

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 3 • Unit 4 • Week 1

### RESTORING THE LAW

**OBJECTIVE:**

This lesson should teach the children that the law of God is a law of love and that it benefits both God and man when man is obedient. God's law will be restored to the whole earth when Jesus returns to be King of kings and Lord of lords.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Do: Give each child a sheet of paper.

Have each child wad up the sheet of paper into a ball.

After the kids have formed their paper balls, have them throw it in the air.

Have them throw the paper ball into the air three times.

Ask: Will the paper balls we have made ever fail to fall to the ground?

Say: And why not? Because of the law of gravity. The law of gravity is always in action. That is why balls always fall to the ground.

Ask: How many of you have a bike or a favorite toy? What is your favorite?

Ask: How would you feel if someone stole your bike or a special toy?

Ask: Would you feel hurt every time someone stole from you?

Say: You would be hurt, sad and possibly angry each time you suffered a loss. Stealing is always hurtful.

Ask: How would you know not to steal?

Say: God's Ten Commandments tell us not to steal. If you obey the Eighth Commandment, you will not hurt others by taking their favorite things nor will they hurt you by taking what you

like. God's laws are rules of behavior for humans. Those laws show us that God loves us, and show us how we are to love God and each other. Those laws are for our safety and help us have a happy life.

In our lesson today, we are going to think about God's laws.

### **BIBLE LESSON:**

Say: God has given mankind laws in His Bible and the foundation of these laws are called the Ten Commandments. When we keep and obey the spirit of the Ten Commandments, we honor God and protect other humans from wrong actions. These laws also benefit us when others are obeying them because they will not hurt us.

Ask: Who can tell us where the Ten Commandments are located in the Bible?

Say: God's Ten Commandments are found in Exodus chapter 20 and Deuteronomy chapter 5. The children of Israel had been in captivity for more than 100 years and had forgotten God's law. When God brought them out to freedom, He began restoring His law to them.

God wrote His Ten Commandments on two tables of stone.

We could divide God's law into two parts. The first part consists of the first four commandments that show love toward God when we obey them. The second part consists of the last six commandments that show love to other humans.

#### First Commandment:

Ask: Who knows the First Commandment?  
In Exodus 20:2-3 God said, [read verses].

Say: The children of Israel were slaves to the Egyptians and they were not free to live as they wished, so they learned many ways of Egypt. The Egyptians worshiped animals as gods and did not know the true God. The Israelites had forgotten the true God. So God used powerful miracles to teach them about Himself.

God showed love to Israel when He brought plagues upon Egypt and brought them out of slavery. The plagues showed Israel that God was real and had great power. The plagues also showed that the gods of Egypt were not real. Those false gods had no power like God.

We love God by not having any gods but Him.

#### Second Commandment:

Ask: Who can tell us the Second Commandment?

Say: In Exodus 20:4-6 God said, [read verses].

Say: It is not possible for us to draw a picture or make a statue that looks like God because no

human has ever looked at God's face. We know that He created humans in His likeness so He has a form that looks like a human. But we do not know His exact facial likeness. We also know that He is not in the form or shape of any animal, fish or bird.

We show love to God by not making a statue or picture of Him and bowing down to worship that object as if it were God. God said that if we bow down to worship a carved statue then that is an act of disrespect and those who do not honor God will be punished. Those who love God will receive good rewards.

Third Commandment:

Ask: Does anyone know what the Third Commandment is?

Say: In Exodus 20:7 God spoke and said, [read verse].

When we talk about God and say things like "the great, loving, creator God" or "the fantastic, mighty God, our Father" or we say "the gentle, kind, patient God of the whole universe" then we are saying words used with His name that describe what kind of God He is. These words describing God show our love for Him and our respect for His great position over all things.

Ask: How might we use God's name in vain?

If we were to take God's name in vain then we would be guilty of sin. We should repent and tell God we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us.

Fourth Commandment:

Ask: Who would like to say the Fourth Commandment?

Say: In Exodus 20:8-11 God said, [read verses].

Say: God has set the seventh day of the week as a day to remember the seventh day of creation when God rested from all His work of creating the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He made that day holy. He set the seventh day aside for a special purpose.

God has told us that we should work for six days. During those six days we go to our jobs and earn money to purchase all the things we need to live—like a home, clothes, food, car and all the necessary items. Those six days are also time for school, recreation, games, entertainment and all other activities of life.

The seventh day of the week is a rest day set aside to worship the great Creator of the whole universe. The Sabbath day is a time for families to be together—our individual families and our church family. The Sabbath is also a day to do good; we could visit people who are sick to make them feel better. The Sabbath is a day to worship God by meeting together for prayer, for singing praises to God and for being taught God's way of life.

Fifth Commandment:

Ask: Who will tell us the Fifth Commandment?

Say: In Exodus 20:12 God said, [read verse].

Say: To honor your father and your mother is to deeply love them. This love is shown by having respect for them; it is to carefully obey them; it is to thankfully appreciate all they do for you and to always speak good things about them—never bad things.

If children and adults will honor their parents then God promises them long life.

Sixth Commandment:

Ask: Who knows the Sixth Commandment?

Say: In Exodus 20:13 God tells us, [read verse].

Say: Murder is the killing of another person. Murder begins with hate and complete disregard for a precious life that God gave to humans. To murder is to not show love.

Seventh Commandment:

Ask: How many of you know the Seventh Commandment? Who would like to tell what it is?

Say: In Exodus 20:14 God speaks these words, [read verse].

Say: This commandment tells us that when a man and woman marry they are to be loyal to each other for a lifetime.

Eighth Commandment:

Ask: What is the Eighth Commandment?

Say: In Exodus 20:15 God said, [read verse].

Stealing is the act of taking another person's property. God tells us it is wrong to take what does not belong to us.

Ninth Commandment:

Ask: Will someone tell us what the Ninth Commandment is?

Say: In Exodus 20:16 God tells us, [read verse].

Say: This commandment tells us that we are to tell the truth.

Tenth Commandment:

Ask: Who knows Tenth Commandment?

Say: In Exodus 20:17 God spoke these words, [read verse].

Say: Coveting is the strong desire to have something that belongs to someone else. Coveting what others have leads to stealing and murder.

Summary of the Law:

Ask: What one word summarizes God's law?

Say: Love.

Ask: What is love?

Say: The law helps us to see how to love God and man. It is the way God lives and it is the way that God is teaching us to live.

Obedience and Disobedience to God's Law:

Say: When people are obedient to God and keep and obey His law, then God sends blessings into their lives. On the other hand, when people move away from God and do not obey, then bad things happen in their lives and they suffer the consequences of their sin.

The story of King Joash helps us to understand the importance of obeying God.

In 2 Chronicles 24:1-25 we read about King Joash. Joash was obedient to God for most of his life and God was with him.

During the time of Joash's father, King Ahaziah, many in the Kingdom of Judah had stopped obeying God's commandments. In fact, many no longer worshiped God, but they began worshipping the false god, Baal.

When he became king, Joash was counseled by the high priest in ruling the kingdom based upon the law of God. Joash listened to Jehoiada, the priest, who gave him wise counsel. King Joash and the kingdom were blessed. The blessings came because Joash began restoring the Law of God in the nation of Judah and the people began to obey God. Joash repaired the house of God, made new vessels for the temple service, and God was with them because of obedience.

After Jehoiada the priest died, Joash began to listen to the leaders of Judah. Joash under the influence of the leaders of Judah turned away from God and began to worship idols.

God out of His love and mercy sent prophets to counsel Joash and the leaders to return to obeying God. Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, was inspired by God to tell Joash and the people of God, "Thus says God: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.'" Instead of listening to the wise counsel of Zechariah, the king commanded they stone

Zechariah in the court of the house of the Lord.

Joash and all the leaders were killed because of their disobedience to God's Ten Commandments.

Ask: Should we be surprised at what happened to Joash?

Do: Throw one of the paper balls into the air and let it fall to the floor.

Say: Just as the law of gravity is always in action. So is God's law. Being obedient to God's law brings blessings. Breaking God's law brings hurt, pain and sorrow.

When Jesus returns to this earth to be King of kings and Lord of lords and the Kingdom of God is put in place, the law of God will be restored and people will learn that obedience brings blessings and happiness.

#### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Work on the Word Find (see end of lesson). Find and circle each of the Ten Commandments. Depending on time available, let them see how many other words they can find.

#### **MUSIC:**

Sing this song of praise to God for His law (page 44 of the United Church of God hymnal).

#### O HOW LOVE I THY LAW

O how love I Thy law! It is ever with me.  
I have more understanding than the ancients of old.  
From Thy precepts I learn every false way to hate;  
I have more understanding for I dwell on Thy law.

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalms 119:97 "Oh, how love I Your law! It is my meditation all the day."

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

The very basic characteristic of God and His way of life is love. Everything that God does and thinks is based on love. God's laws are the starting place to build love among people and with God. Obedience to God's law gives God great joy and brings His rewards and blessings to those who keep His Commandments.

## **ASK ME...**

How many commandments did God give to mankind?

Can you name the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are divided into two parts. What are those two parts?

Why did God give us His laws?

Which commandment has a promise of long life if we obey?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Take some time to review the story of King Joash (2 Chronicles 24).

Talk about God's great plan for the future when the New Jerusalem is on the earth and the family of God has perfect love for each other. Discuss the importance of treating each other with perfect kindness and concern. Show how the law of God will always be in effect as the standard way to live and it will never get outdated or go out of style.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalms 119:97 "O how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Find and circle the Ten Commandments.

1. Have no other gods before me
2. Make no carved images to worship
3. Do not take God's name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet

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