

Understanding The Bible

Part 1 - God Has Spoken

Focus

God gives us rules to live by because He loves us.

Today's Tip

A good method to learn verses is to write them on a chalk board and gradually erase words as students keep repeating the verse.

Supplies Needed:

- White paper
- Markers/Pens/Pencils



Welcome and Singing

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Ask questions about their week.
- Lead group in a chorus or two.
- Take prayer requests and pray.
- Announce subject of today's lesson.
- Hand out worksheets.



Devotional

This year we will be studying all about the Bible. Some of these topics will be about God revealing Himself, how the Bible as we know it came into being, understanding Old Testament and New Testament writings, understanding the meaning of covenant, understanding what part the Holy Spirit plays in helping us understand the scriptures, and much more.

Two key scriptures from the Bible that will be a part of our study this year are **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, and **2 Peter 1:20-21**. Ask for two volunteers to look up these two passages. Have the 2 Peter verses read now. If you have access to a New Living Translation, read these verses from it now. Ask a volunteer to say what he/she thinks these verses are saying. If a discussion arises, be sure to keep it short.

Now have **2 Timothy 3:16-17** read. Now, if you have the NLT, read these verses. Now, ask for someone to say what these verses mean to him or her. If a discussion starts, keep it short.

Prayer

End this part with a prayer, thanking God for His Word that has been kept for us today through many centuries. Thank Him that the Bible contains everything we need to know in order to live as God wants us to live.

Memory Verse

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. - 1 John 4:7

The Story/The Passage

God's Saving Purpose

The words "God is love" are some of the most meaningful and joyful truths of the Bible. These words are found in **1 John 4:8** and also in **1 John 4:16**. Because God made and loves each of us individually, He is very interested in what happens to us both now and after this life. Another thing we can know about God is that He wants us to be happy. Because of this, God gave humanity laws telling us how to live a life that leads to happiness. The Ten Commandments, found in **Exodus 20:1-17**, are a good summary of God's laws. The short form of these commandments are as follows:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

Our Lord Jesus taught that all of God's commands could be reduced down to two main ones. These two are: (1) People should love God with all their being, and (2) People should love others like they love their own selves (**Matthew 22:34-40**). If people would live this way, then they would be happy.

The trouble with all of us is that because of our own human nature we don't want to do God's will. Instead, we want to do what we think will make us happy. So we disobey God's laws. Disobeying God is sin, and sin never leads to true and lasting happiness. So by nature, we are sinners and rebel against God's good laws.

But because God is love, He still loves us and continues to give us many blessings. **He wants us to**

repent - turn away from our sin - and turn to Him, believing He will forgive us. The Bible says it is not God's will for anyone to die eternally. Instead, He wants everyone to be saved (**2 Peter 3:9**), and He wants everyone to know the truth (**1 Timothy 2:4**). **John 3:16** says it best of all, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:17** adds, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."



Lesson Questions

Fill in the following blanks.

1. Where does the Bible say, "God is love?" 1 John 4:8 and 1 John 4:16
2. In what chapter of the Bible are the Ten Commandments given? Exodus 20
3. What would be the result if people would live as God has asked them to live? People would be happy.

The Ten Commandments are written below in short form, but they are all mixed up. List A contains the first part of each commandment, and List B contains the second part. You need to put the letters in front of the items in List B, in the blanks at the end of the correct items in List A. When you are finished, number each commandment in the order given in the Bible by placing the correct numbers in the blanks at the beginning of List A.

List A

- 6 You shall not mG
- 5 Honor yourH
- 3 You shall not take J
- 1 You shall have no A
- 4 Remember the F
- 9 You shall not bear D
- 7 You shall not commit B
- 8 You shall not s C
- 2 You shall not make E
- 10 You shall not c I

List B

- A. Other gods before me
- B. Adultery
- C. Steal
- D. False witness against your neighbor
- E. for yourself a carved image
- F. Sabbath day, to keep it holy
- G. Murder
- H. father and mother
- I. Covet your neighbors house
- J. The name of the Lord your God in vain

Activity

For this activity, it would be helpful if you would make a drawing of what they should do. Since we have studied the Ten Commandments today, it would be good for each student to meditate over them and think about which ones are the hardest to obey.

Hand each student a sheet of paper. Near the top of it on the left, each student should make a heading entitled "**PROBLEM COMMANDMENTS.**" Under this heading students should list the commandments they find hardest to obey.

On the right side of the paper near the top, they should write the word, "**CATEGORY.**" Across from each problem commandment, students should write which category each problem commandment falls into - '**Loving God**', or '**Loving People.**'

Below this part students should draw a line across the paper. Now, it is time to think about God's love. Taking each commandment that is hard to obey, students should write for each one that is about loving God something like this: "Because God is love and cares for me, I choose to love Him by not taking His name in vain."

For commandments on loving people, students can write something like this: "Because God loves me and wants me to love others, I choose to love them by not saying untruthful things about them."

When students have finished this procedure, have a moment of quietness when each one asks God to help him/her carry out these promises. Students should take these papers home and put them where they will be reminded to continue to think and pray about these things.