



Lesson One

“Looking at the Ten Commandments from a Jesus Perspective”



Opening Prayer:

Shortly before Jesus was betrayed and arrested, He spoke to His disciples to reassure them they would be all right after He was taken from their presence. He told them God would give them a special Helper known as the Holy Spirit to lead them and guide them after Jesus returned to heaven. In *John 14:26*, Jesus told them: ***But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.***

Notice that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach them all things and remind them of everything He had said. Without the Holy Spirit’s presence and guidance, man is incapable of teaching anything that has lasting spiritual value. For that reason, we’ll begin every class session with a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking Him to teach us and guide us.

The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal things to us about Jesus we could never know without Your help. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

The Ten Commandments

Most Confirmation studies of the Ten Commandments begin in the book of Exodus at the point when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. We are taking a slightly different approach as we study the Ten Commandments—choosing to begin instead at Jesus’ teaching on the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:34-40. We are starting here because everything we learn in our study of the Ten Commandments must be filtered through Jesus’ teaching. We *will* study

the Exodus texts and I *will* expect you to learn the Ten Commandments, but we want everything we learn to line up with Jesus' teaching. That's why we are starting in Matthew.

Memory Work: Students are to memorize the 1st Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* and be prepared to recite it next week.



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to **Matthew 22:34-40 on page 1052** of your Bible. Before we read the passage aloud, first read the Helpful Information below aloud.

Helpful Information

In the scripture passage we are about to read, an expert in the law asks Jesus: “*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*” More than likely, the man’s intent was to try to lure Jesus into saying something the religious leaders could later use against Him. But it’s also possible the man was simply overwhelmed by Jewish Law. There were 613 commandments in Jewish Law—365 things you were supposed to do—and 248 things you weren’t supposed to do. Maybe the expert in the law really did just want clarification on what was most important. Let’s read **Matthew 22:34-40** aloud to see what you think. Then answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus say was the first and greatest commandment?
2. Read **Mark 12:28-31** found on **page 1079** of your Bible aloud. How does this passage differ from **Matthew 22:34-40**?
3. What does it mean to you love the Lord your God with all your heart? With all your soul? With all your mind? With all your strength?
4. What did Jesus say was the second commandment?
5. Who is our neighbor?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said in Matthew 22:40: “*On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets?*”



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Be sure to ask if there are any prayer requests.



Lesson Two

“The First Commandment”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal things to us about Jesus we could never know without Your help. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. In **Matthew 22:36**, what did the lawyer ask Jesus?
2. What are two possible reasons for the man’s question?
3. What did Jesus say was the first and greatest commandment?
4. Read **Mark 12:28-31** found on **page 1079** of your Bible aloud. How does this passage differ from **Matthew 22:34-40**?
5. What does it mean to you love the Lord your God with all your heart? With all your soul? With all your mind? With all your strength?
6. What did Jesus say was the second commandment?
7. Who is our neighbor?
8. What did Jesus mean when He said in Matthew 22:40: “*On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets?*”

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the First Commandment and its Meaning. Spread the groups out to different areas of the room to minimize hearing problems. Use the Small Catechism as your guide. (We are trying to make sure the students understand

what the commandments mean—this doesn't necessarily mean they will recite the meaning word for word. But they should be able to explain its meaning in their own words.)



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to **page 78** in your Bible and read **Exodus 20:18-26** aloud. Then, turn to **page 91** and read **Exodus 32:1-Exodus 33:6** aloud. Then answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. How had the Israelites reacted when God spoke to Moses from the thick cloud hovering over Mt. Sinai? (**Ex. 20:18,19, p. 78**) What did Moses say to the people to comfort them? (**Ex. 20:20, p. 78**) What did God instruct Moses to tell the Israelites in **Exodus 20:22-23, p. 78**? What were they supposed to do to honor God's name? (**Ex. 20:24, p. 78**) What would God do in response? (**Ex. 20:24, p.78**)
2. Why do you think the Israelites were so quick to forget God's commands as soon as Moses was away for a while? Where did the Israelites get much of the jewelry they gave to Aaron to make the golden calf? (**Ex. 12:35, 36 on p. 69**) Why do you think the people were so eager for Aaron to make them an idol? Do you think Aaron really understood the gravity of the sin he had committed in making the idol? (**Ex. 32:5, p. 91**)
3. What did Moses say in an attempt to persuade God not to destroy the Israelites? (**Ex. 32:11-13, p. 92**) How did God respond? (**Ex. 32:14, p. 92**) How did Moses respond to the golden calf? (**Ex. 32:19-20, p. 92**) How did Aaron respond when Moses asked him: "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" (**Ex. 32:22-24, p. 92**)
4. Who helped Moses restore order to the camp? (**Ex. 32:26, p.92**) What did they do to accomplish it? (**Ex. 32: 27-28, p. 92**) How many people died? (**Ex. 32:28, p. 28**)
5. What is the First Commandment? Read the Great Commandment again in **Matthew 22:37-40, p.1052** and **Mark 12:29-31, p. 1079**. According to Jesus, how do we keep the First Commandment? How does doing what Jesus commands keep us from becoming an idolater?

Memory Work

Memorize the Second Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for

someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Three “Respecting the Name of God”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal things to us about Jesus we could never know without Your help. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. How had the Israelites reacted when God spoke to Moses from the thick cloud hovering over Mt. Sinai? (**Ex. 20:18,19, p. 78**) What did Moses say to the people to comfort them? (**Ex. 20:20, p. 78**) What did God instruct Moses to tell the Israelites in **Exodus 20:22-23, p. 78**? What were they supposed to do to honor God’s name? (**Ex. 20:24, p. 78**) What would God do in response? (**Ex. 20:24, p.78**)
2. Why do you think the Israelites were so quick to forget God’s commands as soon as Moses was away for a while? Where did the Israelites get much of the jewelry they gave to Aaron to make the golden calf? (**Ex. 12:35, 36 on p. 69**) Why do you think the people were so eager for Aaron to make them an idol? Do you think Aaron really understood the gravity of the sin he had committed in making the idol? (**Ex. 32:5, p. 91**)
3. What did Moses say in an attempt to persuade God not to destroy the Israelites? (**Ex. 32:11-13, p. 92**) How did God respond? (**Ex. 32:14, p. 92**) How did Moses respond to the golden calf? (**Ex. 32:19-20, p. 92**) How did Aaron respond when Moses asked him:

“What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?” (Ex. 32:22-24, p. 92)

4. Who helped Moses restore order to the camp? (Ex. 32:26, p.92) What did they do to accomplish it? (Ex. 32: 27-28, p. 92) How many people died? (Ex. 32:28, p. 28)
5. What is the First Commandment? Read the Great Commandment again in **Matthew 22:37-40, p.1052** and **Mark 12:29-31, p. 1079**. According to Jesus, how do we keep the First Commandment? How does doing what Jesus commands keep us from becoming an idolater?

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Second Commandment and its Meaning. Spread the groups out to different areas of the room to minimize hearing problems. Use the Small Catechism as your guide. (We are trying to make sure the students understand what the commandments mean—this doesn’t necessarily mean they will recite the meaning word for word. But they should be able to explain its meaning in their own words.)



Power in a Name

Names are important. They are what give us individuality. They give us identity in a crowd, so we can know when someone is talking to us. Names give us a way of communicating without confusion. They give us a recognizable label to put on our work and possessions so we can identify it as ours. Life would be very difficult without names.

Names are wonderful when they are used in the proper way, but they can also become a source of ridicule and abuse. Have you ever had anyone tease you by misusing your name, or rhyming your name with something undesirable? How did it make you feel when someone used your name in that way? It likely made you feel disrespected. It might have made you sad or angry or both. It may have frustrated you or made you feel misunderstood. The one thing it did not make you feel—was good.

There is no name greater than God’s name. The Israelites refused to speak His name, *Yahweh*, aloud; for fear that they might dishonor His name. Instead, they called Him by His title, *Adonai*, which means LORD. Whenever they referred to *Yahweh* in scripture, they wrote His title, *Adonai*. Most English Bible translations have preserved this tradition and use LORD in every place that would be translated *Yahweh*.

We are going to explore the Bible to see some examples of the power in God’s name, and hopefully, in the process, discover why we should treat His name with such honor and respect.



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to **page 452** in your Bible and read **1 Chronicles 29:10-13** aloud. Then turn to **page 1248** and read **Philippians 2:9-11** aloud. Then answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. What is God's length of reign? (**1 Chr. 29:10, p. 452**) What does **1 Chr. 29:11 (p. 452)** tell us about God?
What does **1 Chr. 29:12 (p. 452)** tell us comes from God? Over what things does God rule? How does **1 Chr. 29:13 (p. 452)** tell us we should respond to this understanding of who God is? When you read of God's attributes in this passage, how wise do you think it is to misuse the name of God?
2. What does **Phil. 2:9 (p. 1248)** say about the name of Jesus? What do **verses 10 and 11 (p.1248)** tell us that every person will eventually have to do at the name of Jesus? If we could always remember what **verses 10 and 11** say, how often do you think we would misuse the name of Jesus?

Memory Work

Memorize the Third Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Four

“Finding the Blessing God Wants Us to Know in the Sabbath”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What does it mean *to take God’s name in vain*? What sorts of characteristics did **1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (p. 452)** tell us God possesses? After reading about those characteristics of God, how wise do you think it would be to misuse God’s name?
2. What does **Philippians 2:9-11 (p. 1248)** tell us about the name of Jesus? What do you think people mean when they say, *“There is power in the name of Jesus?”* Why do you think respecting the name of Jesus is so important for us if want to have a good life?
3. How could keeping the first part of Jesus’ Great Commandment insure we won’t misuse God’s name?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Third Commandment and its Meaning. Spread the groups out to different areas of the room to minimize hearing problems. Use the Small Catechism as your guide. (We are trying to make sure

the students understand what the commandments mean—this doesn't necessarily mean they will recite the meaning word for word. But they should be able to explain its meaning in their own words.)



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to **page 78** in your Bible and read **Exodus 20:8-11** aloud. Turn to **page 1065** and read **Mark 2:23-28** aloud. Turn to **page 1096** and read **Luke 6:1-11** aloud. Turn to **pages 1207-1208** and read **Romans 14:1-9** aloud. Finally, turn to **page 1253** and read **Colossians 2:16-17** aloud.

Discussion Questions

1. According to **Exodus 20:8-11 (p. 78)**, why does God want us to abstain from work on the Sabbath? What does it mean to you *to keep the Sabbath holy*?
2. In **Mark 2:23-28 (p. 1065)**, why were the Pharisees so upset with Jesus' disciples on this particular Sabbath? With whom did the Pharisees really have a problem? Of what biblical fact did Jesus remind the Pharisees in an attempt to defend His disciples? What do you think Jesus meant by His comments in **Mark 27-28 (pp. 1065-66)**?
3. How well do you think the Pharisees really understood the third commandment? What was Jesus trying to teach us in the **Luke 6:1-11 (p. 1096)** passage?
4. How would you summarize **Romans 14:1-9 (pp. 1207-1208)**? How well do you think the Pharisees succeeded at "living out" the 10 Commandments?
5. What does **Colossians 2:17 (p. 1253)** mean to you? Using everything we've read today, how would you assure someone who has to work every Sunday that they still can keep the third commandment?

Memory Work

Memorize the Fourth Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Five

“The Importance of Protecting the Family”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What is the Third Commandment (See **Exodus 20:8-11, p.78**)? With what does God know we will be blessed if we keep this commandment? (This is not explicitly stated in scripture, but we should be able to figure it out.)
2. What does Jesus call Himself in regard to the Sabbath (See **Mark 2:28, p. 1066**), and what does He mean by it? What did Jesus mean when He said in **Mark 2:27**: “*The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*”?

3. What were the Pharisees guilty of in regard to the Sabbath? Why did Jesus doing good things, such as healing, on the Sabbath, so bother the Pharisees?
4. How would you assure someone who has to work every Sunday that they can still keep the third commandment?
5. Should we make a big deal out of some Christians worshipping on Saturday, while others worship on Sunday, and still others honor the Jewish observance of the Sabbath? Why or why not?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Fourth Commandment and its Meaning. Spread the groups out to different areas of the room to minimize hearing problems. Use the Small Catechism as your guide. (We are trying to make sure the students understand what the commandments mean—this doesn't necessarily mean they will recite the meaning word for word. But they should be able to explain its meaning in their own words.)



Understanding the Difference Between the Two Tablets

The Fourth Commandment marks a change in the focus of the Ten Commandments. The First, Second, and Third Commandments all deal with man's relationship with God. If we were viewing these commandments in light of Jesus' Great Commandment, all three of these would deal with *loving the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength*. We can visualize these commandments being written on the first stone tablet God gave to Moses.

The Fourth-Tenth Commandments all deal with man's relationship with man and are centered on *loving your neighbor as yourself*. We can visualize these commandments being written on the second stone tablet God gave to Moses. Some have said the Fourth Commandment is the "hinge" between the two tablets, illustrating how our respect for God leads to respect for other people. Separating the Ten Commandments in this way can help us to better remember what each commandment deals with.



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to the following passages on the pages listed and read them aloud: **Exodus 20:12** on p. 78; **Proverbs 1:8** on p. 667; **Proverbs 6:20-22** on p. 674; **Ephesians 6:1-4** on p. 1245, and **Colossians 3:20-21** on p. 1253. Then, answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the Fourth Commandment (See **Exodus 20:12, p. 78**)? Why do you think God attached a promise of blessing to this commandment for those who would keep it? What happens to the church when individual families within it do not get along with the people in their own households?
2. What does it mean to you to honor your father and mother? Reread **Proverbs 6:20-22 (p. 674)** aloud. Can you think of some things your parents have taught you that act as a “guide” in your life and help you to make “corrections” along the way as you go through life?
3. What does it mean to you *to obey your parents in the Lord*? (See. **Ephesians 6:1, p. 1245**) Does this suggest there is ever a time when it is right in God’s eyes to disobey your parents?
4. Ephesians 6:4 in the NIV says: *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord*. Many of the other translations substitute *do not provoke your children to anger* for *do not exasperate*. Colossians 3:21 says: *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged?* How might a father provoke a child to anger or embitter a child, even if he hasn’t technically broken any commandments?
5. How important do you think it is for children being able to obey the Fourth Commandment that their parents are living lives worthy of respect? How well will children respect parents who don’t respect them?

Memory Work

Memorize the Fifth Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Six

“Understanding the Fifth Commandment from Jesus’ Perspective”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What is the Fourth Commandment (See Exodus 20:12, p.78)? What’s so important about this commandment that God attached a promise to it? What do you think the environment is like in a home where this commandment is obeyed? What do you think the environment is like in a home where this commandment isn’t obeyed? How can obeying this commandment build a stronger church?
2. What does it mean *to obey your parents in the Lord*? When might it be appropriate to disobey a parent? What does the Apostle Paul warn fathers not to do to their children? What does he say might happen to the children if the father treats them this way?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Fifth Commandment and its Meaning. Spread the groups out to different areas of the room to minimize hearing problems. Use the Small Catechism as your guide. (We are trying to make sure the students understand what the commandments mean—this doesn't necessarily mean they will recite the meaning word for word. But they should be able to explain its meaning in their own words.)

The Fifth Commandment

Most Bible translations render *Exodus 20:13*, the Fifth Commandment, as *You shall not murder*. Yet our Small Catechism renders it as *You shall not kill*. Can you see any difference between the words *murder* and *kill*? Can you recall any times in scripture where God commands people to kill? So what do you think God's heart is really like in regard to His people killing others?



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to the following passages on the pages listed and read them aloud: **Exodus 20:13** on p. 78 and **Matthew 5:17-26** on p. 1029. Then, answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. When you just read **Exodus 20:13**, on p.78, how confident do you feel of your ability to keep the Fifth Commandment? After reading **Matthew 5:22** on p. 1029, how well do you think you keep the Fifth Commandment?
2. Why do you think Jesus puts such an emphasis on not being angry with one another? When you read **Matthew 5:23-24** on p. 1029, what is Jesus' formula for defusing anger and disagreement? What does Jesus warn may happen to us if we fail to do this? (**Matt. 5:25-26, p. 1029**)
3. In **Matthew 5:22** on p. 1029, Jesus warns against calling our brothers and sisters demeaning names. What might we kill in a person by calling them demeaning names? Do you think Jesus was only concerned about names we call a person face-to-face? Have you ever been wounded by the words of another person? How did that make you feel? How could we use these unpleasant memories as a reminder to ourselves to not call other people names?

Memory Work

Memorize the Sixth Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Seven

“The Terrible Consequences of the Sin of Adultery”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What is the Fifth Commandment? Why is it more appropriate that we learn it as ***You shall not murder***, rather than ***You shall not kill***? What are some examples of when it might be appropriate to kill someone in God’s eyes?
2. When Jesus talked about ***murder***, what other offenses did He include besides actually killing someone? What tips did Jesus give us in **Matthew 5:23-24 (p. 1029)** and in **Matthew 18:15-17 (p. 1046)** for reconciling differences we might have with someone?

3. How can calling people demeaning names kill something inside of them? How might remembering that Jesus equated name calling with murder help you resist the urge to call someone names?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Sixth Commandment and its Meaning.

Understanding Adultery

God gave mankind sex as a beautiful act of intimacy between a husband and a wife. The act of sexual intercourse was meant to deepen each spouse's love for the other and also provided a means by which they could create a family. God never intended sex to be practiced anywhere except within the relationship of marriage.

In *Genesis 2:24*, we read: ***Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*** Certainly, in the act of sexual intercourse, two bodies become one; but God was talking about much more than that. In the process of sexual intercourse, as well as in living out of life together, a husband and wife share their whole being together—body, soul, and spirit. God intended for this ultimate act of intimacy to only be practiced within marriage so that there was a constant nurturing between husband and wife of their spouse's body, soul, and spirit. So-called "casual sex" between unmarried people or between a married person and an unmarried person is anything but casual. It always leads to brokenness in some aspect of the lives of those who practice it.

Webster's Dictionary defines adultery as ***sex between a married person and someone who is not that person's wife or husband.*** What is it about adultery that makes it such a destructive sin? Name all the people affected when one spouse is committing adultery? What kinds of lies and deceptions do you think Satan uses to get people to engage in adultery? What is the impact on churches where adultery is allowed to exist?



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to the following passages on the pages listed and read them aloud: **Matthew 5:27-30** on pp. 1029-1030; **1 Thessalonians 4:1-7** on p. 1257; and **Hebrews 13:4** on p. 1286; then answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus had such a broad view of adultery? What can happen when we allow ourselves to get caught up in lustful thoughts and fantasies? Do you think Jesus really wanted people to gouge out their eyes and cut off their hands to avoid sinning? What was His purpose in making such radical statements?

2. In **1 Thessalonians 4:3** and following (p. 1257), it says: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification.* In your own words, explain what that means. How could seeking God’s sanctification help us to live out the rest of this passage? What happens to us when we fail to control our own bodies?
3. Explain what the author of Hebrews means in **Hebrews 13:4**, p. 1286, when he says: *“Let marriage be held in honor among all.”*

Memory Work

Memorize the Seventh Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Eight **“You Shall Not Steal”**



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What is the Sixth Commandment (See **Exodus 20:14**, p. 78)? What is the definition of adultery?

2. Why is adultery such a destructive sin? List all the people that might be impacted by a typical adulterous affair.
3. Why was Jesus' understanding of the sin of adultery so much broader than most people's understanding? What did Jesus know could happen if people weren't careful to control their lustful thoughts?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Seventh Commandment and its Meaning.

The Seventh Commandment

The Seventh Commandment instructs us: ***“You shall not steal.”*** There are many different ways to “steal” something. Look at the two lists below, then put the letter from the list on the right in the blank next to the number it defines.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Robbery ____ | a) Lifting an item from someone by stealth (pick-pocket, etc.) |
| 2) Burglary ____ | b) Stealing directly from a person by force (stick-up, mugging) |
| 3) Theft ____ | c) Using false items, signatures, documents to make a profit |
| 4) Shoplifting ____ | d) Copying materials protected by law (documents, discs) |
| 5) Looting ____ | e) Threatening harm to people if you are not paid off |
| 6) Embezzlement ____ | f) Taking something from a store without paying |
| 7) Extortion ____ | g) Taking money that you are responsible for at work |
| 8) Blackmail ____ | h) Breaking in and stealing from a home or building |
| 9) Fraud ____ | i) Obtaining money by lying or making false promises |
| 10) Forgery ____ | j) Using a riot or disaster as an occasion for mass stealing |
| 11) Plagiarism ____ | k) Threatening to sell secret information unless you're paid |
| 12) Copyright ____ | l) Stealing someone's ideas and saying they're your own |
- Infringement**



Checking Out the Bible

Though God clearly does not want His people to steal, He also understands it will happen at times. Turn to the following passages on the pages listed and read them aloud to get a better understanding of God's heart in regard to stealing: **Exodus 22:1-6** on p. 80; **Leviticus 19:9-13** on p. 124; **Proverbs 6:30-31** on p. 675; and **Matthew 6:19-21** on p. 1031.

Discussion Questions

1. In all the Old Testament passages, what does God stress as the punishment for stealing?
2. How could doing what God commands in **Leviticus 19:9 & 10 (p. 124)**, help reduce the need for people to steal? What practices are in place today to cut down on the need for people to steal?
3. According to **Proverbs 6:30 (p. 675)**, how are we to treat someone who has stolen due to hunger?
4. How does Jesus tell us we can avoid having to worry about our things being stolen in **Matthew 6:19-21 (p. 1031)**?

Memory Work

Memorize the Eighth Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



Lesson Nine

“Protecting Our Neighbor’s Reputation”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ’s love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What is the Seventh Commandment (See Exodus 20:15 on p. 78.)? What are some different ways we can “steal” from our neighbor?
2. What were some of the commands God gave to the Israelites to reduce the chances people would have to steal to have something to eat? What are some ways we can help reduce the chances people would have to steal to have something to eat today?
3. What did God always require of those who had been found guilty of stealing? Was this usually done on a one for one basis?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the Eighth Commandment and its Meaning.

The Eighth Commandment

Depending on the translation of the Bible you are using, the Eighth Commandment will generally be expressed either as “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor,*” or “*You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*”

Both variations make us think of a court trial due to the terminology used in them. In a court trial, a *witness* is someone who is called to tell the court what they have seen or heard. What they share is called their *testimony*. When a witness is first called to the stand, he or she swears to tell the truth. For much of our history, witnesses in the U.S. swore to: *tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God*, while holding their hands on the Bible. Due to increasing pressure from atheists, agnostics, and other groups, in many cases, witnesses no longer have to say *so help me God* or place their hand on a Bible. Nevertheless, they are expected to tell the truth. Failure to do so is a crime called perjury and is punishable by time in jail. Giving false testimony in a court of law is a serious offense because it obstructs justice. That means it makes it much harder for the court to determine guilt or innocence. If the perjury goes undetected, innocent people may be found guilty and guilty people may be found innocent.

Obviously, God wants us to be truthful in a court of law. But His expectations for us go far beyond that. God expects us to be truthful whenever we talk about another person. We are not to lie about them by fabricating stories. We are not to ruin their reputations by spreading rumors about them. We are not to gossip about or slander or libel another person. Whatever we say about someone—whether with our mouths, with our written words, or through artistic creations, like movies, TV shows, or documentaries—should be completely truthful. God wants us to build people up with our words—not tear them down.



Checking Out the Bible

Turn to **Ephesians 4:25, 29-32** beginning on **p. 1244** of your Bible, and read this passage aloud. Then, answer the questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. Notice **Ephesians 4:25 (p.1244)** commands us *to put away falsehood and to speak truth with our neighbor*. The Eighth Commandment speaks more about speaking truthfully *of our neighbor*. Why would keeping Paul’s commands in **Ephesians 4:25** guarantee us we were also keeping the Eighth Commandment? How does **Eph. 4:25** actually improve upon the Eighth Commandment?
2. If we do what **Ephesians 4:29 (p. 1244)** commands, what sort of sinful behaviors would we be eliminating from our lives? How do we grieve the Holy Spirit when we fail to keep the Eighth Commandment?
3. If we hope to accomplish what **Eph. 4:31 (p. 1244)** commands, upon whom do we need to be utterly dependent? How will keeping **Eph. 4:32 (p. 1244)** insure we will obey the Eighth Commandment?

Memory Work

Memorize the Ninth Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.



You shall not covet
your neighbor’s house

Lesson Ten

“Being Satisfied with What You Have”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God’s Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He

is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ's love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What is the Eighth Commandment (**See Exodus 20:16**)? In your own words, explain the meaning of this commandment.
2. As a Christian, how are we to respond when we know someone is gossiping about another person, slandering another person, or libeling another person? What are we guilty of if we remain silent while this goes on around us?
3. **Ephesians 4:25** commands us *to put away falsehood and to speak truth with our neighbor*. Why would keeping Paul's commands in **Ephesians 4:25** guarantee us we were also keeping the Eighth Commandment? How does **Eph. 4:25** actually improve upon the Eighth Commandment?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the 9th Commandment and its Meaning for today.

The Ninth Commandment

The Ninth Commandment states: ***You shall not covet your neighbor's house.*** Webster's *Dictionary* defines the word *covet* this way: to desire what belongs to another inordinately. The word *inordinately* means to exceed reasonable limits. When we covet, our desire has risen to a level that becomes dangerous and unhealthy. Our pride makes us think only we deserve the best things in life. Therefore, if our neighbor has what we perceive to be a nicer house than ours, we are filled with bitterness and resentment toward them. We spend an excessive amount of time either plotting to get what our neighbor has or working to make our house more impressive than his. Our pride demands that we outdo our neighbor.

Covetousness grows out of ingratitude. Instead of being thankful for all God has given us, we believe God has shortchanged us. Instead of being grateful for every blessing God has lavished upon us, we complain about what we are lacking. Covetous people are unhappy, resentful, and dissatisfied. Thankful people are happy, joyful, and satisfied because they recognize God's faithful and generous provision in their lives. Covetousness is a form of idolatry because it elevates possessions and self above God. It is synonymous with greediness.



Checking Out the Bible

Read **Luke 12:13-21** from the English Standard Version below:

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’” ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Now read **Luke 12:13-21** from the NIV translation. Then, answer the questions below.

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV): Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’” ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’” ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’” ²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus warn His listeners to guard against in the ESV version of our scripture reading? What does He warn us to guard against in the NIV version? What misguided notion do covetous or greedy people have about life?
2. What did the rich fool think his abundant possessions would allow him to do? How did God show him he was wrong? What was Jesus trying to communicate to the man who had asked for His help in getting his full inheritance? How does that translate to our lives?

Memory Work

Memorize the Tenth Commandment and its meaning from *The Small Catechism* for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Lesson Eleven

“Knowing What We Need”



The Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us today. Reveal new truths to us from God's Word we could never know without Your help. Give us a hunger for the Bible and help us to apply its truth to our lives. Remind us of things Jesus said so we can connect one piece to another and grow daily in our understanding of who He is. Allow us, Holy Spirit, to truly experience the wonder of Christ's love and to walk in its joy and power. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Time for Review

1. What does it mean to covet? What two sins are at the root of covetousness? What are typical characteristics of covetous people?
2. Why is thankfulness the greatest deterrent to covetousness? What are the typical characteristics of thankful people?
3. What was Jesus' warning against covetousness in **Luke 12:15**? Tell "The Parable of the Rich Fool" in your own words. Rather than wanting more possessions what should our focus in life be?

Memory Work

Assign each helper three or four students to listen to as they recite the 10th Commandment and its Meaning for today.

The Tenth Commandment

The Ninth Commandment warns us not to covet our neighbor's house. The house is typically the largest and most expensive purchase a person will ever make. It is easily visible to those who live nearby. Generally, we can get a sense of a person's financial worth by looking at their home. When we covet our neighbor's house, we are really saying, "I'd like to switch places with my neighbor because his life looks better." We think our neighbor's bigger fancier home guarantees a better life inside. The price of a home never guaranteed happiness. Often, the saddest, most miserable lives are lived in the most impressive looking houses. When we are thankful for the home God has provided for us, the quality of life we experience in that home increases dramatically.

The Tenth Commandment provides us with more warnings against coveting the things that belong to our neighbors. First, we are told we are not to covet our neighbor's wife, nor should we covet our neighbor's husband. When we do so, we break not only the Tenth Commandment but also the Sixth Commandment, at least from Jesus' point of view. Whenever we covet our neighbor's spouse, our thought life takes us places we should never go. When we fantasize about our neighbor's spouse, we are withholding the love and attention we should be giving our own spouse. Even if we aren't married, to think such thoughts about another person's spouse is part of the devil's plan to destroy someone's marriage.

The second thing we're told not to covet is our neighbor's male or female slave. Times today are much different than when God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments. We don't have slaves in our country today, but they were common in ancient times. We could rephrase this passage for today: "Do not covet your neighbor's male or female employees." When we do so, we are threatening the stability of our neighbor's business or household. Rather than envying

someone else's employees, we should be working to make sure our own employees are well cared for and know their work is appreciated.

The third thing we're told not to covet is our neighbor's ox or donkey. Again, that instruction seems strange to us in 2023, but really what God was saying was: "Don't covet your neighbor's transportation or means of doing work." An ox was the equivalent of a tractor today. It enabled its owner to do many things around the farm or business place. A donkey was the equivalent of a car or pickup, carrying its owner and his possessions wherever he needed to go. When we covet our neighbor's car or truck or tractor, we've closed our eyes to what God has given us. Instead of being thankful for what we have, we are lost in some dream of how we can get what our neighbor has.

The last thing the Tenth Commandment tells us is that "we shall not covet **anything** that belongs to our neighbor." Rather than envying our neighbor and wanting what he has, we should be glad for how God has blessed them, and appreciative for what God has given us.



Checking Out the Bible

Read **James 4:1-10** aloud found on **pages 1290 and 1291** of your Bibles. Then answer the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. What does James say is the cause of our fights and quarrels? (See **James 4:1-3, p. 1290.**) What does he recommend for us to do to make sure we always have what we need? (See **final sentence of James 4:2, p. 1290.**) What things prevent us from receiving the good things God longs to give us? (See **James 4:3, p. 1290.**)
2. Why are covetous people enemies of God? (See **James 4:4, p. 1290.**) What does **James 4:5** mean to you? Why does God give us more grace?
3. How would doing what **James 4:7-8 (p. 1291)** says ensure that we would be able to keep God's commandments? What does **James 4:9-10 (p. 1291)** mean to you? Do you think this means God wants us to be in a perpetual state of grief and gloom?

Memory Work

There is no memory work for next week.



Closing Prayer

Use the last few minutes of class to close in prayer. Encourage each student to pray for someone or something God has placed on his/her heart. Adult leaders, be sure to join in.

