Pharaoh was so stubborn that this did not change his mind.

Next God sent a plague of hail. These were pieces of ice falling from the sky that did lots of damage to the houses and killed people who were outside of their houses and the rest of the animals. This still did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Then came the plague of locusts. These large flying bugs covered everything. They ate everything. No green plant or tree was left. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

Next came a plague of darkness. Total darkness covered Egypt for three days. It was just like night time. They didn't have electricity, so they couldn't see anything or go anywhere. But this did not change the Pharaoh's mind.

The Pharaoh was a very foolish man. He was seeing the power of the true God in all of these plagues, but he still would not listen to Moses. In between some of the plagues, the Pharaoh would say, "OK, Moses, your people can leave Egypt." But then as soon as the plague stopped, he would change his mind and say that they could not leave.

Pharaoh had made up his mind before the plagues ever started that there was no one as powerful or as great as he was. This stubborn unbelief led to a heart so hard that even experiencing these major problems wouldn't change his mind. It took the final plague against Egypt for him to recognize God's authority and power and to finally say that the Egyptian people could go.

God warned all of His people (the Israelites) to get ready for the last plague. He told them to paint their doorframes with lamb's blood. Then came the last terrible plague. All of the firstborn sons in Egypt died. Even the Pharaoh's oldest son died. But none of the sons of the Israelite people died. God kept His people safe.

The Pharaoh of Egypt called for Moses and said, "Go! Leave us alone. Go worship your God." God's people (the Israelites) left Egypt in the middle of the night. There were at least 600,000 men plus all the women and children. By day God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. By night He went ahead of them in a pillar of fire. When the Israelites were afraid, the people could see the cloud or fire in front of them and know that God was taking care of them. When all of these terrible things were happening to the Egyptian people, God showed how much He cared for the Israelite people by not letting any of these bad things happen to them.

God proved to the Egyptian people and the Israelite people that He can do anything. We also need to remember that God can do anything. And we need to remember that even when bad things are happening all around us that God cares about us and will take care of us.

Let's think about some things that God can do to show us how much He cares about us. (Let the children discuss the following.)

- *When we have studied for a test at school, God can help us remember what we have learned.
- *God can help us make friends.
- *God can keep us safe at night.
- *God can comfort us when we are afraid.
- *God can help us when we are sick.
- *God can give us peace when our parents are fighting.

Also remember:

- *God controls the weather.
- *God loves everyone.
- *God hears our prayers.
- *God gives us food.
- *God gives us homes.
- *God forgives us.

The Pharaoh and the Egyptians had made life really miserable for the Israelites. But God was there to deliver them from all the bad things that were happening to them.

Maybe there are things happening in your life that make you feel miserable. It's great to remember that God cares about us. He can help us anytime and anywhere, because God can do anything. Let's talk about some problems that you might have in your life and how you can deal with those problems. (Discuss the following with the children. Feel free to add other examples.)

- *School starts back in a few days and you are really dreading it because there is this kid who always picks on you.
- *You know that getting involved in drugs is wrong, but your neighbor is always trying to get you to try out some drugs.
- *You are having a hard time getting along with your Mom. The two of you are always fighting.
- *School is starting back and you are going to have to repeat the same grade that you were in last year.
- *You would really like to buy some new shoes for school, but you just don't have the money.
- * Your Mom's boy friend is always at your house and you really don't like him very much.

Just remember that God is always there for you just the way He was there to deliver the Israelites from the cruel life that they were having to live in Egypt under the rule of the Pharaoh.

Bible Verse:

The Lord protects everyone who loves Him.
Psalm 145:20

Prayer Time:

We know that you are an all powerful God. Thank you that you love and care for each one of us and that You use Your power to protect us. Thank you for always being there for us.

Day 3

God's People Cross The Red Sea

(Exodus 13:20-22, 14)

(Hold up the word card: Power.) **Can you think of some sources of power?** (Let children respond. Ex. electricity, gas, battery, solar, wind) **We use power to cook a meal, to turn on a lamp, to listen to our CD players and watch TV, to run our cars and to turn on the heater. There are many sources of power and there are lots of things we can do using the different sources of power. Today we are going to learn about someone who is all-powerful and that someone is God.**

We saw the awesome power of God yesterday in the miracles of the plagues that He put on the Pharaoh and the Egyptian people so that the Pharaoh would let the Israelite people leave Egypt. Does anybody remember any of the plagues that we talked about yesterday? (Allow children to respond.)

Remember after the tenth plague, when the oldest son in each Egyptian family was killed, the Pharaoh finally told Moses to leave and take all the Israelite people with him. Pharaoh said, "Go! Leave us alone! Go worship your God."

It's hard to imagine what it must have been like when all of the Israelite people were finally allowed to leave Egypt. Remember there were 600,000 men plus all the women and the children. As a means of guiding all of these people, God appeared as a pillar of cloud in the daytime and a pillar of fire at night. God was leading the way. God lead them to the banks of the Red Sea where they set up camp for the night.

But the Pharaoh changed his mind. He realized that he had let all of his slave help go. Who would do all the work? Pharaoh called all of his soldiers together and told them to go after the Israelites. Pharaoh sent out 600 Egyptian war chariots and there were either two or three soldiers on each chariot. The chariots were the armored war tanks of Bible times. The soldiers chased after the Israelites and caught up with them at the Red Sea.

The Israelites were terrified. They were trapped between the desert, the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. They grumbled to Moses and said that it would have been better to have remained slaves in Egypt than to come to the desert by the sea

and die. The Israelite people had already forgotten about God's power that they had witnessed through His miracles of the plagues. It never occurred to them that God had the power to save them in this situation.

Moses responded to their complaints by saying, "Don't be afraid! Stand still and see the Lord save you today. You will never see these Egyptians again after today. You will only need to remain calm. The Lord will fight for you."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Command the people of Israel to start moving. Raise your walking stick and hold it over the sea. The sea will split. Then the people can cross the sea of dry land. I will defeat the king, his chariot drivers and chariots. Then Egypt will know that I am the Lord."

When the Pharaoh saw the Israelites by the Red Sea, he and his army probably thought, "Aha, we have them now. There is no way that they can escape." They had also forgotten about the power of God.

When Moses stretched his walking stick over the sea, the waters of the sea divided! God's people walked through the sea on dry ground! On either side of them was a tall wall of water, but the people were safe!

The Egyptian army was following God's people through the sea on the dry ground. Then God told Moses to stretch out his walking stick over the sea again. The walls of water collapsed on the Egyptian army. The entire army of Egypt died.

God had shown His awesome power. God had shown that He cared about his people. All of God's people put their trust in God and praised Him for His care and His power.

The Israelites had a short memory. It did not take them long to forget the power of God. Sometimes we have a short memory. We start complaining about the things that we don't have and forget about the many ways that God has blessed us. For those of us who have asked Jesus to come into our hearts, we sometimes forget the mighty power that God has shown in our lives. We forget how He freed us from the slavery of sin. We forget how He saved us so that when we die, we can go to heaven to live with Him.

There are probably some here today who have not asked Jesus to come into their hearts--some who have never experienced that power of God in their lives.

One way that we can understand this power is by learning the ABC's of becoming a Christian. (Go over this plan with the children. Use the ABC cards and scripture cards found on the CD. I have changed *confess*---the way it is in VBS material---to *commit*.)

A--Admit

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Ask God to forgive you and then turn away from your sins.

We have to admit that we are sinners. Sin is disobeying God. A person sins when he chooses his way instead of God's way. We have to be sorry for our sin, and we have to want to change. The word "repent" means that we change. We turn away from our sin and we turn to Jesus. (Hold up scripture cards and discuss.)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23

Repent and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.
Acts 3:19

B-Believe

Believe that Jesus is God's Son. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and that He rose again on the third day. Believe that Jesus can forgive you of your sins.

We have to believe that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

C--Commit

Commit your life to Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Lord and Savior. Tell Jesus that you want Him to live in your heart and to guide your life. Allow Him to become your boss!

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Romans 10:13

When we admit that we are sinners, believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and commit our lives to Jesus Christ, we can have this awesome power of God in our lives.

Bible Verse:

With God's power working in us, God can do much,
much more than anything we can ask or think of.
Ephesians 3:20

Prayer Time:

Thank you God for Your awesome power. Thank you that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die on the cross to save us from our sins.

Day 4

God Gives Food and Water
(Exodus 16:1-17:7, Numbers 11:7-9)

Remember how forgetful the Israelite people were? It doesn't take them long to forget the things that God has done for them. They forget about the miracles of the plagues and they forget about how God parted the waters of the Red Sea and allowed them to escape the Egyptian army and cross the sea on dry land. And when they start forgetting about God and His power, they forget that He cares for them and that He will provide for them and they start complaining.

They start complaining because they don't have enough food and water. Being hungry and thirsty are reasons to complain, but they forget that they can depend on God to take care of them because He loves them so much. They forget that He will provide their needs.

It has been two months since the Israelites left Egypt and now they are in the desert and they don't have any food. They begin mumbling and grumbling to Moses. "Why did we ever leave Egypt? At least we had food to eat when we lived there. We are going to starve here in the desert." When they lived in Egypt by the Nile River, they had plenty of fish, wheat and barley to eat. There was plenty of water so that they could have gardens to grow vegetables and they had fruit trees.

God heard the complaints of His people. God told Moses, "In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God."

That same evening there was a rustling and a flapping in their camp. The people looked out of their tents. The ground was covered with birds called quail. The people caught the quail for meat to eat. The quail could be roasted or boiled. The next morning, the ground was covered with small white flakes. No one knew what it was. Moses told them it was bread God was giving them to eat. It tasted like bread with honey. Everyone grabbed a bowl and began gathering the flakes. They were to gather as much as they needed. They called the flakes manna.

Moses led the people as they traveled from place to place. At one new camping place, the people had another problem. They

didn't have any water. Again they complained and whined. "We will die of thirst," they said. God's people were angry with Moses for taking them away from their homes in Egypt. They missed their house, food and water. But they forgot that they had been slaves to the Egyptians and that they had been treated cruelly by the Egyptian people. They forgot that God was with them and would take care of them. They also forgot that God would give them what they needed.

God told Moses what to do. God told Moses to stand by a certain rock. Then God told Moses to strike the rock with his walking stick. Moses obeyed God. He hit the rock and water came gushing out. The people had plenty of water to drink. The people knew that only God could give them water from a rock.

God gave His people food and water. He gave them everything they needed.

God doesn't send us manna from heaven to eat like He sent to the Israelites, but He does have ways of providing food for us. He doesn't strike a rock to give us water, but He provides water for us. He provides everything that we need.

(Discuss these ways that God provides for us.)

God provides food:

- *God gives us soil to plant crops.
- *God gives us rain and sun to help food grow.
- *God gives us chickens, cows and other animals to be used for food.

God provides water:

- *God gives us rain that fills lakes and oceans.
- *God gives people the abilities to bring water into our homes.

God provides clothes:

- *God allows cotton to grow so clothes can be made.
- *God lets parents have jobs to earn money so they can buy clothes for the family.
- *God gives people the abilities to sew and make clothes.

God gives us homes:

- *God allows trees to grow and then be chopped down and used for wood to build homes.
- *God gives people the skills to build homes.

God gives us love:

- *God gives us families to love us.
- *God gives us other people who love and take care of us.
- *God gave us Jesus who loves us and died on the cross for our sins.

God loves us and He will take care of us and provide for our needs just the way He cared for the Israelite people. We have to love Him back and be thankful for all the ways that He has provided for us and all the great things that He has done for us.

Bible Verse:

My God will supply all your needs.
Philippians 4:19

Prayer Time:

Dear God, thank you that You love us so much and that You are always available to supply our needs. You supplied our greatest need by giving us Your Son, Jesus, and allowing Him to die on the cross for our sins.

Day 5

God Gives Ten Rules

(Exodus 19:1-20:17, 24:12-18, 31:18, 32:15-16)

Do you have certain rules that you have to keep at school? (Allow children to respond.) **What happens when you don't keep the rules?** (Allow children to respond.) **Do you have rules at home?** (Allow children to respond.) **What happens when you don't keep those rules. Today we are going to learn that God has rules and that it is very important for us to keep those rules.**

It has been three months since Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. They have arrived at the Desert of Sinai. God had shown His power through the plagues that He sent on the Pharaoh and the Egyptian people. He showed His power when He parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could cross over on dry land. And He showed His power as he provided food and water for the Israelites.

God wanted the best for His people. God told Moses to say to the people, "You have seen what I have done. Obey me fully, and you will be my special people."

The people said, "We will do everything the Lord has said."

The people gathered near Mount Sinai. The mountain smoked and trembled. There was a sound of a loud trumpet. There was thunder. And there was lightning. The people were scared. God called Moses to the top of the mountain. And the people waited for Moses to come down.

While Moses was on the mountain, God gave Moses rules that all the people were to follow. The rules were written on two stone tablets. Important documents or codes of law were often written on stone in ancient times. God's own finger recorded His rules on stone tablets.

God spoke all these words, "I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves. You must not have any other gods except me. You must not make for yourselves any idols. Don't make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land."

God continued by saying, "You must not worship or serve any idol. This is because I am the Lord your God. You must not use My name in a way that is disrespectful or that does not bring honor to me."

He also said, "Sunday is my day. You must remember it and keep it holy. You may work and get everything done during the other six days of the week. But Sunday is a day of rest to honor the Lord your God."

Those were all rules that showed how we are to relate to God. God also gave rules that showed how we are to relate to other people.

God said, "You must honor your mother and daddy. You must not murder anyone. You must be true to your husband or wife. You must not steal. You must not lie and you must not want what belongs to somebody else."

God gave His people rules so they would know what is right and what is wrong. He gave rules so that the people would know how to love and respect Him. God gave rules so they would know how to treat other people.

Moses was on the mountain for 40 days. Then he came down. Moses told the people all of God's rules. God showed that He cared about His people by giving them these rules.

We know these rules today as the *Ten Commandments*. We are going to take each of these rules and discuss what they mean. (Have some type of display board available for displaying the commandment cards. Also have two big balloons blown up. Already have each commandment written on a piece of masking tape, already cut and stuck around the edge of the display board. As you discuss a commandment, one of your helpers will stick the piece of masking tape {with that commandment written on it} firmly on one of the balloons. Don't put any tape on the other balloon.)

(Display commandment #1.)

The first commandment says, You shall have no other gods before Me. That means that we are to worship God and only God. It means that no one and nothing should be more important to us than God. There is only one true and living

God. He is the one who created heaven and earth and everything in them. No one existed before God and no one will outlive Him. God is eternal. That means He lives forever and ever!

No one is more powerful than God. No one is smarter than God. It only makes sense that you and I would make Him the most important person in our lives. He deserves our love, our worship and our obedience more than anything or anyone else.

When we learn to honor and love God more than anything else, it will make it easier for us to keep the other nine commandment. By honoring and loving God, we learn to honor and love others.

(Display commandment #2.)

The second commandment says: You shall not make any idols. Commandments one and two are a lot alike. They both emphasize that God should be #1 in our lives. An idol is anything that we put before God. For many religions, the people actually bow down to an idol or statue. These are usually made out of stone or wood or glass or metal. People bow down to these idols and they pray to them thinking that this piece of wood or stone can answer their prayers.

For most of us, idols in our lives are not statues, but rather are things, other than God, that keep us so busy that we don't have time for God. It may be sports. It may be friends It may be video games.

(Display commandment #3.)

The third commandment is: Speak God's name in respect. That means every time we say God's name we should remember how much we love God and how important He is to us. We should not use God's name unless there is a good reason to use it. It's ok to use God's name when telling someone how wonderful He is. But there is a big problem today all around us where people use God's name as swear words or cuss words. They say these words when they are angry and many times just to impress somebody. These people are not honoring God and they are certainly not making God #1 in their lives.

(Display commandment #4.)

The fourth commandment is: Keep Sunday holy. Sunday is the day of the week that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. This is a special day to focus on God. This is suppose to be a day when we worship God and we rest from all the hassle of the things that we are involved in during the week. This is the day that we are suppose to go to church.

(Display commandment #5.)

Commandment # 5 says: Honor your father and mother. The word *honor* means to consider something precious or valuable. In this command, God wants us to see that our parents have great worth.

I realize that all of you do not live with your mother and your daddy. Maybe you live with just one parent. Or maybe you live with a grandparent or an aunt and uncle. This commandment applies to whoever the adult is that you live with. It means honoring and respecting the person or persons who take care of you everyday.

(Display commandment #6)

Commandment #6 says: You shall not kill. All human life is precious to God. This means your neighbor, people you go to school with, family, older people, strangers, handicapped people. Everyone's life is important. Life is God's gift and we have no right to take it away from anyone

We live in a world that loves violence and is speaking loudly through TV, movies, video games and music. All of these things are full of people hurting other people. That's what violence is. God begs you to say no to violence and yes to life. He wants you to make the right choice. We need to understand that all of life is special to God.

(Display commandment #7.)

Commandment #7 says: Be true to your husband or wife. This is not a big deal for you right now because you are not married, but it all has to do with keeping promises and commitments. When God says to be true to you husband or wife, He's talking

about staying together, staying married. Once we join our lives together in marriage, we must be careful not to allow ourselves to “fall in love” with anyone else. It is not God’s plan for people to change partners whenever they feel like it. Marriage is a serious commitment.

(Display Commandment #8.)

Commandment #8 is: You shall not steal. You may be thinking, I’m OK on this one because I’ve never robbed a bank or broken into anyone’s home, but there are other ways to steal. Stealing is taking or keeping what is not your own.

Some ways that are stealing that you may never think about are copying off someone else’s paper at school, borrowing something and never returning it, eating something at the grocery store and not paying for it--like grapes, keeping all the change when you realize that the cashier gave you too much change. Did you know that you can even steal time? Not doing chores that you are suppose to do often means that your parents have to do it and that’s taking time away from them when they need to be doing something else.

(Display commandment #9.)

Commandment #9 says: You shall not lie. A lie is anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing something that isn’t true. It doesn’t matter whether you lie to be mean or whether you lie to try to help someone. Lying is a sin. Does this mean that if we think someone’s shirt is really ugly that we should tell that person? No. That would be unkind. We don’t always have to say *all* we know or think. But whatever we do say should always be the truth

People have the right to expect only truth from us. If we lie to someone even once, they may not believe other things we tell them. If you told someone a lie and then later you tried to tell that same person what it means to “ask Jesus into your heart”, do you think that person would believe you.? (Allow children to respond.) Wouldn’t it be terrible if that person didn’t believe the truth because you had lied before.

(Display commandment #10.)

Commandment # 10 says: Be happy with what you have. This commandment tells us that we are not suppose to want what others have. Some Bible translations use the word "covet". To covet something is to really want it and it becomes a problem when that thing we want so much belongs to somebody else. The best way to be obedient to this commandment is to practice contentment. Contentment is being happy or satisfied with what you have. Contentment gets rid of a greedy heart.

We've learned that God gave Moses Ten Commandments for the people to follow. And we know that God's rules are good. Let's discover why it's important to obey God's rules. (Hold up the balloon that does not have tape on it.) **We will pretend this balloon is someone who doesn't obey God's rules. What do you think will happen when I touch this balloon with a pin?** (Allow children to respond and then pop the balloon.)

(Now hold up the balloon covered with the commandments.) **What do you think will happen when I touch this balloon with a pin.** (allow children to respond and then stick the pin into the masking tape. The balloon should not pop as long as you don't take the pin back out.) **Just like the masking tape protected the balloon, God's rules protect us. God loves and cares for us and He knows what is best for us. That's why He gave us rules and that is why it is important that we obey His rules.**

Bible Verse:

Obey me fully, and you will be my special people.
Exodus 19:5

This is what God told Moses to tell the Israelites. The Israelites said that they would do everything that the Lord said. They realized that God's rules were an expression of His love for them and they wanted to be His special people.

Prayer Time:

Dear God, thank you for loving and caring for us so much. Thank you for giving us Your rules. Help us to understand them and to obey them.

Things Needed For Lessons

Day 1

Start making photos for Day 4 craft
Small box with lid and mirror--glue mirror in the bottom of the box
Bible verse card--(found on CD)

Day 2

Continue making photos for Day 4 craft
Bible verse card--(found on CD)

Day 3

Continue making photos for Day 4 craft
Word card: POWER--(found on CD)
ABC cards--(found on CD)
Scripture cards to go with ABC's of a Christian--(found on CD)
Bible verse card--(found on CD)
Go and get photos developed today

Day 4

Bible verse card--(found on CD)

Day 5

Display board & easel
Commandment cards (found on CD--need to be cut)
Two large balloons--blown up and tied
Pieces of masking tape, cut with commandments already written on them and attached around the edge of the easel
A pin for sticking balloons
(Experiment with the balloon activity before attempting it with the children.)

Day 1 Craft

God Protected Baby Moses

Supplies needed:

1 pre-cut picture of baby and basket per child
1 riverbank picture per child
Glue sticks
Crayons/markers
Pencils

(Optional idea: For a more 3-D effect, use fabric to wrap around the baby and then use a piece of foam behind basket to make it stand out more.)

Material to prepare:

Print riverbank picture on heavy white or ivory cardstock
Print picture of baby and basket on copy paper
Cut out picture of baby and basket

(If you decide to use the optional idea, you will need to cut out small pieces of fabric and small pieces of foam.)

Directions:

Children write their names on the back of the riverbank picture.
Children color the riverbank picture.
Children color the basket and baby.
If using fabric, children glue the fabric blanket around the baby.
Children glue the baby in the basket. (If using the foam, children glue the piece of foam behind the basket before gluing it to the riverbank picture.)

Day 2 Craft

God Is Good Paper Chain

Supplies needed:

1 set of pre-cut chain pieces for each child
1 business size envelope per child
Staplers and staples
Crayons/markers
Pencils

Materials to prepare:

Copy the chain pieces on heavy white or ivory cardstock (4 sheets to be copied)
Cut out chain pieces
Put one set in an envelope for each child

Directions:

Children color their chain pieces.
Children write their names on the inside of the first chain piece that they use.
Children roll the first piece to make a loop and staple together. (Make sure that the writing shows on the outside of the link.)
Children continue adding more links to the chain until it is completed.

Have children read the scriptures on the links and discuss them. Some of them of Bible verses for the week.

Day 3 Craft

Moses Booklet

Supplies needed:

- 1 pre-cut copy of each page of the booklet
- 1 pre-cut copy of each of the flaps
- 1 envelope per child
- Glue sticks
- Staplers and staples
- Crayons
- Pencils

Materials to prepare:

- Copy pages of booklet on copy paper and cut out
- Copy the flaps and cut out.
- Put one set of flaps in each envelope

Directions:

- Children stack the sheets in the correct order.*
- Children staple the sheets together on the left side.
- Review the story by going through the booklet and talking about each page. As you get to pages 2-10, let the children glue the appropriate flap for that page on the stars.
- Children write their names on the back of booklet.
- Children color the booklet.

*To simplify the activity, you can already have the booklets stacked in the right order with a paper clip holding them together and still let the children staple them together.

Day 4 Craft

God Cares For Me Picture Frames

You will have to start making the photos for this craft on Monday. Continue taking pictures on Tuesday and Wednesday and take to a one-hour developing place on Wednesday to get developed. Make sure that the photos are made horizontally and that it is a close up of face. Experiment with some pictures that you already have to see the best way to pose the pictures so that they fit into the frames.

Supplies needed:

- 1 photo per child
- 1 frame per child
- 1 half sheet of pre-cut cardstock per child
- Items for decorating frames such as beads, sequins, foam shape pieces, stick on stars, stickers, buttons
- Craft glue
- Glue sticks
- Crayons/markers
- Pencils

Materials to prepare:

- Get photos developed
- Copy frames on heavy cardstock (You can decide whether or not to use colored cardstock depending on what you decide to use for decorating the frames.)
- Cut out the rectangles on the frames
- Cut pieces of cardstock in half

Directions:

- The children fold the frame sheet in half.
- The children use a glue stick to glue the half sheet of cardstock to top back of frame sheet. (This will be behind the cut-out rectangle part of the sheet.)
- Children glue the half sheet around the top edge and the two side edges. (Leave the bottom open--the photo will slip in through this opening.)
- The children write their name on the back of the frame.
- The children decorate around the cut out part of the frame.
- If you use things like beads or foam shapes for decorating, you will need to use craft glue. You can pour small amounts on small paper plates or in paper cups and let the children use small craft sticks for spreading the glue.

Day 5 Craft

God's Top Ten

Supplies needed:

1 *God's Top Ten* sheet per child
1 picture of children per child
Glue sticks
Crayons/markers
Pencils

Materials to prepare:

Copy *God's Top Ten* on heavy cardstock (ok to use colored paper)
Copy picture of children on heavy white or ivory cardstock
Cut out picture of children

Directions:

Children fold the *God's Top Ten* sheet in half.
Children write their names on the back half of that sheet.
Children color the children picture.
Children apply glue across the front of the children's picture.
Children attach the children's picture to the back of the folded sheet so that it sticks up above the fold.

Tell the children to place this card somewhere in their room so that they see it each day and to use it as a reminder to obey God's Ten Commandments.

RESOURCES

Bible Stories and Crafts (Ages 7-11) Teacher Created Resources, Inc.
God's Special Plan for Children Salvation Tract put out by NAMB
International Children's Bible QuickVerse--Computer Program
Life Application Bible (NIV) Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Shout To The Lord--Crafts based
on the Psalms Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.
Sunday School Materials Standard Publishing Co.