

Bible Point - God gave us rules because he loves us.

Bible Verse

"The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart" (Psalm 19:8a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will honor and affirm each other,
 - hear why it's important to honor God,
 - discover how the Israelites honored God, and
 - worship God in a special meeting place.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Honor God: The Israelites build the Tabernacle.

Exodus 35:4-29; 36:8; and 40:34-38

The law God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai spelled out how the Israelites were to honor him through their obedience. The first four commandments have to do with our relationship with 20:1-11; 25:1-8; God; the last six have to do with our relationships with others. The commandments regarding our relationship with God clearly spell out the position of priority and honor that he is to hold in our lives. The commandments regarding our relationships with others (Exodus 20:12-17) give us lots of guidance on how to respect others.

> It was time for the Israelites to build a portable dwelling place for the worship of God. When Moses asked for contributions, the people gave generously—so generously that eventually they had to be told to stop bringing more materials (Exodus 36:6-7).

One might wonder where these former slaves got gold and fine cloth to donate to the tabernacle. The answer lies in the generosity of the Egyptians as the Israelites were escaping. God told the Hebrews to ask for things from the Egyptians; the Egyptians responded with silver, gold, and clothing (Exodus 12:35-36).

Not only did the Hebrews give things, but they gave time and talents as well. Notice the detailed instructions provided by God and the way the people followed God's plan meticulously. Crafting the sanctuary required willingness to give, willingness to work, and willingness to obey. And all the people did what they were asked.

Prayer

- Read 1 Peter 2:5a.
- How is God molding you to be a living dwelling for his Spirit?
- Pray: Lord, help me show my students my love for you as I honor you by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Stone Tablet Name Tags" (p. 27), markers, pins or tape	
Let's Get Started	Option 1: Fit for a King — Create a throne, and learn that God is the king above all kings.	Adult-sized chair, tape, pillows, balloons, crepe paper streamers, blankets	
Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 2: A Special Meeting Place—Create a place to gather and worship.	Blankets, chairs, pillows, tables, bedsheets	
	Option 3: No Idols! —Knock down wooden "statues."	Wooden blocks, newspaper	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Take turns honoring each other, and learn that God wants us to honor him above all others.	Throne from Option 1	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Act out Exodus 20:1-11; 25:1-8; 35:4-29; 36:8; and 40:34-38 as they hear how the Israelites honored God by building him a Tabernacle.	Bible, scissors, crepe paper streamers, tape, meeting place from Option 2	LEARNING LATE
	Do the Bible Story— Talk about rules at home and why God's rules reveal his love for us.		13 00
Closing	Number One! —Teach Pockets that it's exciting to worship and honor God.		
Live ICI	Shout With Joy —Honor God by singing a praise song, and then review the first four commandments with a finger play.	Meeting place from Option 2, CD player	

Welcome Time

■ Welcome!

SUPPLIES: "Stone Tablet Name Tags" handouts (p. 27), markers, pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week's lesson into practice. Ask questions such as "Why did God give the Israelites special rules?" and "Which of God's special rules were hardest for you to follow?"
- Say: Today we're going to learn that **►** God gave us rules because he loves us.
- Hand out the stone tablet name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout at the end of the first lesson.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed, and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What special people do you know?" or "What does it mean to honor someone?"

Option 1: Fit for a King

SUPPLIES: adult-sized chair, tape, pillows, balloons, crepe paper streamers, blankets

Bring in an adult-sized chair, preferably one with armrests. Set out pillows, balloons, blankets, tape, and crepe paper streamers. Help children decorate the chair to look like a special throne that is fit for royalty! You may want to provide a step stool to help children climb onto the throne. As children work, explain that we honor God because he's king above all kings. Move the throne aside until "Setting the Stage."



■ Option 2: A Special Meeting Place

SUPPLIES: blankets, chairs, pillows, tables, bedsheets

Set out blankets, bedsheets, pillows, and extra chairs. Help children use the items to build a special meeting place, such as a tent or fort. You may want to push two tables together and allow children to drape blankets over the top or use other classroom items to create a cozy corner. When children have completed their meeting place, allow them to sit inside it and sing favorite praise songs. As children sing, explain that today they'll learn about the special place the Israelites built to show how much they loved God. Children will use the meeting place during "Hear and Tell the Bible Story" and the Closing activity.



Children under 8 yrs. can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Adult supervision required. Keep uninflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once. Balloons may contain latex.



- If you don't choose Option 1, drape a colorful blanket over an adult-sized chair to make a pretend throne for use during "Setting the Stage."
- If you don't choose Option 2, drape a large blanket over a table to make a tent for use during "Hear and Tell the Bible Story" and the Closing activity.

Option 3: No Idols!

SUPPLIES: wooden blocks, newspaper

Set out newspaper and wooden blocks. Have children work together to build two or three tall towers with the blocks. Explain that while God's people were in Egypt, some of them worshipped idols made from wood and stone. Talk about how silly it is to worship wooden things like the block towers. Have the children form a circle around the block towers, wad up newspaper to form paper balls, and toss the balls at the pretend statues to knock them down. As children play, explain that God told his people never to build or worship idols.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player track 2

Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You'll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up. At first they may need a little encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will become a familiar routine.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



We will pick up our toys. We will pick up our toys. We will pick up our toys And put them all away.

There's [name] picking up toys. There's [name] picking up toys. There's [name] picking up toys, Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: throne from Option 1

Before this activity, link the linking hearts and stars together to form a crown.

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention.

Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Have the children form a circle around the throne from Option 1. If you didn't choose Option 1, drape a colorful blanket over an adult-sized chair to make a pretend throne. Say: Today we'll learn what it means to honor someone. Let's start by honoring each person here! I'll choose our first King or Queen. Choose a volunteer, and have him or her sit on the throne, wear the linking hearts and stars crown, and hold the groan tube. [Name] is like a special [king or queen] sitting on a throne, wearing a jeweled crown and holding a scepter. Let's honor our royalty with a cheer.

Lead children in cheering, "We like [name]! Yes, we do! We like [name]! God does, too!" Allow the King or Queen to return to the circle, tap the next person with the *groan tube*, and place the *linking hearts and stars* crown on that person's head. Continue until each child has been a King or Queen. If you have more than 10 children in your class, make two thrones and two crowns and honor two children at a time. Put the throne, linking hearts and stars, and groan tube away.

Ask: • What was it like to be the King or Queen? (Nice; fun; embarrassing.)

• What did you like about being the King or Queen? (Sitting on the comfortable throne; being special; hearing everyone cheer for me.)

Say: When you were King or Queen, your friends were honoring you. They gave you the best place to sit, and they said nice things about you. God's Ten Commandments tell us to honor God more than anuthing or anuone else. ►God gave us rules because he loves us. God knows that when we honor him, we'll try to follow his rules and live to please him. Let's find out how the Israelites honored God in our Bible story today.



the decorated throne to use in next week's lesson.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for the activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the stone tablets stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark Exodus 20:1-11; 25:1-8; 35:4-29; 36:8; and 40:34-38 in the Bible you'll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person** to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.

Lead the children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

Now it's time to read God's book. Read God's book, read God's book. Now it's time to read God's book. Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat 3x.)



If the ink pad is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.







that God made them and trust that God loves them, so they will be open to learning the importance of following God's rules. After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who finds the stone tablets stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that $\blacktriangleright God$ gave us rules because he loves us.

Let's say a special prayer now and thank God for giving us rules to keep us safe. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "Thank you, God, for giving us rules to keep us safe."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead the children in this prayer: **God, thank** you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ▶ you gave us rules because you love us. In Jesus' name, amen.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors, crepe paper streamers, tape, meeting place from Option 2



Before class, cut the *Learning Mat: The Ten Commandments* into four *Story Circles*. Tape the ends of Circle 1 together to form a ring.

Bring Circle 1 and a Bible to the meeting place that the children made in Option 2. If you didn't choose Option 2, drape a large blanket over a table to make a tent. Distribute 2-foot lengths of crepe

paper streamers in a variety of bright colors. Instruct children to set their streamers on the floor behind them until you say that it's time to use them.

Set a roll of tape and Circle 1 beside you. Point to the Bible and say: Our Bible story today comes from the book of Exodus. Our Story Circle shows us pictures of our Bible story.

Ask: • Who were the Israelites? (God's people; special people.)

- What happened to the Israelites when they lived in Egypt? (They became slaves; Pharaoh was mean to them.)
- How did they get out of Egypt? (God sent Moses to lead them; God parted the Red Sea.)

Say: The Israelites were God's special people. After God helped them escape from Egypt, he wanted to teach them how to live the right way and how to follow him. So God called Moses to come to the top of a high mountain. God gave Moses stone tablets with 10 special rules on them.

Ask: • Who can tell me what those 10 special rules were called? (The Ten Commandments.)

Say: That's right. They're called the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments told how important it is to honor and worship only God. God didn't want his people worshipping idols or bowing down to pretend gods

as the people in Egypt did. God reminded the Israelites to say his name with care and to use it with respect. He also told them to rest on the Sabbath day and to keep it holy since that's God's special day.

After God gave the Ten Commandments, he told the people to build a place to worship, called a tabernacle. The Tabernacle would be a special place where God could be near his people. God told Moses to ask the people for gifts to make the Tabernacle a beautiful place. Right now I need a few people to give their streamers to help decorate our special place.

Choose two or three children, and allow them to tape their streamers on the "tent." Then say: God also asked the Israelites to give their finest pieces of cloth and fur. That included goat hair and dued ram skins. Will a few more of you give your beautiful streamers to decorate our tabernacle?

Choose two or three children to tape their streamers on the tent. Say: **God asked** the people to give their beautiful wood, oil, and perfume to make the Tabernacle look and smell special.

Select two or three more children, and allow them to tape their streamers inside the tent. Say: Then God asked the people for their gold and silver jewelry and shining gems so the Tabernacle would sparkle and the priests would have special clothes to wear as they served God.

Have the rest of the children tape their streamers on or inside the tent. When all the children have taped their streamers to the tent, hold up Circle 1 so the first picture is showing. Say: The Israelites gladly gave their treasures to show God how much they loved him. Because they gave joyfully, their gifts honored God.

Turn Circle 1 to show the second picture. Say: Then the craftsmen came and built the Tabernacle just as God had told them to build it. Let's pretend we're building our tabernacle.

Have children pound their fists together like hammers. Then say: **After months** of work, the Tabernacle was completed. Moses and the Israelites built it just as God had commanded them to build it. Then the cloud that had led the Israelites dropped down, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Turn Circle 1 to show children the third picture. When God's glory filled the Tabernacle, even Moses couldn't go inside! When the cloud rested on top of the Tabernacle, the Israelites knew that God was with them. When the cloud lifted, the people knew that God wanted them to move on. By honoring God and obeying his rules, God's people traveled safely through the wilderness.

Have children form a circle, and place Circle 1 in the middle.

Ask: • Why did God ask the Israelites to build the Tabernacle? (To honor him; to show they loved him; so God would be with them.)

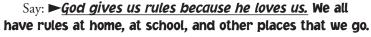
- How did the Israelites honor God? (They made a special place for him; they gave him their best things to build the Tabernacle; they didn't worship other gods.)
- What happened when the Israelites honored God? (He was with them; he helped them travel safely.)

Say: When the Israelites obeyed God's rules and honored him, God was near them and protected them. God is near us and protects us, too. ►God gave us rules because he loves us. Let's learn more about God's commands.



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Ask: • What are some rules you have at home? (No fighting; be nice to your sister.)

• What are some rules you have at school? (No running in the halls; no pushing.)

Say: Rules help keep us safe. God gives us rules, too, and when we follow his rules, he helps us see our lives the right way and do the right things. Let's play a game so I can show you want I mean.

Line up the students on one side of the room. Stand on the opposite side of the room, holding the *red-reveal heart card* and *red-reveal glasses*. Begin listing some rules that the children might be familiar with. Every time they hear a rule that they have to obey at home, each child should take two giant steps toward you. Some examples of common rules at home are:

- brush your teeth;
- clean your room;
- don't jump on the bed;
- be nice to your brother or sister;
- don't eat cookies before dinner;
- wash your hands before you eat.

As each child reaches the finish line, hold up the *red-reveal heart card* and ask what he or she sees (a shepherd holding a staff). Then allow the child to put on the *red-reveal glasses* and look at the *red-reveal heart card*. Have the child whisper in your ear what he or she saw (Jesus holding a heart). Allow each child a turn to cross the finish line and look through the *red-reveal glasses* at the *red-reveal heart card*.



After everyone has had a turn, return the items to the Learning Lab.

Ask: • Before you put on the glasses, what did you see in the picture? (A man holding a stick; a shepherd.)

- After you put on the glasses, what did you see? (Jesus holding a heart.)
- What in the picture reminds you of love? (The heart that Jesus is holding; the picture of Jesus, because he loves us.)
- What are some ways God shows us he loves us? (Sending Jesus for our sins; he takes care of us; he gives us things we need.)

Say: One of the ways God shows us he loves us is by giving us rules. Rules help us to be safe. We might not always like rules, but God shows us that ▶ he gives us rules because he loves us. The special picture you looked at showed Jesus holding a heart. That reminds us that Jesus loves us. Jesus obeyed God and came to earth to die for our sins because he loves us that much. That's a very special kind of love! The Israelites honored God by building him a special Tabernacle, and we honor God by obeying his rules and loving Jesus. I wonder if Pockets knows about honoring God. Let's visit her and find out!



Closing

■ Number One!

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. You'll also use Pockets during "Shout With Joy."



Pockets: (Chanting) We're number one! We're number one! We're number one!

Teacher: Pockets, what are you so excited about? Who's number one?

Pockets: I just got back from my dad's hop-ball game, and his team won!

They didn't lose a single game this year! They're the best!

Teacher: That *is* exciting! You must be proud of him.

Pockets: I sure am. My dad is wonderful!

Teacher: Pockets, the way you feel about your dad's team reminds me of how God's people

felt when they built the Tabernacle for God.

Pockets: The Tabe—what?

Teacher: The Tabernacle. It was a special place where people could worship God. Children,

can you tell Pockets what happened when God asked the Israelites to build the Tabernacle? (Allow children to explain that the Israelites willingly gave their best

possessions to honor God.)

Pockets: They must have loved God best of all to give all their treasures for the Tabernacle.

Did they say, "God's number one! God's number one!"?

Teacher: No, they didn't cheer like that. But they *did* praise God with singing.

Pockets: I love to sing and praise God, too! And there are lots of songs that tell

how much we love God.

Teacher: We're going to sing about God in our Closing time. Would you like to

join us?

Pockets: Oh, boy! Would I! Let's do it right now!

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BIBLE POINT BIBLE VERSE

■ Shout With Joy

SUPPLIES: meeting place from Option 2, CD player



Have children form a circle around the meeting place from Option 2. If you didn't choose Option 2, drape a large blanket over a table to make a tent. Say: **►God gave us rules because he** loves us. God's rules are good rules! Listen to what our Bible verse for today says. This comes from Psalm 19:8a: ►"The

commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart." It's good to obey God! Let's worship God here in our special meeting place by singing and making joyful noises to him. In this song, we'll shout to God with joy!

Lead children in singing "Shout With Joy" (track 10) to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" with the CD. Encourage children to do the actions as they sing, and move Pockets along to the music.



SING

Clap your hands, now everyone. (Clap hands.)

Shout to God with joy...Joy! (Make megaphone with hands; jump on the word JOY!)

The Lord our God is powerful. (Flex muscles.)

Shout to God with joy...Joy! (Make megaphone with hands; jump on the word JOY!)

Clap your hands. (Clap hands.)

March around. (March in a circle.)

Jump up high. (Jump up.)

Now bend down. (Touch toes.)

Clap your hands, now everyone. (Clap hands.)

Shout to God with joy...Joy! (Make megaphone with hands; jump on the word JOY!)

(Repeat.)



When the song ends, turn off the CD player, have kids wave goodbye to Pockets, and then put her away and out of sight. Gather children near you. Say: **►God gave us** rules because he loves us. God wants us to remember his commands, too. Last week we learned a rhyme that told all of God's rules. Let's say the first part of the rhyme, which talks about honoring God. Lead children in the following finger play.

The Ten Commandments are 10 rules (hold up 10 fingers)

God sent for you and me. (Point to a friend and then to self.)

They help us live and worship (put palms together as if in prayer)

And follow God, you see. (Point to heaven.)

Commandments one, two, three, and four (hold up fingers as you count)

Tell us to give God our love. (Cross arms over heart.)

Idols of wood and stone are pretend (shake head);

Our God lives in heaven above. (Point upward.)

Be careful how you use God's name (touch finger to head as if thinking),

For his name is the best. (Give thumbs up sign.)

And God's day-that's the Sabbath-

Is for worship and for rest. (Lay head on hands.)

We can honor God with our words and actions every day.

After the rhyme, ask:

- How can you honor God? (Praying to him; singing; praising him; speaking his name thoughtfully.)
- Why is it important to honor God? (Because it's one of God's rules; because he's the only God; because he's awesome.)

Say: ►God gave us rules because he loves us. God's rules tell us to honor him in all we say and do. When we do, it makes God happy, and it brings us joy. Let's pray and ask God to help us honor him. Pray: Dear God, thank you for your special rules that tell us how to live and worship you. We're glad that you loved us enough to give us your commandments. Help us honor you each day in all we do and say. In Jesus' name, amen.





Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Stop on the Sabbath



Form a circle, and have the children roll or gently toss the *jewel ball* to each other as it's done in the game Hot Potato. When you call "Sabbath," have children stop tossing the ball. Ask the child holding the ball to say one way he or she can honor God. Children may share ideas such as singing praise songs, going to church, saying God's name with thoughtfulness, and worshipping only God. Remind children that we honor God by resting on the Sabbath.

Make to Take: Celebration Shakers



Set out scissors, newspaper, and masking tape. Help children tear the newspaper into strips from top to bottom. Each child will need about 10 strips. Show children how to lay their strips together, cut them in half, and tape the strips together at one end, as shown. Remind children that fans at sporting events shake pompoms or shakers to cheer for their teams. Allow children to use their "shakers" to cheer for our one true God.

■ Treat to Eat: God's 10 Hugs

Distribute paper cupcake liners, and have children fill their liners with 10 mini-pretzel knots. As children count the pretzels, point out that the pretzel knots look like little hugs. Remind children that \(\rightarrow \frac{God gave us rules because he loves us}{2}\) and wants us to be safe and happy. As children eat their pretzels, encourage them to name ways to honor and obey God.



■ Story Picture: The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Hand each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out glue sticks and colored tissue paper. Have the children tear pieces of tissue paper and glue them to the pile of items the Israelites are giving for the Tabernacle. Remind the children that the Israelites honored God by giving their best things to build and decorate the Tabernacle.

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God gave us rules because he loves us. Children learned that the Israelites honored God by building a Tabernacle. Children talked about ways to honor God, and then they sang about serving our one true God.

God gave us rules because he loves us.

Verse to Learn

"The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart" (Psalm 19:8a).

ask Me...

- How did the Israelites honor God?
- Why do you need to honor God each day?
- How can our family honor God?

Family Fun

• Have each family member make up a cheer or chant and celebrate God before dinner each evening. Individuals may suggest cheers like "Two! Four! Six! Eight! We know our God is really great!" or "Our God is good; our God is true! I love God and so do you!"

The Israelites Build the Tabernacle (Exodus 20:1-11; 25:1-8; 35:4-29; 36:8; 40:34-38)

